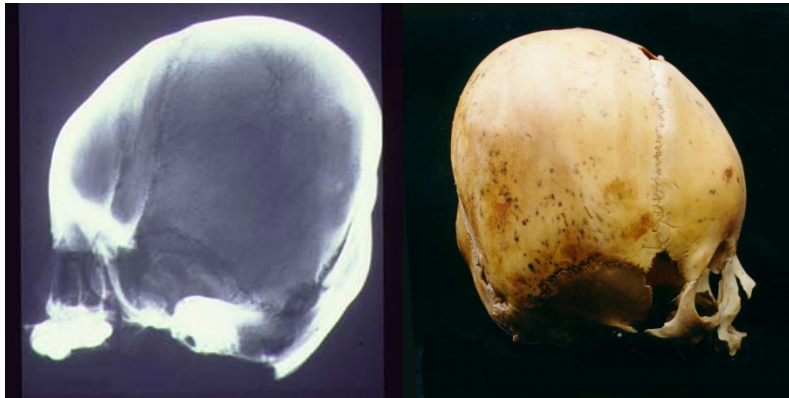


**Anthropology 3311G  
Bioarchaeology:  
Practice and Theory**

**Anthropology 9104B  
Special Topics in Bioarchaeology**

**Course value: 0.5 Credit  
January – April 2017**



Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson  
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Office: Social Science Centre 3215  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 and  
Thursdays 10:00-12:00  
Phone: 519-661-2111 x 85101  
Time: Tuesday 9:30-12:30  
Place: SSC 2257

TA: Kirsten Bruce. No office hours. TA duties are split between this course and Dr. Nelson's other course this term, 2239B. For course help or questions, please contact the professor.

Course Description:

An introduction to current theoretical and methodological issues in bioarchaeology. Use of ancient human, animal, and plant tissues to reconstruct relationships among biology, culture and environment in international contexts is emphasized. Topics include: diet, demography, disease, identity, mobility, landscape, childhood, gender, ideology, political economy, violence, work, urbanism, and globalization.

### Prerequisite for Anthropology 3311G:

Anthropology 2226A/B or Anthropology 2229F/G or instructor's permission. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the prerequisite for this course. Unless you have either the requisite or special permission from your Dean, you may be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record, without any adjustment to your fees.

### Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand and apply methods from other disciplines to this inherently interdisciplinary science
- appreciate the interrelations between biology and culture
- utilize the findings of bioarchaeology in order to inform our understanding of diseases today
- understand the practice of modern bioarchaeology and how it has evolved
- effectively communicate verbally and in writing how to integrate theory and method in bioarchaeological practice and interpretation

### Undergraduate Grading:

Undergraduate student evaluation for this course will be based on participation, two annotated bibliography assignments, one 3500-word research paper and a final exam. The annotated bibliographies will be worth 20% total, the paper will be worth 35% and the final exam will be worth 35% of the course grade. Participation will account for 15% of the grade.

Work will be spread throughout the term, with the annotated bibliographies being due on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> and Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, the paper due Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, and the final exam falling in the exam period (Apr 8<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>).

### Graduate Grading:

Graduate students taking this course will be evaluated on participation (20%), a single annotated bibliography (20%), an in-class presentation (20%), and a 5000 word paper (40%).

### Readings:

The text book for this course is

Larsen, C.S. (2015). *Bioarchaeology. Interpreting Behavior from the Human Skeleton*, Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

The text is available in *The Book Store At Western* in UCC.

Additional readings will be assembled on OWL.

Course Structure:

The three hour blocks will consist of a 2 hour lecture, followed by a 1 hour discussion section, during which the class will be broken into small groups. The instructor and graduate students will lead the discussion section, which will be based on the readings and lecture topic for that day. Students will be expected to have done the readings before-hand, and to actively participate in the discussions. Some chapters are quite long – the instructor will highlight specific parts of those chapters to focus on.

Date	Lecture Topics and notes	Larsen chapters or readings on OWL
Jan 10	Introduction to <i>Bioarchaeology</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what the heck is this bioarchaeology anyway?</li> <li>- why are people fascinated with skeletons and mummies?</li> <li>- ethics of bioarchaeological research</li> <li>- bones are beautiful</li> </ul>	Larsen Chapter 1 and pp: 428-429
Jan 17	Mortuary Analysis	Crandall & Martin 2013. <i>The bioarchaeology of postmortem agency: Integrating archaeological theory with human skeletal remains.</i>
Jan 24	People of the past <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identity in the bioarchaeological record – the <i>Osteobiography</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o sex, age</li> <li>o the Osteological Paradox</li> <li>o paleodemography</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Annotated bibliography #1 due today. Topic = mortuary analysis	Larsen Chapter 10
Jan 31	Growth and development in the evolutionary context and archaeological record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- subadults, stress and survival</li> </ul>	Larsen Chapter 2
Feb 7	You are what you eat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- diet &amp; nutrition</li> <li>- dental wear, isotopic and other analyses</li> <li>- the social context of food</li> </ul>	Larsen Chapters 8 & 7
Feb 14	Pestilence, plagues and disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- paleopathology</li> <li>- health and disease in the ancient world</li> <li>- bioarchaeology of care</li> <li>- cultural transitions and their effects on health</li> </ul>	Larsen Chapter 3

