

# ANTR 485: Directed Study in Human Prosection

## Course Information

### Instructor and Staff Information

**Course Instructor of Record:** Nicole Geske, Ph.D.

**Nicole Geske,**  
**Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor*  
A501-B East Fee Hall  
[geskenic@msu.edu](mailto:geskenic@msu.edu)

**John Fitzsimmons,**  
**M.D.**

*Assistant Professor*  
A507 East Fee Hall  
[fitzsi10@msu.edu](mailto:fitzsi10@msu.edu)

**Lindsey Jenny, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor*  
A512 East Fee Hall  
[jennylin@msu.edu](mailto:jennylin@msu.edu)

**Loro Kujjo,**  
**D.V.M., Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor*  
A502-B East Fee Hall  
[kujjo@msu.edu](mailto:kujjo@msu.edu)

**Maureen Schaefer,**  
**Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor*  
A514-B East Fee Hall  
[schae156@msu.edu](mailto:schae156@msu.edu)

**William McMillan**

*Academic Specialist*  
E220 East Fee Hall  
[mcmill11@msu.edu](mailto:mcmill11@msu.edu)

### Lab Attendant (LA) Information

The Prosection Laboratory Attendants (along with Mr. McMillan) will be working with you on a day-in day-out basis. The LAs will post their lab working schedules and their contact information on the whiteboards in the prosection lab. They will distinguish themselves from students enrolled in the course by wearing bluecoats. You are not limited to dissecting while they in the lab; however, you may find this quite useful as you begin your first assignments. The primary purpose is to keep you from getting bogged down because of uncertainty, to keep you progressing with your work so that you do not become frustrated and thus delayed in moving onto new assignments.

### Course Description

ANTR 485 is an independent study laboratory course that offers students an opportunity to deepen their understanding of human anatomy while gaining prosection/dissection experience. Students will independently complete prosections of select anatomical regions and/or isolated organs of human donors under the guidance of faculty from the Division of Human Anatomy. These prosections will later be used as anatomical teaching specimens in the Gross Anatomy Lab.

In an effort to facilitate meaningful questions and discussions with faculty and to ensure that anatomical objectives are properly isolated, students are expected to prepare for assigned projects by consulting anatomical atlases as needed prior to working on each of their assigned prosections. This ensures that students can ask faculty or Laboratory Attendants meaningful questions as they prosect and above all, assure that the various anatomical structures listed in the protocol objectives are preserved. As is generally true in any of life's endeavors, **the more you put into this course, the more you will get out of it.**

## Course Materials

### Required Materials

- Participation in the gross anatomy lab **REQUIRES** the use of personal protection equipment (PPE):
  - Closed toed shoes;
  - Scrubs (top and long pants) (**purchase**);
  - Lab coat (**provided to you**);
  - Safety glasses certified to ANSI Z87 (**purchase**). (NOTE: prescription eyeglasses are not considered safety glasses unless they have both side shields and shatter resistant lenses);
    - Safety glasses are available at MSU Stores or can be obtained from an online vendor.
  - Disposable nitrile\* gloves (**purchase**). (\*NOTE: as some individuals are allergic to latex, latex gloves are NOT allowed in the lab).

### Recommended Materials

- **An Anatomy Atlas**
  - We recommend Gilroy, et al. Thieme Atlas of Anatomy, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2012. You can utilize this anatomy atlas, and many others, **FREE** through MSU's library: <http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/medicalebooks>
    - See additional list of online resources posted on D2L.

### Lockers

While enrolled in the course, every prosector is entitled to a locker (if available). During your one-on-one with an LA, you will be assigned a locker (if available) in the hallway of the bathroom you typically would use (currently marked men and women). You will also be given a combination lock.

## Course Schedule

### Orientation

During the first week of the semester, the Dr. Geske will conduct a scheduled orientation session. The date and time will be posted on D2L. This orientation is **REQUIRED** will cover the rules of the gross anatomy lab and introduce you to the space and LAs.

### Important Deadlines

A list of important deadlines for ANTR 485 will be posted on D2L and in the prosection lab. These dates mark the deadline for completing your mid-way check-in for your first project, the deadlines for LA and faculty checkouts for your first and last projects, the last date to receive a donor or bucket assignment, and when your summary statement is due.

## Faculty Availability in Lab

Faculty will visit the prosection lab at various frequencies, but please consult any faculty who is in the prosection lab at any time. You may also email faculty members with questions or to request a meeting to discuss your project during the dissection.

