

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTHROPOLOGY 1020:
MANY WAYS OF BEING HUMAN
PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE (2018-19)

Credit Value: 1.0 credit

*Anthropology 1025F/G and Anthropology 1026F/G are **anti-requisites** for this course, meaning that you cannot receive credit for taking both this full course and either (or both) of those half-courses since they cover similar material.*

Course Description:

An introduction to anthropology (the study of human beings, past and present) co-taught by specialists in biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and sociocultural anthropology. Students will explore anthropological approaches to and findings concerning: human evolution; variation and adaptation; diverse forms of social, political, and economic organization; culture; ritual; language; communication; identity; gender; health; social inequality; and globalization.

Instructors:

This course is co-taught by specialists in each of the four key subfields of Anthropology, as noted below.

TERM 1	TERM 2
Dr. Karyn Olsen (Biological Anthropology)	Dr. Kinga Pozniak (Sociocultural Anthropology)
Dr. Andrew Nelson (Archaeology)	Dr. Karen Pennesi (Linguistic Anthropology)

Learning Outcomes:

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

General

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the unique holistic and comparative anthropological approach to understanding the past and present social, cultural and linguistic diversity of humans, and our non-human primate relatives, and their biological diversity and evolution.
- Identify the four major subfields of anthropology (biological anthropology, archaeology, sociocultural anthropology and linguistic anthropology) and the types of research questions and methods employed in each
- Demonstrate how anthropological insights foster tolerance for the diversity of human cultures and ways of life and show the value of human diversity
- Complete the basic steps of scholarly research, including locating and critically evaluating scholarly and other information sources relevant to anthropological topics
- Formulate well organized written arguments that are grounded in supporting evidence

Biological Anthropology

- Identify and describe the branches of biological anthropology and its relevant terminology
- Show how the scientific method works to produce knowledge within particular, yet shifting, cultural, political, and historical contexts
- Demonstrate a general understanding of the mechanisms of evolution, and evidence for the evolution of humans and their hominin ancestors
- Outline major trends within non-human primate and human evolution
- Describe the biocultural adaptations of humans throughout time (e.g. to climate, disease).
- Classify and analyze non-human primate and human skeletal remains for the purposes of better understanding human evolution, diversity, and reconstructing the lives of past peoples
- Integrate scientific biological data with cultural, political and historic insights in order to comment on contemporary issues related to race, gender, environmental change and sustainability

Archaeology

- Articulate the contributions archaeology makes to modern society
- Explain the competing modern interests related to ethical questions about heritage sites and objects
- Describe the main categories of archaeological evidence, and classify objects into them
- Explain common techniques for recovering archaeological evidence and discuss how archaeologists select appropriate methods
- Illustrate the main questions archaeologists ask about past people and their environments and how archaeologists use multiple lines of evidence to answer those questions
- Identify how archaeological research is influenced by the context (social, political, historical) in which it takes place
- Evaluate the strength of basic archaeological arguments by assessing the quality of the supporting evidence and the link between evidence and interpretation

Sociocultural Anthropology

- Appreciate the complexity and breadth of human behaviour around the world
- Recognize that their own beliefs and ways of living are only some of the possibilities that exist among many equally valid ones
- Examine critically their own assumptions about how the world works, how people should behave and what they should believe
- Master key anthropological concepts such as culture, society, community, and kinship.
- Use cross-cultural comparison to analyze cultural commonalities and differences.

- Understand the connectedness among social processes such as: economic practices, political systems, social organization, belief systems, and other elements of social and cultural life
- Apply anthropological concepts to the analysis of contemporary issues using specific case studies.

Linguistic Anthropology

- Understand language as a system and specify how it differs from other forms of communication.
- Illustrate how language and culture influence each other.
- Articulate the relation between language and identity in political and cultural terms.
- Explain how language is used to accomplish social goals.
- Identify various areas of social life where concepts and approaches from linguistic anthropology can be applied.

Required Texts (available in the bookstore):

Available Soon

Marking Breakdown:

TERM 1:

Biological Anthropology Class Assignments (tba)	15%
Archaeology Class Assignments (tba)	15%
December Exam (Archaeology and Biological Anthropology, Date TBA)	20%
Total for TERM 1	50%

TERM 2:

Socio-cultural Anthropology Class Assignments (tba)	15%
Linguistic Anthropology Class Assignments (tba)	15%
April Exam (Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology, Date TBA)	20%
Total for TERM 2	50%

Website:

We have a website for this class accessible through UWO's OWL platform. The address is <https://owl.uwo.ca>. This site includes the course outline, study guides, copies of slides used in lecture, class announcements, assignment instructions and a "Grade Book" that contains your marks for each assignment. Check the site at least once a week for announcements.

Videos:

We will see several videos throughout the course. Just like lecture content, material from these videos may appear on the final exam, so be sure to take notes.