

ANTHROPOLOGY 1022A-650

Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2020

Instructors:

Biological Anthropology – Dr. Jay Stock (he/him)

Archaeology – Dr. Lisa Hodgetts (she/her)

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Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: This is an online course. It is asynchronous, meaning that you will work through a variety of lesson materials and activities each week at your own pace. Some tasks each week have specific deadlines.

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 1026F/G.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Syllabus:

Why take this course? You won't just learn the fundamentals of how biological anthropology and archaeology help us understand our deep history and the world around us. You will also have an opportunity to engage in debates that are still ongoing in the field, and to interpret evidence through the lenses of 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. Both also document and celebrate human diversity, past and present. We will cover a range of topics: the place of biological anthropology and archaeology within the broader discipline of anthropology and their contributions to modern society; the genetic basis of evolution; the ecology and behaviour of non-human primates; interpreting the fossil record of human evolution; the origin of our species, *Homo sapiens*; and human variation and adaptability. We will also explore how the archaeological record forms; different types of archaeological evidence; archaeological methods and interpretation; mechanisms of cultural change; and how our understanding of human past shapes and is shaped by 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, you will be able to:

- Define fundamental terms, concepts, and methods associated with the study of biological anthropology and archaeology.
- Explain the kinds of questions anthropologists ask about past people and their environments and describe how anthropologists answer those questions using multiple lines of evidence.
- Critically evaluate scholarly research and other sources relevant to anthropological topics.
- Develop and express informed opinions on anthropological debates by identifying and evaluating evidence from a range of techniques and scholarly sources.
- Formulate anthropological questions specific to a particular context and select appropriate methods and techniques from biological anthropology and archaeology to address them, while recognizing the limitations of these approaches.
- Identify connections between the human past, today's society, and your own life.

Course Materials:

The majority of course readings will be in the Archaeology and Biological Anthropology Custom Course Book, 1022 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.

You can order a hard copy of the course text through [The Book Store](#) at Western (there are no in-person sales at the moment). When you do a textbook search from the bookstore's main page, be sure to follow this pathway: Books>Textbook Search>University of Western Ontario>Undergrad Fall/1st Term 2020>ANT1022A Intro Biol Anthro & Archa (650 UW). Note that order processing times are 5-8 business days and couriers are experiencing high volumes so delivery may be delayed.

You can purchase the e-book (which gives you instant access) directly from [University of Toronto Press](#).

Other short readings for specific weeks will be posted on the OWL course site.

Evaluation:

Weekly Quizzes	15%
Discussion Activities	20%
Assignments	40%
Take Home Examination	25%

Weekly Quizzes – 15%

The 11 quizzes (the lowest mark will be dropped, making 10 quizzes worth 1.5% 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 mini-lectures, readings, and resources (e.g. YouTube videos) covered since the previous quiz. Quizzes are open book but must be completed within a time limit.

Quizzes occur in Weeks 1-11.

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.

Contribution to discussion activities – 20%

The seven weekly discussion activities (top 5 counted, worth 4% each - you must complete all 7 discussion activities to receive a grade on this component) embedded in this course are opportunities to think critically about the broader social context and application of the knowledge we're considering each week, and to further engage with course content and online media. Details for each activity will be posted on the course OWL site.

Note: While only the top 5 discussion activities will be counted towards your grade, you *must* complete all 7. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero for this component of the course.

Assignments – 40% (4 assignments, 10% each)

Four assignments will encourage deeper engagement with some of the major issues that face Biological Anthropologists and Archaeologists in the field today. The details and expectations of each assignment differ. The format and expectations of each will be provided on the OWL site. They will be due in Weeks 3, 5, 7, and 9.

Take Home Examination – 25%

The final exam will take place during the designated exam period (December 11th to 22nd). The specific due date will be announced on the course site in OWL when the final exam schedule is released. The final exam is cumulative for the course and will involve a reflection on the methods used by biological anthropologists and archaeologists to learn about people in the past and present, and the ethical implications of research.

Statement on Written Submissions:

All written submissions 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](https://www.turnitin.com).

Statement on Accommodation, Illness Reporting and Academic Considerations:

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)

- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see: [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

[Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

Please note that **no accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date**. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

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

Academic Success Program:

During first term, this course is participating in the Academic Success Program. The program runs in parallel to our course and is designed to facilitate connections with your online classmates, enhance your academic skills, and communicate tools and campus resources that can assist in your successful transition to Western. Each registered student has been placed in a group, and each group has been assigned a Peer Leader, an upper year student who has completed this course in the past. If you haven't already heard from your Peer Leader, you can expect to hear from them in the coming days. Your active participation in weekly programming with your group and Peer Leader is encouraged; please plan to participate for 1-1.5 hours each week of first term, excluding the Fall Reading Week. Please send any questions regarding this program to your Peer Leader or ase@uwo.ca.

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 in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).

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