

Department of Anthropology
ANTH/IS 2230G – ARCTIC ARCHAEOLOGY
PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2025

Version date: Jan 7, 2025

Instructor and Course Information:

Instructor: Lisa Hodgetts

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Mode of delivery: In-Person

Credit Value: 0.5

Antirequisites: Indigenous Studies 2230 is an anti-requisite for Anthropology 2230.

Anthropology 2230 is an anti-requisite for Indigenous Studies 2230. You cannot receive credit for both courses.

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This is both an exciting and challenging time to do archaeological research in Inuit Nunangat, the arctic regions of Canada. New collaborations between northern Indigenous peoples and archaeologists are changing the way we understand and conduct archaeology in the north. At the same time, climate change, which is dramatically impacting the Arctic, is rapidly destroying the arctic archaeological record and driving new approaches to documenting threatened sites and mitigating these impacts. We will reflect on how these parallel developments are reshaping archaeological practice in the north.

To create a foundation for discussing these broader developments, the course will first examine Arctic archaeology's colonial roots, the ways in which archaeological practice historically disenfranchised Inuit (and other Indigenous peoples in settler societies) and recent efforts to decolonize the discipline. These foundations will also include an overview of the main cultural periods in Canadian Arctic history, highlighting the material evidence used to define them and the main differences between each of these groups. Next, we will take a deeper dive into ongoing shifts in archaeological practice intended to restore Inuit control over their heritage, and the work that remains to realize this goal. Rather than just talking about these new research directions, this class will involve you directly in the efforts of the Inuvialuit Living History (ILH) project, the research project that I coordinate with the Inuvialuit Cultural Centre in Canada's Western Arctic. Welcome to the team! Our project aims to generate, document and share Inuvialuit and archaeological knowledge about the culture and heritage of the Inuvialuit people – the Inuit of the Northwest Territories and

Yukon. In addition, we will discuss circumpolar efforts to mitigate climate change impacts on the Arctic archaeological record. Finally, we will explore some of the major research questions in Arctic archaeology in light of human DNA evidence (published in 2014) from past and present Arctic occupants. Ultimately, I hope the course will give you a sense of Inuit Nunangat's rich past, insight into how and why archaeological approaches to understanding that past have changed in recent years, and a sense of where research is heading in the future.

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the material remains and lifeways of each of the main archaeological cultures represented in Inuit Nunangat
2. Discuss the changing role of Inuit communities in archaeological research and reflect on how and why this change is influencing archaeological practice in the Canadian Arctic
3. Develop, express and defend informed opinions on how archaeologists should engage with Inuit communities and how arctic archaeologists should deal with climate change impacts on the arctic archaeological record
4. Integrate archaeological and Inuit knowledge to shed light on long-term Inuit history and highlight cultural continuity and change
5. Synthesize and evaluate key debates in Arctic archaeology
6. Assess the strength of archaeological interpretations in light of new evidence
7. Develop and implement strategies for writing/creating in collaboration with your peers
8. Implement the principles of effective communication in a range of formats for different audiences

Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course. All required readings will be available on the Weekly Lessons pages of the course OWL Brightspace site.

Use of OWL Brightspace

Our course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) is where you will find the most up to date version of the Course Outline and Weekly Schedule. I will use the Announcements page to share any important information, reminders, updates and changes. The Weekly Lessons pages provide access to the required readings and the lecture slides (which I'll post shortly before class each week). The Assignments page is where you will submit assignments and receive feedback. You will find your grades (once posted) in the OWL Gradebook.

If you need assistance with OWL Brightspace, support is available on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. You can also contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Evaluation

Course grades will be based on the following:

Test on Weeks 1-4	15%	Feb 5
Group project	25%	Due March 19 (Draft due March 12)
Conference poster	25%	Due April 2 (Synopsis Feb 12; Draft March 26)
Course reflection	25%	Due April 3
In-class activities	10%	throughout semester

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