	Annotated bibliography #2 due today. Topic = diet and bioarchaeology	
Feb 21	reading week research paper topic to be approved before this week	
Feb 28	A life lived – understanding activity from the skeleton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- biomechanics</li> <li>- indicators of activity</li> <li>- trauma and violence</li> </ul>	Larsen Chapters 5 & 6
Mar 7	Social identity and skeletal remains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- gender, status, ethnicity</li> </ul> The body as material culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- mummies, modification and the <i>memento mori</i></li> </ul>	Knudson & Stojanowski 2008. <i>New directions in bioarchaeology: Recent contributions to the study of human social identities.</i>
Mar 14	Bioarchaeology and forensics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- taphonomy</li> </ul> Research paper due today.	Saul & Saul 2002. <i>Forensics, archaeology and taphonomy: The symbiotic relationship.</i>
Mar 21	Bioarchaeology <i>senu lato</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- faunal bioarchaeology</li> <li>- floral bioarchaeology</li> <li>- landscape bioarchaeology</li> </ul>	Clark 1973. <i>Bioarchaeology: Some extracts on the theme.</i>
Mar 28	Bioarchaeology redux <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- contributions to our understanding of modern diseases</li> <li>- bioarchaeology and the public</li> </ul>	Larsen Chapter 11
April 4	Review session and discussion of the final exam	

Undergraduate Assignments:

Annotated Bibliographies – 20% of grade

The two short annotated readings assignments will require students to find three references that are relevant to the topic outlined in the lecture topic outline. The references must come from valid academic sources (e.g. not any old web site) and be related to each other in some way. The assignment is to do a short synopsis of the three references and a brief analysis in 3 double spaced pages.

Assignment #1 is due on January 24<sup>th</sup>, and its topic is *mortuary analysis*. Find an article that presents a mortuary analysis of an archaeological site. Then identify two articles that outline the most important aspects of mortuary theory that inform the analysis described in the article. Write short descriptions of what is in the three articles, and then describe how the theory shapes the analysis.

Assignment #2 is due on February 14<sup>th</sup>, and its topic is *diet and bioarchaeology*. Find an article that presents an analysis of the diet at an archaeological site. Find two more articles that utilize that method

of analysis. Write a short description of each article, and then discuss whether there are common themes/approaches in the three articles.

The assignments will use the in-text citation and bibliographic format from the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1096-8644/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1096-8644/homepage/ForAuthors.html)

Research Paper – 35% of grade

Topics for the research paper must be related to one of the lecture themes and will be selected in consultation with the instructor (in office hours or by email) before reading week. The paper will be formatted as a manuscript to be submitted to the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. This formatting includes the cover page, keywords, an abstract and sections that follow the *Theory and Synthesis* category (described in the *Other Submission Categories* section). See the AJPA style guide at: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1096-8644/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1096-8644/homepage/ForAuthors.html). (note that there is an older guide still on line that is somewhat different from the current version – be sure to use this most recent one).

The paper is due March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Final Exam – 35% of grade

The final exam will consist of a series of 3 essay questions that will be distributed to students on the last day of classes. Students will be able to prepare their answers at home, but will not be able to bring notes on the day of the exam. Two of the questions will be chosen on the day of the exam.

Participation – 10% of grade

The discussion sections held in the third hour of class will explore the lecture topic of that day in detail, guided by questions. Students will be expected to have done the readings and to be prepared to critically discuss the material. The class participation grade will be assigned on attendance and thoughtful participation in classroom discussions.

### Graduate Grading:

#### Graduate Annotated Bibliography – 20% of grade

The graduate students will prepare an annotated bibliography of 20 references that are relevant to one of the topics in the second half of the course. This should include in introduction that states the topic and its relevance, short summaries of the references and a synthesis.

This assignment is due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Graduate In-Class Presentation – 20% of grade

The graduate students will present a 50 minute presentation to the class on the topic covered for their annotated bibliography. The presentation will take place on the appropriate date as outlined in the calendar above.

#### Graduate Research Paper – 40% of grade

The graduate students will prepare a 5000 word research paper on a bioarchaeological topic that is relevant to their thesis research and is different from the topic covered in the annotated bibliography/presentation.

#### Graduate Participation – 20% of grade

The graduate students will assist the instructor by leading the in-class discussions in the third hour of the weekly class sessions.

### Electronic Devices:

Computers may be used in class for taking notes. They cannot be used during exams.

### Western's Academic Policies:

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, mental wellbeing, accommodation for medical illness, and plagiarism and scholastic offences. These policies are outlined with links to the full policies at

[http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course\\_information/academic\\_policies.html](http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html)

Useful Websites:

- A range of student services is available at: <https://student.uwo.ca>
- Student Support Services: <http://westernusc.ca/services>
- Anthropology Department: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca>
- Office of the Registrar: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
- Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>
- Writing Support Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>
- Plagiarism and Citing Sources: [www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp)
- Accommodated Exams: [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)