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Courses are presented in partnership with the International Association for Identification.

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To ensure we can accommodate persons with special needs who wish to attend our courses, please be sure to identify the accommodation needed when you register, or if applicable, at the time you register by phone.

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By hosting one of our courses, you will be providing your agency's personnel and the forensic professionals in your area with a high-quality training opportunity, right in your local area. This means less cost to you or your agency for expenses such as travel, lodging, and meals, and less time away from home and family. Plus, hosts can qualify for tuition savings. For more information, visit [tritechtraining.com](http://tritechtraining.com).



## Human Osteology, Taphonomy, & Forensic Recovery of Human Remains

### Instructors:

**Teresa "Lilly" White, Ph.D. & Hillary Parsons, Ph.D.**

**September 18 - 22, 2023**

**Tuition: \$929 | Hours: 8 am - 5 pm**

### Location:

Whatcom County Emergency Operation Center  
3888 Sound Way | Bellingham WA 98229

### Lodging Information:

Holiday Inn & Suites-Bellingham Airport  
4260 Mitchell Way | Bellingham, WA 98226  
360-746-6844

For more lodging information, see the course page on [www.tritechtraining.com](http://www.tritechtraining.com).



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## ABOUT TRITECH

A leader in the forensics market, Tri-Tech Forensics provides evidence collection and crime scene investigation products and training to crime labs and crime scene investigators throughout the world. With over 30 years of experience, we are the nation's most proficient developer and manufacturer of forensic kits. We are committed to providing our customers with state-of-the-art forensics products and services at affordable prices. It is our goal, through our research and development program, to continue to develop superior products and training to aid in all aspects of crime scene investigation and crime lab analysis. We know how important our products and training are to the forensics community, from investigation to prosecution. Our mission is the same as our customers – *Identify. Protect. Preserve.*

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

# Human Osteology, Taphonomy, & Forensic Recovery of Human Remains

The role of the forensic anthropologist in the medico-legal system is to assist investigators with the identification of deceased individuals, particularly those in advanced stages of decomposition and those who have skeletonized. Forensic anthropologists specialize in the detailed archaeological recovery of human remains from a variety of contexts, conduct biological and forensic analyses of human remains, and have expert training in detecting patterns of trauma, postmortem alteration of remains, and estimating the time since death. Since forensic anthropology employs the principles of anthropology to analyze legal problems involving human osteological material, it is an applied science that embraces both anthropological and forensic studies.

### Workshop Objectives:

Attendees of this hands-on workshop will learn proper search and recovery methods used to locate, document, and recover human remains. Improper recovery techniques, however well intentioned, have the potential to destroy or leave behind valuable information that may compromise the investigation or hinder the identification process.

Topics to be covered on Basic Human Osteology and Taphonomy include, but are not limited to:

- Identification of human skeletal remains
- Basic siding techniques
- Minimum number of individuals (MNI)
- Human/Non-human
- Process/stages of decomposition, time since death
- Natural Environment
- Decomposition
- Animal activity
- Entomological activity
- Gravity
- Concealment methods
- Lab/Practical Exercises

### References

*Byers, Steven N. 2008. Introduction to Forensic Anthropology Third Addition. University of New Mexico-Valencia. Pearson.*

*Christensen, A.M., N.V. Passalacqua, and E.J. Bartelink. 2014. Forensic Anthropology: Current Methods and Practice. Boston: Elsevier.*

*Dupras, T.L., J.J. Schultz, S.M. Wheeler, and L.J. Williams. 2006. Forensic Recovery of Human Remains: Archaeological Approaches. Boca Raton: CRC Press.*



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## COURSE INSTRUCTORS

### DR. TERESA "LILLY" WHITE, PH.D.



Teresa 'Lilly' White, PhD, is a native Montanan. She received her BSLS in 2005 from MSU-B, her BA in Forensic Anthropology in 2011, her MA in Forensic Anthropology in 2013, and her PhD in Anthropology in 2019, from the University of Montana.

Lilly and her husband, Stocky (also a PhD in Anthropology), are the owners of Bone & Stone Anthrosciences, L.L.C., where they provide Anthropological & Archaeological Consulting Services and Educational Workshops to Federal, State, County, Tribal, and City Law Enforcement Personnel, Coroners/Death Investigators, Chaplains, Public Safety Officers, Forensic Practitioners, Physicians and Nurses, Mental Health Practitioners, Funeral Personnel, International Emergency Services companies, and others.

From 2015 - 2018, Lilly created and facilitated a Medicolegal Death Investigation Conference at the University of Montana, where she provided continuing education to hundreds of attendees. She has worked as an Adjunct Instructor at UM, teaching Fundamentals of Forensic Science.

Lilly teaches courses on: cultural and forensic anthropology, osteology, death investigations, death notification studies including compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma, human decomposition and entomology, thermal and explosives trauma on bodies, bone pathology and taphonomy, forensic recovery of scattered human remains, clandestine grave discovery and excavation, cold case investigations, end-of-life issues, grief facilitation, differentiating perimortem gunshot trauma from blunt force, after a car fire, autoerotic asphyxia (AeA), equivocal deaths, bloodstain pattern analysis, social determinants of health for sexual abuse victims, dark tourism, and other fascinating topics.

### DR. HILLARY PARSONS, PH.D.



Dr. Hillary Parsons is a practicing forensic anthropologist specializing in the search, recovery, analysis, and identification of human skeletal remains. She received her Ph.D. in biological anthropology from the University of Tennessee, her M.A. in anthropology from the University of Montana, and her B.S. in anthropology from Montana State University in her hometown of Bozeman, Montana. Hillary has instructed short-course topics in forensic anthropology for the past 17 years, working with the Southern Institute of Forensic Sciences and TriTech Forensics Training. She is a member of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists, the Society for American Archaeology, and an associate member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Dr. Parsons is the sole-proprietor of her forensic anthropology consulting firm, Odyssey Anthropology LLC, offering forensic anthropological and archaeological services at home and abroad. Hillary regularly provides her expertise to attorneys and other medicolegal professionals for modern forensic casework and is currently the forensic anthropologist for the Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale in Montréal, Québec.

Dr. Parsons assisted Kenyon International and SNA International with mortuary operations in New York City during the first and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and presently provides services for SNA International in their work with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). This project entails the search, recovery, and repatriation of fallen U.S. service personnel from the battlefields of Vietnam and World War II, work she has been involved with since 2015. As a subject matter expert, Hillary regularly consults for Milsearch Lao, an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) company located in Laos. Hillary's knowledge of human skeletal remains and battlefield archaeology allows her to collaborate with EOD technicians to document and collect evidence associated with DPAA sites during the removal of unexploded ordnance from the jungles of Laos.

When not on assignment to remote locations in search and recovery of America's fallen war heroes, Dr. Parsons serves as a medicolegal death investigator at the Whatcom County Medical Examiner's Office in beautiful Bellingham, Washington.