



Anthro 3307A - Field Methods in Archaeology

Course Outline

Fall 2016

Credit Value: 0.5

Antirequisite: None

Prerequisite: Anthropology 2229F/G and registration in Anthropology module Year 3 or 4.

An application is required and can be found on our website:

[http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course information/field and methods courses/3307A.html](http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course%20information/field%20and%20methods%20courses/3307A.html)

Meeting Time: Fridays 8:30-11:30 AM, 12:30-2:30 PM

Instructor: Peter Timmins
Office: SSC-3213
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 – 1:30 pm, Wednesdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 85097
Email: ptimmins@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Rebecca Parry
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30, SSC-3424
Email: rparry@uwo.ca

COURSE CONTENT:

This course provides students with a basic “hands on” grounding in the methods and techniques used by archaeologists to recover data in the field, and an introduction to preliminary archaeological data processing in the laboratory. The goal is to provide students with basic skills that can be used in cultural resource management (CRM) or academic research contexts. The skills taught will be applicable in a variety of contexts, but we will be focusing on archaeological methods and techniques commonly applied in Southern Ontario.

The course will be run out of the Museum of Ontario Archaeology (1600 Attawandaron Road, London, Ontario) and students will be expected to meet there at the beginning of each class. Classes will be taught both inside (in the Museum) and outside on an archaeological site in the London area. For the first several weeks (September through October) students should be prepared to spend most of the class outdoors and we will plan to move inside to focus on lectures and lab work for November and early December. Students will be expected to dress accordingly when working outdoors (warm clothing on cold days, rain gear, appropriate footwear, etc.) and bring necessary accessories (sunscreen, bug repellent, water, lunch, etc.). You will get dirty during the outdoor field activities, so dress appropriately. More details will be provided at our first meeting of the class.

COURSE MARKS:

Grades will be based on:

Field notes for September, due in Sept 30th class (5%)

Field notes for October, due in Oct. 21st class (5%)

Participation grades for field component posted Oct. 31st (10%)

Assignment 1, due Nov. 18, 2016 (20%);

Assignment 2, due on Dec. 2, 2016 (25%);

Participation grades for lecture component posted at end of course (5%)

Final Take Home Exam, in the final exam period in December 2016 (30%);

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Participate in an archaeological survey conducted by test pitting or pedestrian survey.
- Understand and assist with the process of setting an archaeological grid using survey equipment.
- Apply basic archaeological excavation skills, including troweling, shovel shining, and screening archaeological deposits.
- Recognize, identify and catalogue historic (19th century) artifacts.
- Draw and photograph excavation units and archaeological features in plan view and profile.
- Conduct basic background research for an archaeological study and summarize the results in a report format.

- Describe basic archaeological methodology and conduct a descriptive analysis of a small 19th century artifact collection.
- Discuss the archaeological assessment process in Ontario and the way in which Aboriginal communities may be engaged in that process.

REQUIRED READINGS:

The main resources for this course are documents from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport (MTCS) that are used to regulate archaeological activities in Ontario. They are available to download in PDF format online, either through OWL or the MTCS website. The main document is:

Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport
2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*
http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/publications/SG_2010.pdf

We will also be reading the MTCS guidelines on Aboriginal engagement in archaeology:

Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport
2011 *Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology*
<http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/publications/AbEngageBulletin.pdf>

Throughout the semester a small number of additional readings may be required. These will either be available online (through OWL or the UWO library system) or on reserve at the Weldon Library.

OTHER VALUABLE RESOURCES:

KEWA – The newsletter of the London Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS). This publication provides brief articles on local archaeological research. There is an index on the London OAS webpage <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/assoc/oas/>, and hard copies of the issues are available at the Weldon Library.

Ontario Archaeology – The journal of the Ontario Archaeological Society. PDFs of articles are available at the OAS webpage <http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/publications/search.php> and hard copies are available at the Weldon Library.

