

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 1020E:  
MANY WAYS OF BEING HUMAN

SECTION 001  
**Syllabus for Winter Semester**

September 2011 – April 2012

Winter Teaching Staff	Dr. Andrew Nelson	Kaye-Lynn Boucher (TA)	Maria del Carmen Vega	Renee Wilmon
Office	SSC 3312	SSC 3303	SSC 3418	SSC 3418
Email	<a href="mailto:anelson@uwo.ca">anelson@uwo.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:kbouche4@uwo.ca">kbouche4@uwo.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:mvegadul@uwo.ca">mvegadul@uwo.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:rwillmon@uwo.ca">rwillmon@uwo.ca</a>
Telephone	519-661-2111, ext. 85101			
Office Hours	Monday: 1-3pm	Tues: noon-1pm	Friday: 1-2pm	Thurs: 10:30-11:30am

CLASS TIMES	CLASS LOCATION
Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:20 am & Thursdays 9:30 – 10:20 am	SSC 2032

Anthropology is the study of the unity and diversity of humankind, and includes four subdisciplines: sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, anthropological archaeology, and biological anthropology. In this full year course students explore the human experience, past and present, by learning about differences and similarities in societies and cultures across time and space.

This past semester Professor Clark, introduced you to the anthropological perspective on human culture and society. Key concepts were cultural variability, the social construction of world view and the links among economic processes, political systems, social organization, belief systems, and other elements of social and cultural life.

This term, I will take over, and provide an introductory overview of the history, theoretical/interpretative frameworks, methods and subject matter of anthropological archaeology and biological/physical anthropology. Besides providing a background and vocabulary necessary for understanding the scope and nature of these subdisciplines, this part of the course attempts to instil in the student a basic understanding of human evolution and ancient history and an appreciation of the variety and richness of human life in the past -- essentially, what it means to be human: how we are similar or different from other species and how and why we have come to be as we are.

Required text for winter term:

- Barry Lewis, Robert Jurmain and Lynn Kilgore, Understanding Humans: Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, 2010, revised tenth edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, Belmont, California.

All textbooks are available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore, and for loan on 2-hour reserve at Weldon Library. You may also find new or used copies available for purchase over the internet, but please ensure that you get access to the *correct edition* of the books (all textbooks used in this course are revised and updated from earlier editions of the same books).

Please note that there is a website for the Lewis textbook:

[http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-](http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780495604747&token=)

[wadsworth/course\\_products\\_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product\\_isbn\\_issn=9780495604747&token=](http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780495604747&token=)

This site includes items such as flashcards, glossaries, quizzes and other useful material that complements the textbook. We encourage you to review these materials alongside each chapter in the texts.

Student responsibilities:

- You are responsible for knowing what is on this course syllabus, and for any other course organizational information posted on the course website and/or announced in class.
- You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with all of the assigned readings and all of the material covered in class, including films (the exams will include questions on any films we see in class). You are expected to have read all of the assigned readings on a topic before the first class session on that topic. The class lectures will expand on the topics covered in the readings and provide additional perspectives and information on the issues, hence the importance of attending class as well as completing the readings.
- If you miss a class for unavoidable reasons, you should arrange to get notes from another student (or even from two, in case one of them missed something). Lecture notes for missed classes will not be provided by the instructor or the TAs, and it is not possible to arrange alternative viewing times for films.
- You should not rely primarily on email for communicating with me or the TAs, other than for short queries. Any communication requiring a detailed response should be saved for discussion during our office hours (we may also be available for a few minutes after class). If you do contact us by email, ensure that you use your UWO email address, as messages sent from other accounts may be filtered out by the university's spamtrap.
- You may use a laptop computer in class for taking notes (although be warned that there may not be many electrical outlets in the room). You are not permitted to check email, surf the web, or use a laptop for any other purpose during class. You must turn off other electronic devices (such as cell phones) during class, unless you have special circumstances that you have discussed with me.

