

**Department of Anthropology**  
**ANTHRO 2226B-001: Biological Anthropology**  
**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Winter 2025**

Date: December 2, 2024

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. Jo Motley

Method of delivery: In Person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: There are not any designated prerequisite courses to Anthro 2226A/B. However, students who have taken Anthro 1022A/B or 1026F/G should find they have a solid conceptual basis for the work in this course.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking the Academic Calendar:

<https://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ANTHRO&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#top>

**Course Description:**

Biological anthropology is a subfield of the broader discipline of anthropology that studies the evolutionary history and biological diversity of humans and non-human primates. As biological anthropology is a subfield investigating human biology and evolutionary history, this course primarily draws on the synthetic theory of evolution and biocultural anthropological theory as a framework in conjunction with the contributions of primatology, paleoanthropology, and human biology to better understand ourselves.

This course is composed of four parts:

- What is “biological anthropology”? The philosophy of science, the history of evolutionary thought, genetics, and human heredity.
- What makes a primate? Primate evolution, behaviour, and biology.
- Why do anthropologists study bones? What makes a human *human*? What is “human nature”? The study of human evolution.
- When we study humans, we study people: Human variation and biocultural considerations

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course’s OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

**Course Materials:**

Required textbook: Marks, Jonathan, 2017. *The Alternative Introduction to Biological Anthropology* (2nd Edition). New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Students will need to purchase the second edition. Older editions will not be sufficient. The textbook costs approximately \$72-98. Ebook rental is \$44. Second-hand/used editions are acceptable.

Additional required readings will be provided without cost through the course site on Brightspace.

**Supplementary Resource:** [Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology](#)

While not required, this free Open-Access online textbook provides an overview of introductory information for those that did not complete a recommended first year anthropology course.

**Use of OWL Brightspace**

I will use Western's online course management program (OWL) to provide the final course outline and weekly schedule; communicate with the class; and provide PDF copies of applicable readings and links to course materials. Copies of the PowerPoint presentations of the lectures will be made available for that week's content before each class. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>. If you need assistance with OWL Brightspace, you can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

- 4 Lab Assignments (exercises using provided materials)
- A Mid-term Exam (multiple-choice questions and true-and-false questions)
- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and a short essay; will take place during the December exam period)

4 Lab Assignments (4x10%)	40%
Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

**Course Policies**

**Lab Assignments**

Labs involve practical exercises that will allow you to get some "hands-on" experience in the techniques of biological anthropology.

Each student is responsible for completing the lab assignments within the designated time, unless otherwise noted. Students may miss one lab assignment without documentation. A pre-scheduled make-up lab time will be held on **April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Any student that misses a lab will be invited to attend that session. If the missed assignment is not completed at the general make-up lab, then a zero will be assigned. Requests for make-up labs or extenuating circumstances will require documentation.

**Important: Classroom Policy for Handling Lab Materials:**

This course will involve the opportunity to handle casts of skeletal remains, along with the potential to view real skeletal remains in Western Anthropology's collections. As part of this course, it is expected that you will follow instructions and handle materials with respect.

**Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism:**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. *This includes the use of generative AI to complete any portion of an*

*assignment*. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [Scholastic Offence](#). Penalties range from a failing grade for the assignment or the course to suspension or even expulsion from the University. I will provide you with the tools to properly reference and acknowledge other's work in class. Never hesitate to ask if you have a question about academic honesty.

### **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), including tools, software, and apps to complete assignments and summarize readings is strongly discouraged. Tools may be used for translation purposes as needed.

### **Academic Considerations:**

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#) and [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

It is important to communicate with me as soon as you know you will need academic consideration (beyond course policies) to complete coursework or assignments, including exams. Please see your academic counsellor as soon as possible if you will be seeking academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds. It is your responsibility to keep me informed about requests for consideration and provide the appropriate documentation so that I can work with you on ways to stay caught up in class. All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

### **Accessible Education**

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. Please see [Accessible Education](#) for information.

### **Academic Rights and Responsibilities**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

### **Gender Based Violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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