Scholars GeoPortal – This website allows you to search for and download a variety of maps for southwestern Ontario. <http://geol.scholarsportal.info/>

Weldon's Resources for Archaeology Students – a series of archaeological specific resources available to Western's students. <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/programs/archaeology/>

The Canadian County Atlas Digital Project – a series of digitized historical atlases by county throughout Ontario. <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/>

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments are to be submitted in hard copy in class and submitted online through OWL by the due date. Assignments will not be accepted through email. If there are any problems with submitting assignments on time, contact the instructor asap (on or before the due date).

a) Field notes: Students will be provided with notebooks and instructions for the completion of field notes. They will be graded based on their completeness, accuracy, and legibility.

Field notes from Sept. 9 to 30 are due Sept. 30 in class (5%);

Field notes from Oct. 7 to 21 are due Oct. 21 in class (5%)

b) Assignment 1 - based on class lectures and readings, due Nov. 18, 2016 (20%)

Details of this assignment will be made available in the Oct. 21 class. Students are required to hand in a hard copy in class and upload a digital copy through OWL.

c) Assignment 2 - an assigned section of the Archaeological Report, due on Dec. 2, 2016 (25%). Each student will be assigned to write a section of the Archaeological Licence Report involving some aspect of data collection and analysis/description of the fieldwork we have completed. This project will be graded based on the requirements in the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport *Standards and Guidelines* and the completeness, accuracy and presentation of the results. Details of this assignment will be made available in the Nov. 11 class. Students are required to hand in a hard copy in class and upload a digital copy through OWL.

Late Policy

There is a 2% penalty for every day that an assignment is late (based on midnight of the due date). Late assignments won't be accepted after December 16, 2016 and will receive a grade of zero.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

Please visit Anthropology's website for information regarding Academic Policies on: Accessibility, Plagiarism and Scholastic Offences, and Accommodation for Medical Illness:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

No electronic devices (including but not limited to laptop computers, cell phones, iPods, etc.) will be allowed during examinations unless expressly authorized by the instructor.

OWL:

The course will make use of the OWL learning management system for posting powerpoint slides, providing grades, and communications between the instructor and the class as a whole. Students can log on to OWL system at: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. For direct communication with the instructor please contact Prof. Timmins by email at: ptimmins@uwo.ca.

COURSE SCHEDULE

We will need to be flexible for the Friday field sessions due to the vagaries of the weather. Students should come to the Museum on Friday mornings prepared to go into the field. If field sessions are cancelled due to weather, we will process artifacts or have a lecture at the Museum. A tentative schedule is outlined below. Any significant changes to the schedule will be posted on the course OWL site, so you should check it regularly.

September 9th

Introduction to the course, discussion of logistics for field component, safety in the field, use of survey equipment and setting up a grid.

September 16, 23 30, October 7, 14, 21th

This is the hands on field component of the course. We will be spending these six classes in the field at an archaeological site in the London area. The class will meet at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology at 8:30 am, travel to the site, work on site from 9 am to 2 pm (with a break for lunch), and return to the Museum at 2:30 pm. If the weather is poor the class will be held indoors at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology.

October 28

Fall Study Break – No Class

November 4, 11, 25 & Dec. 2

The final five classes will be held at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology. We will be covering the following topics (if not already covered on previous rain days):

- Introduction to Cultural Resource Management in Ontario
- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessments - Read S&G pg. 13-22
- Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments - Read S&G pg. 27-44
- Stage 3 Archaeological Assessments - Read S&G pg. 45-62
- Stage 4 Archaeological Assessments - Read S&G pg. 67-85
- Geophysical Archaeological Methods
- Creating an Artifact Catalogue/Database
- Artifact Identification
- Artifact Processing
- Creating an Artifact Catalogue/Database
- Artifact Analysis
- Forensic/Burial Excavation
- Aboriginal Engagement - read MTCS Aboriginal Engagement Bulletin

Most of these topics will be covered in this general order, however, because of the uncertain nature of the field component of this course some of the topics might be covered out of order or in the first half of the course.