

Biological reconstruction ancient populations (Paleoanthropology – Bioarchaeology)
Notes for Human biology course

- the study of the **biological characteristics** of **ancient populations**, their variability in time and geographical regions, the **structural changes in their populations**
 - ascertaining that the remains are human
 - to determine that the remains belong to how many individuals
 - age-at-death estimation
 - morphological sex determination
 - stature estimation
 - ethnicity estimation
 - study of pathological conditions
 - paleodemographic analysis
- **aims:** - description of structural changes in the populations
 - estimation of the degree of kinship between populations
 - description of migration path of populations
 - estimation of lifestyle factors
 - personal identification
- **age-at-death estimation**
 - the quantitative and qualitative traits as well as the chemical composition of the skeletal remains
 - analysis of dental remains
 - in childhood: the study of dental eruption pattern and development of the teeth
 - the quantitative and qualitative traits as well as the chemical composition of the skeletal remains
 - analysis of dental remains
 - in juvenile: the study of skeletal development
 - the quantitative and qualitative traits as well as the chemical composition of the skeletal remains
 - analysis of dental remains
 - in senescence: the study of dental abrasion (loss of tooth structure caused by a mechanical force)
- **morphological sex determination**
 - the quantitative and qualitative traits as well as the chemical composition of the skeletal remains
 - only in the reproductive age interval
 - the degree of sexualization of the skeletal traits for females and males in the studied population
 - hyperfeminine – feminine – natural – masculine – hypermasculine
- **paleopathology:**
 - the study of ancient diseases. It is useful in understanding the history of diseases, and uses this understanding to predict its course in the future
 - the researches of the health status and lifestyle of populations
 - the studies of diseases' history
 - personal identification
- **paleodemographic examinations**
 - sources: tombstones, cemetery records, hospital records, census data and skeletal remains
 - by considering the number of individuals and their age distribution in the cemeteries we can assess:
 - life expectancies
 - size of the populations
 - lifestyle factors