ANTHROPOLOGY 1026F-200

Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2019

Class day/time: Mondays, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Classroom: SSC-2032
Instructor: Dr. Jay Stock
Office: SSC-3316
Office hours: To be announced on the course OWL site.
Email: jay.stock@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistants:
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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.

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), Anthropology 1022A/B.

Prerequisites: none

Please note that this is a ‘blended’ course. Blended courses have both face-to-face and online instruction, as well as on-campus exams. The course will be assessed through a combination of weekly quizzes; short written work in response to online content; a written essay, and an examination.

Course Syllabus: Anthropology is the study of humankind, in all its facets. This course covers two of the four anthropological sub-fields: biological anthropology, and archaeology. The underlying theme connecting these fields is the study of human evolution, both biological and cultural -- the examination of our biological nature, our biological roots, and our cultural past. We will be considering and discussing theoretical frameworks, biological and behavioural processes, and fossil evidence relevant to the
evolution of our species, Homo sapiens, to answer such questions as “What are we, where did we come from, and how did we get here?”. Topics to be covered during the course include: the place of biological anthropology and archaeology within the broader discipline of anthropology; the nature of scientific thinking as it applies to humans; the genetic basis of evolution; an overview of the evolution, ecology, and behaviour of the living non-human primates interpreting the fossil record of human evolution; the origin and dispersal of our species, Homo sapiens; human biological variation, adaptability, and the concept of "race". The course will also cover the nature of the archaeological record and time; types of archaeological evidence; what object can tell us about the past; how human remains can teach us about past behaviour; how we can interpret settlement patterns and past environments; mechanisms of cultural change and interpretations of major cultural transitions in the past; the origins of plant and animal domestication; and, the evolution of complex, stratified societies; and the impact of the human past on the world today.

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

- Define fundamental terms, concepts, and methods associated with the study of biological anthropology and archaeology.
- Identify the kinds of questions anthropologists ask about past people and their environments and describe how anthropologists answer those questions using multiple lines of evidence.
- Use academic research skills to answer questions relating to common debates in biological anthropology and archaeology
- Critically evaluate scholarly research and other sources relevant to anthropological topics.
- Identify connections between the human past, today’s society, and their own lives.

**Course Materials:**
The majority of course readings will be in the Archaeology and Biological Anthropology Custom Course Book, 1020, 1026 University of Toronto Press Custom Publishing. The textbook includes selected readings from: Through the Lens of Anthropology: An Introduction to Human Evolution and Culture, Second Edition, by Robert J. Muckle and Laura Tubelle de González; and Introducing Archaeology, Second Edition, by Robert J. Muckle.

The course text is available at Western’s Bookstore.

In some weeks, short article readings beyond the textbook are assigned and will be made available through the OWL course site:


**Evaluation:**

*Weekly Quizzes – 10%*

The 10 quizzes (worth 1% each) incorporated into this course are intended to help you stay on top of the course material. Each quiz consists of multiple choice questions and is based on the readings and resources (e.g. YouTube videos) covered since the previous quiz. Quizzes are open book.

Quizzes occur in Weeks 2-11.

Note: If you miss a quiz you will not be able to complete that quiz. However, the quiz that receives the lowest mark will be dropped from the overall grade calculation for the course.

*Online content and annotated bibliographies – 20% - 10 activities*

The ten online activities embedded in this course are opportunities to further engage with course content and online media, and to conduct independent research into the recent scientific literature related to the video content and current debates and issues in the field. Additional details for each activity will be posted on the course OWL site. For each activity you will watch one or two short videos that relate to course content, and then search online databases for peer-reviewed research that provides further context for the themes raised in the videos.

Online Activities occur in Weeks 2-11.

Note: Annotated bibliography entries are not accepted following deadline given that each one is relevant to its own week. If you miss a deadline, you will not be able to complete that activity. However, the Activity with the lowest mark will be dropped from the overall grade calculation for the course.
Major issues in Human Evolution: Bipedalism – 15%

For this assignment, you will write a short critique of one theory that addresses an important debate in biological anthropology: “Why did humans develop bipedal locomotion?” As a class, we will read a key article that reflects one researcher’s explanation for the development of bipedalism. Your task will be to identify and evaluate two additional explanations in the peer-reviewed literature. Your OWL page will include an annotated bibliography (using Chicago Manual of Style citation style), and your own argument for the best explanation among the three articles.

This assignment is due October 7th.

Note: Unless a student receives accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, late Bipedalism assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

Research Essay – 20%

For this assignment, you will have the opportunity to choose a topic (from two-three options) related to ongoing academic debates in archaeology. Your task is to write a 1500-word paper that critically evaluates the debate.

Note: Unless a student receives accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, late research essays will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

- 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).

The research essay is due on November 25th.

Final Exam – 35%

The final exam will take place during the designated exam period for this course. The final exam is cumulative for the course and will include multiple choice questions and 1-2 mini-essay questions. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during the final exam.
Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course
In order to pass this essay course, students must submit and receive a passing grade on their final essay.

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 medical accommodation, accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences in Western’s Academic Calendar:
http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=