## Course Requirements

### Attendance

ANTR 485 is a two-credit course. Students should expect to spend **8-10 hours per week** in the lab to fulfill the course requirements. Students may prosect during any hours that the lab is open. A link for the open lab schedule will be posted on D2L and in the lab. Please note there is a rather precarious balance in this course between prosection speed and learning. Slow dissection facilitates learning, while some measure of speed permits additional and more varied assignments and an increase in exposure. Assignments are given with an estimated length of time required to complete that prosection – typically the number of weeks necessary to finish correlates to the point value of the assignment. **Prosection can be tedious, slow, and frustrating process at times that requires attention to detail and planning.**

Your time spent in the prosection lab will be monitored. It is expected that you meet a minimum of 6 hours per week. **Not meeting this requirement in addition to not finishing your assigned projects and/or rushing through your projects at the end of the semester will result in a loss of two (2) points.**

Please let Dr. Geske know if you are sick and are not able to come into the prosection lab. As you set your own hours in this course, documentation is not required for “missing” prosection times. However, if illness impacts your ability to make progress in this course, it is encouraged that you provide Dr. Geske documentation for records and that you reach out to your advisor and the College Student Affairs office. If you are exposed/become ill with COVID-19 (or live with/care for someone who is exposed/becomes ill), please follow the CDC guidelines for self-isolating/staying home. Please notify your college for grief absences or extended absences such as hospitalizations.

### One-on-One with LA

Prior to beginning your first prosection, you will need to schedule an appointment for a one-on-one meeting with a Laboratory Assistant (LA) (a sign-up sheet will be posted on D2L). This is an opportunity for the LA to help you become acquainted with the prosection (PX) lab, your project, your responsibilities and to answer any questions. They will also share tips or suggestions from their own experience and will help you begin your first assignment. **You will begin your project during this meeting, so you must come in appropriate PPE.**

This meeting is a course requirement. The deadline for when this should be completed will be listed in the Important Deadlines document on D2L. **DO NOT begin your assignment without meeting with a LA or if you are uncomfortable or unsure.** Ask for help early and avoid frustration later.

## Prosection Projects

Students must complete a series of prosection projects that total **80 points** in assignment value. **Initial assignments in ANTR 485 will be worth 20 or 30 points.** Students can earn up to 80 by completing projects that have varying point values. For example, some students may begin with a 20-point project, then do a 50-point project, and finish with a 10-point project to earn up to 80 points. Other students may begin with a 30-point project and then do a 50-point project to earn up to 80 points. Other combinations of assignments are also possible, such as one 20-point project and two 30-point projects, etc.

Prosection projects have a designated point value based on the difficulty of the project and the length of time required for completion. The types of available projects are categorized by difficulty level (points) in the table below. Project assignments will be determined by the lead faculty member and will be based on several factors, including project availability, student interest, and the student's level of prosection and/or dissection experience.

Level 1 (DP = 1) Score = 10 Points (T = 1 -2 weeks)	Level 2 (DP = 2) Score = 20 Points (T = 2 -3 weeks)	Level 3 (DP = 3) Score = 30 Points (T = 3 - 4 weeks)	Level 4 (DP = 4) Score = 40 Points (T = 4 -5 weeks)	Level 5 (DP = 5) Score = 50 Points (T = 5 -6 weeks)
	Ant Sup Thorax Ant Sup Abdomen	Ant UL (muscular) Ant LL ANT Int Thorax	ANT Deep Thorax Ant Deep Abdomen	Ant Sup Head Ant Int Head Ant Deep Head Ant UL (Brachial plexus) Ant Int Abdomen
		Post UL Post LL Post Sup Back	Post Int Back	Post Laminectomy Back Post Deep Neck
1 Ant whole Pelvis*, (ligaments) 1 Post whole Pelvis*, (ligaments) 1 Heart 2 of the following: - Abdominal Viscera - Palmar Hand - Dorsal Hand - Plantar Foot - Dorsal Foot - Shoulder - Elbow Lig - Knee Lig - Foot Lig	2 Superior Orbits Vertebral (Ligament) Ant Half Pelvis* (Neurovasculature)	Pelvis*, Whole (Diaphragm with viscera) Pelvis*		
-* Pelvic bucket specimens are automatically 10 pts, plus another 10 pts for each protocol listed. Total possible pts = 30 -Abbreviations: DPs = Difficulty Points; T= Expected time for finishing prosection. Ant = anterior; Post = Posterior; Sup = superficial; Int = intermediate; UL = upper limb; LL = lower limb.				

