

Anthropology Senior Thesis Proposal
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-Analysis of skeletal remains from Classical period tumulus in Voula, Greece-

The research that I intend to accomplish this summer will include a thorough analysis of the human remains of this Classical burial. A full analysis will include extensive measurements, sex and age determinations, and pathological diagnoses. As George Armelagos writes in his article, "Bioarchaeology as Anthropology," as a science, paleopathology can be used for "the determination of the chronology and geography of disease...and the reconstruction of societal life ways" (Armelagos 2003). My current research on sexual dimorphism within three Nubian populations has demonstrated this validity of skeletal worth and importance. Van Gerven et al. explains and justifies paleodemography for ancient populations and its contemporary application: "data produced by such research has provided important new insights into the dynamics of population adaptation as well as the biology of growth and development" (Van Gerven 359). I intend to examine the remains for ordinary and extraordinary characteristics, like atypical pathologies and congenital anomalies, that contest and/or support theories of upper class conditions in a thriving Athenian era. This data can later be analyzed for significant evidence about diet and nutrition, crucial evidence in constructing a personal, biological history of the deceased. Basic measurements of individuals also infer information about growth and nutrition: less height and bone development suggests childhood-adolescent malnutrition and/or disease (Morris 95). Patterns between individuals can show specific periods when there were food shortages or individuals underwent trauma. In relation to other individuals from Classical period burials, this research can add to previous research and the overall scope of that era. I will compile my results into a thorough report that will serve as the basis of my senior thesis paper.

Resources:

Armstrong GJ. 2003. Bioarchaeology as Anthropology. *American anthropological association archaeological papers*. 13(1):27

Morris I. 1992. *Death-Ritual and Social Structure in Classical Antiquity*.
Ithlingborough: Cambridge University Press.

Van Gerven DP, Armstrong GJ. 1983. "Farewell to paleodemography?" Rumors of its death have been greatly exaggerated. *Journal of Human Evolution* 12(4):353-360.