Professor Nelson's commitments:

- I will maintain a course website for this class, where I will post this syllabus, assignment instructions and announcements and lecture outlines. You can also check your grades there. You can access the course website at: <http://webct.uwo.ca/>
- I will post the lecture outlines (not detailed class notes) on the course's WebCT site by early afternoon the day before each class. These documents will be in a format that will allow you to alter the font or add additional space so you can print them out and bring them to class if you think this would be helpful for you in structuring your notes or following the class lecture. Alternatively, if you use a laptop to take your notes you may wish to download the lecture outlines and to take your notes electronically directly on those documents.
- I will hold two hours of office hours each week. No appointment is necessary if you come to my office during my scheduled office hours. If I have to cancel or reschedule office hours for any reason I will post this online in WebCT and if possible, announce in advance in class. The TAs have scheduled their office hours at different times so that you have some flexibility in choosing when to meet with one of us. We are all also willing to arrange appointments at other mutually-convenient times.
- We will endeavour to respond to email communications within 24 hours of receiving them, but will not do so on evenings or weekends.
- I will normally provide a short break during our two-hour class session on Tuesdays.
- While I have never had to cancel a class in over 15 years of teaching, in the unlikely event that a class has to be cancelled in an emergency situation I will endeavour to have this information posted on the course WebCT site under "announcements."

Course requirements and grading for winter term (Nelson):

The dates and relative worth of this semester's assignments are:

Term test on	February 28	15 %
Term paper/essay due	March 22	20 %
Final exam	April (date TBA)	15%
<b>Total for term:</b>		50% of final overall grade

Examinations will cover material from both lectures and the readings. There will be material presented in lecture that is not covered in the book. The final exam will emphasize material covered since the first exam, but will be comprehensive.

The research paper will be on a topic of your choice relevant to the fields of biological anthropology and archaeology. You will be required to have your topic approved by the professor or your TA *before class* on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Your research paper must be at least 2000 words, and may not exceed 2500 words in length. Details regarding format, suggested topics and so on will be outlined in a separate document. The papers will be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>. A late penalty of 5% per day (of the paper grade) will be assessed on any paper submitted after that date. It is very important that you plan your timetable carefully and that you get started thinking about topics and doing your research as early as possible. I will present an overview of the assignment on February 16<sup>th</sup>, the last class before Reading week.

This course will have 3 teaching assistants (TA). The TAs are there to help you understand the course material and to assist you with the preparation of your research paper. You are welcome to come to see the professor, but due to the numbers involved in this course you will be better served by seeing your TA first.

## Lecture Topics and Readings

Date	Topics	Readings
January 10/12	<i>Why are we here?</i> – introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology	Chapter 1
January 17/19	<i>How does evolution work - I?</i> -mechanisms of evolution and the modern synthesis	Chapters 2 & 3
January 24/26	<i>How does evolution work - II?</i> - populational perspective, taxonomy	Chapter 5 Appendix C
January 30/Feb 2	<i>What is our place in Nature?</i> - mammals, primates and primate behavior	pages 112-114 Chapter 6 & 7 Appendix A
February 7/9	<i>What is paleontology I?</i> - mammalian evolution & the origin of the primates - primate evolution - the Eocene, Oligocene	Chapter 8
February 14/16	<i>What is paleontology II?</i> - more on primate evolution – the Miocene - Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> will be an overview of the paper assignment	Chapter 8
February 21/23	Reading Week	
February 28	<b>Midterm</b>	
March 1	<i>What is a hominin?</i> - Miocene revisited and hominin origins	Chapter 9
March 6/8	<i>How do we reconstruct ancient behavior?</i> - methods of archaeology - early hominins - <b>paper topics approved before class on the 8th</b>	Chapter 8 & 9 Appendix B
March 13/15	<i>When do modern forms of hominins appear?</i> - Lower, Middle and Upper Pleistocene - the origin of modern <i>Homo sapiens</i>	Chapter 10, 11 & 12
March 20/22	<i>When does modern behavior appear?</i> - Upper Paleolithic - peopling of the Australia and the New World - human variability - <b>paper due on the 22nd</b>	Chapters 12 & 4
March 27/29	<i>When does civilization appear?</i> - hunting, gathering and the origins of agriculture - the earliest cities and “The Urban Revolution”	Chapters 13 & 14
April 3/5	<i>When do complex societies appear?</i> - the development of complex societies in the Old World - the development of complex societies in the New World	Chapter 15
April 10	<i>Current research in biological anthropology and archaeology</i> - course wrap up	

### **Additional general academic policies and information (both terms):**

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

Statement on Plagiarism and Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling Office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Specific guidelines for what to do when you encounter problems are available on the website of the Academic Counselling Office of the Faculty of Social Science; see <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> . If you have a different home Faculty, you should familiarize yourself with the policies there regarding academic accommodation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department, however you should give your instructor a simple heads up that you will be seeking academic accommodation from the Academic Counselling Office for a specific assignment or examination.

Support Services

Registrar's Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>