You may find it helpful to closely examine any of the finished prosecutions on the main lab teaching floor at any time (before you start your assignment or in the middle...), but make sure that there is not a class using the area of the lab where your target donor is located. If you have a question, ask a LA for help finding a donor with your assignment. Designation codes may not be intuitive.

**PLEASE NOTE: Your assignment is unique!** Do NOT judge your progress based upon what others are doing. Each prosector has a different body/body region (with different anatomical variation) and each prosector generally has a different prosection assignment (with different levels of difficulty). Furthermore, different students have different levels of motivation, manual dexterity, and experience. Thus, it is possible that two students taking the prosection course for the same number of credit hours will end up completing different number of prosecutions, yet still receive the same final course grade.

**IF YOU START A PROJECT BEYOND THAT EXPECTED IN THE COURSE, YOU MUST FINISH IT.** Please do not start a new project and leave it unfinished at the end of the semester.

### Midway Check-Ins

You will need to complete a midway check-in with either Dr. Geske or Bill around the halfway point of your first project. The deadline for when this should be completed will be listed in the Important Deadlines document on D2L.

This check-in will evaluate that you are at least 30% complete with your first project and will give you an opportunity to ask questions. A midway check-in only needs to be completed for your first project.

**This meeting is a course requirement. Failure to complete a midway check-in will result in a loss of two (2) points. Failure to be at least 30% complete with your project during your midway check-in will result in a loss of one (1) point.**

### Prosection Project Checkouts

Upon completion of a prosection project, students are required to complete a project checkout. The project checkout will consist of the student orally presenting their project to a faculty member.

#### When your prosection assignment is completed:

1. Make arrangements to have a prosection Laboratory Attendant (LA) look over the prosection and confirm that ALL objectives are visible. You will do a "practice" checkout with the LA so that they can ensure that you are ready for your faculty checkout and give you feedback.
2. **Complete any suggestions** offered by the LA (e.g., additional clean-up, etc.).
3. **Once the LA clears you**, then email the appropriate FACULTY member for FINAL check-out. (Please provide several dates and times that you are available to meet).
4. **If your designated faculty member is unavailable**, you may also email the other faculty members and request for help to check-out.

**Students should address the following during their project checkout:**

- Identify required structures.
- Discuss structure function, where applicable
- Discuss pathology and/or structural variation, where applicable.

**Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:**

- Time on task (5%). Deductions will be made for projects that are overdue or do not meet the minimum hours spent in lab per week.
- Oral Presentation at checkout (40%). Deductions will be made for misidentified structures or incorrect learning objectives.
- Required objectives exposed (40%). Deductions will be made for missing or damaged objectives.
- Quality of prosection (15%). Deductions will be made for donors or projects that need additional cleaning or have been dried out or damaged.

**Summary Statements**

After finishing your prosections for the semester, please complete a 1-to-2-page summary of your thoughts pertaining to the course. You may reflect upon any or all of the following questions, or you may wish to explore your own ideas: how did you feel upon beginning the course as opposed to finishing the course, why did you chose the project(s) that you selected, has the course influenced your career plans, what did you like or dislike about the course, how has this experience changed your overall understanding of human anatomy. The summary should be typed, 1.5 spacing, size 12 font, saved as a word document or pdf, and sent to Dr. Geske through email. **This summary is worth five (5) points and is a course requirement.**

**Grading Policy****Graded Course Activities**

**The final grade in ANTR 485 is based on the number of points earned** from prosection assignments and a summary essay. Due dates for each assignment are listed in the "Important Deadlines" document posted on D2L and posted in the prosection lab.

Description	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Prosections ( <i>each project is variable points, for a total of 80 points</i> )*	80	94%
Experience Summary	5	6%
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*It is not possible to receive partial credit for an incomplete prosection.**

## Grade Assignment

Grade	Approximate Percentage	Points Required	Number of Points Missed
4.0	93-100%	79-85 points	0-6 points
3.5	87-92%	74-78.5 points	6.5-11 points
3.0	81-86%	69-73.5 points	11.5-16 points
2.5	75-80%	64-68.5 points	16.5-21 points
2.0	69-74%	59-63.5 points	21.5-26 points
1.5	63-68%	54-58.5 points	26.5-31 points
1.0	57-62%	48-53.5 points	31.5-37 points
0.0	Below 57%	47.5 points or less or a violation of anatomy lab rules	Over 37.5 points

## Course Policies

### Professionalism

You will be given an introduction and list of rules that apply to the Gross Anatomy Lab (GAL) during the prosection orientation. You may bring “smart” devices (cell phones, tablets, or computers) into the lab for anatomy use (i.e., viewing anatomy resources), but you are **not allowed to take phone calls or photos in the lab or classroom**. Please make sure these devices have appropriate covers, such as placing plastic wrap over them or putting them in Ziploc baggies to protect them.

