

COURSE OUTLINE

Anthropology 1026G-001

Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology

Winter 2019

Lectures: Mondays 7:00-10:00 pm

Classroom: SSC-2028

Instructor: Dr. Ian Colquhoun

Office: SSC-3428

Office hours: Please refer to the course site in OWL.

Email: colquhou@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistants: Please refer to the course site in OWL.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar Course Description: An introduction to aspects of biological anthropology and archaeology which help us to understand the place of humankind in nature. Topics to be covered include heredity, human evolution and variability, archaeological method, the development of culture, the domestication of plants and animals, and the rise of civilization and the state.

Prerequisites: None.

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020 (or the former Anthropology 1020E).

Course Syllabus:

Anthropology is the study of humankind, in all its facets. This course covers two of the four anthropological sub-fields: biological (or, physical) anthropology, and archaeology. The underlying theme connecting these diverse areas of interest is the study of human evolution, both biological and cultural -- the examination of our biological nature, our biological roots, and our cultural past. Or, if you prefer, "What are we, where did we come from, and how did we get here?". Thus, we will be considering and discussing theoretical frameworks, biological and behavioural

processes, and fossil evidence relevant to the evolution of our species, *Homo sapiens*.

Topics to be covered during the course include: the place of bio-archaeological anthropology within the broader discipline of anthropology; the nature of scientific thinking as it applies to the study of human evolution; a brief history of evolutionary thinking; the genetic basis of evolution; the forces of evolution, and tempo and mode in evolution; human biological variation and the concept of "race"; interpreting the fossil record -- the evolution of the Order Primates; an overview of the taxonomy, ecology, and behaviour of the living non-human primates; method and theory in paleoanthropological and archaeological research; evolution of the family Hominidae -- from our extinct ancestors to ourselves; the Neolithic Revolution -- the origins of plant and animal domestication; and, the evolution of complex, stratified societies.

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

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this introductory "survey course" will:

- have developed a broad appreciation of the extensive scope of topics that constitute the fields of biological anthropology and anthropological archaeology;
- have gained experience in academic writing that can be transferred to other courses in the future;
- have expanded their critical thinking skills -- again, a capacity that can be transferred to other courses and beyond academia;
- have achieved a prerequisite course for taking a range of second year courses in biological anthropology and archaeology;
- have gained a sense of the biological and historical development of our species as an habitually bipedal, relatively hairless, big-brained, culture-dependent primate. Thus achieving the single over-riding objective of the course!

Course Materials:

We are using a [Custom Text](#) in this course published by Nelson Higher Education that you need to purchase through The Bookstore. It draws together selected chapters from two of Nelson's recent anthropology texts (one an Intro. to Biological Anthropology, the other an Intro. to Archaeology)

Evaluation:

- a research paper Abstract/draft Introduction -- this should only be 250-300 words in length (5% of final grade); due on or before Mon. Jan. 28, 2019. Abstracts/draft Introductions will not be accepted after this date (although consultations regarding your paper can certainly continue right up until the due date);
- a mid-term test -- Mon., Feb. 25, 2019 (30% of final grade);
- a research paper* (30% of final grade – due in class and electronic submission via OWL -- Mon., Mar. 18, 2019; NO DEADLINE EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED);
- a final examination, written in April exam period (35% of final grade) – date, time, and location TBA; the final exam will **not** be cumulative (i.e., it will be based only on material presented *after* the mid-term exam).

Draft Abstract/Introduction (5%) & Term Research Paper (30%) – Total 35%

A draft Abstract/draft Introduction for your term research paper, which should only be 250-300 words in length, is due in class on Monday, January 28, 2019 (5% of final grade). Your term research paper is due in class, with parallel electronic submission through the course OWL site, on Monday, March 18, 2019 (30% of final grade). The research paper is expected to be 1500 words in length.

More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

Your term research paper is worth 30% of your final grade and will be graded out of 30 marks. Papers submitted after March 18, 2019 will subject to a late penalty of one (1) mark per day; late papers will **not** be accepted after March 25, 2019.

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.

Midterm Test – 30%

The midterm test will be written in class (SSC 2028) on Monday, February 25, 2019. The test will have a 90 minute time limit (there will be no lecture that night). Use of electronic devices will not be allowed the during midterm test.

Final Exam – 35%

The final exam for this course will take place during the April 11, 2019 to April 30, 2019 exam period. It will only cover material presented *after* the mid-term test.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

*Because this is designated as an "essay course", students **must** submit the research paper assignment in order to pass the course. The academic regulations for essay courses state that the "structure of the essay course must be such that in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course."*

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

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

Policy on Laptops and Cellphones in Class:

Laptops are permitted for note-taking in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites, they will be asked to close the laptop and will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cellphones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. [These policies are outlined with links to the full policies on the Anthropology website.](#)