You are expected to follow ALL of the rules that govern the GAL and any failure to do so will result in appropriate disciplinary measures, potentially including your removal from the course.

**Attendance of the GAL is restricted to only enrolled students or teaching staff.** The Department of Radiology strictly adheres to the University policy regarding who may attend either the lectures or the laboratories during regularly scheduled sessions. Thus, all attendees must either be enrolled in the course or members of teaching faculty assigned to the course.

### **THERE IS NO FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED IN THE ANATOMY AND PROSECTION LAB.**

Acts of unprofessionalism directed towards the donors, faculty, staff or other students may lead to failure of the course. Less severe acts may result in your overall grade being dropped one value (meaning that if you had a 4.0 your grade could be dropped to a 3.5). Examples of this include careless dissection without proper preparation, removal of the orange wrist band from the donor, or allowing donors to dry out (this includes your project as well as neighboring projects if you fail to cover their regions while working). **A student will receive a 0.0 if they:**

- Bring an unauthorized visitor into the Gross Anatomy Lab. The visitor will be asked to leave immediately.

- Photograph or video cadaveric material.
- Do not perform the dissections and do not drop the course.

## Accidents

### Minor Cuts, Splashes, and/or Falls

Take care of the cut first, and then cleanup (mop and put up a “WET FLOOR” sign), and then **Fill out an INJURY/PROPERTY DAMAGE REPORT** (see below).

### Eye Splashes

Immediately use the eye-wash fountains in the lab, to thoroughly rinse out your eyes.

### First Aid Kit

Located on the south side of the gross anatomy lab.

### Injuries that Require Medical Attention

Need to be addressed immediately in the lab if possible (e.g., wash the wound, stop any bleeding, bandage, and if necessary, call 911). During working hours (M-F 8am-6pm; Sat 10am-1pm) go to Olin Health Center (note summer and break hours are M-F 8am-5pm). After hours (or when Olin Health Center is closed or inaccessible) go to the Sparrow Hospital-Lansing located at 1215 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing (517) 364-4149. Or go to the nearest Urgent Care Facility.

### Injury/Property Damage Report

These forms are available in the LA desk. This report should be filled out and taken with the injured individual to medical center. If the injured individual is unable to fill out the form, he/she may file the report with a prosecution faculty member after seeking treatment.

## When You May Drop This Course

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider un-enrolling from a course. Refer to the [Michigan State University Office of the Registrar](#) for important dates and deadlines.

If it becomes apparent that this course does not meet your expectations, if you have difficulty meeting the time commitments, or a personal emergency arises, **please notify Dr. Geske as soon as possible that you will be dropping the course.**

## Grief Absence Policy

Michigan State University is committed to ensuring that the bereavement process of a student who loses a family member during the semester does not put the student in an academic disadvantage in their classes. If you require a grief absence, you must notify your Associate Dean via the “Grief Absence Request” web form before you leave campus. Your Associate Dean will notify me and I will work with you to make appropriate accommodations

so that you are not penalized due to a verified grief absence. The link to the form can be found at <https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/classroom-policies/index.html#GriefAbsencePolicy>.

## Incomplete Policy

The incomplete (I) grade will be granted in cases of extenuating and documentable circumstances such as protracted personal illness or family emergency. **You must complete at least 2 projects to be eligible for an Incomplete.** The university requires students to have completed 6/7ths of a course to be eligible for an incomplete. **Note that the MSU registrar will automatically change an incomplete (I) grade into a 0.0 unless you complete your prosecution by the middle of the next semester you enroll for courses at MSU.**

## Academic Honesty

You are expected to complete all prosecutions yourself. You may ask for assistance from LAs and faculty; however, the prosecution must be the result of your work. **Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.**

## Mandatory Reporting

Michigan State University is committed to fostering a culture of caring and respect that is free of relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and to ensuring that all affected individuals have access to services. For information on reporting options, confidential advocacy and support resources, university policies and procedures, or how to make a difference on campus, visit the Title IX website at [titleix.msu.edu](http://titleix.msu.edu).

**Limits to confidentiality.** Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child;
- Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more

confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services.

## **Letters of Recommendation**

If you want a letter of recommendation from a faculty member or Bill, please ask after the end of the semester. We will only agree to a letter of recommendation if we can write you a strong letter. We must easily be able to recognize your name and have had multiple interactions with you.