Instructor: Dr. Pete Timmins (he/him)
Email: ptimmins@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Fall Term, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Zoom
Winter Term, Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Zoom
Credit value: 1.0 credit
Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. It is asynchronous, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Calendar Course Description: The field of archaeology, with emphasis on the major discoveries of the discipline. Topics include the evolution of humans, their spread throughout the world, the origins of agriculture, urbanization, and the development of early civilizations. Major archaeological sites like Olduvai Gorge, Stonehenge, Giza, Ur and Teotihuacan will be discussed.

Antirequisites: None.
Prerequisites: None.
**Course Syllabus:**

This course provides an introduction to the discipline of archaeology and an overview of world prehistory. The course is divided into four segments. The first provides an introduction to archaeological method and theory, the second part covers the origins of modern humans and their dispersal around the world, the third covers post-Pleistocene adaptations including the origins of agriculture, and the fourth segment deals with the rise of complex societies. The course concludes with a brief discussion of the current state of archaeology and the future of the discipline. 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 should be able to:

- Identify key developments in the history of archaeological thought.
- Describe archaeological field methods in general terms and understand how archaeologists collect and interpret their data.
- Summarize general trends in the evolution of the human skeleton as seen in fossil hominin species.
- Identify the major developments in stone tool technology and human adaptations from the Lower to the Upper Paleolithic.
- Discuss the main changes in plants, animals and human behaviour that accompanied the development of agriculture around the world.
- Summarize the fundamental characteristics of ancient complex societies (from an archaeological perspective) and understand how they are expressed among ancient complex societies around the world.

**Course Materials:**

Each week students will view lectures presented as videos of slide shows with voice over narration by the Instructor. These lessons will be supplemented by readings from the text, links to websites, documentaries and video clips.

*Textbook:*


This is a well-written, well-illustrated and comprehensive text on world prehistory. Students should read the assigned sections in conjunction with each lesson.

A small number of additional readings may be required in addition to the text. Additional readings will be either linked to Lesson pages in OWL or accessed through OWL’s Course Readings feature. Registered students will be able to access additional course readings for the first term through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.
Evaluation:
Student evaluation will be broken down as follows:

Weekly Participation in Discussions (Lessons 1-24) 48%
Weekly Quizzes (Lesson 1-24) 32%
Mid-Year Take Home Exam Reflection Paper (during the December exam period) 10%
Final Take Home Exam Reflection Paper (during the April exam period) 10%

Evaluation Details:

Weekly Discussions
Weekly discussions will be held using the OWL Forums tool. Discussion questions that draw upon the material covered in each class will be formulated by the instructor and linked to the weekly Lessons page. Students will be placed into groups of 8-12 participants to facilitate discussion. You are required to make at least one substantial contribution to the discussion forums each week. Each discussion post is graded on a scale of 0 to 4 and there are opportunities to receive bonus marks for posting early and commenting on the posts of others. Additional details about discussion grading, including a marking rubric, will be provided in an introductory video and an introductory memo posted on the course OWL site. You will receive three evaluations of your participation in the discussions. The first evaluation will be posted by November 27th, 2020, three days prior to the Nov. 30th drop date for the course. It is worth 18% and covers Lessons 1-9. The second discussion grade covers Lessons 10-18, is also worth 18%, and will be provided during the week of March 8th, 2020. The third evaluation covers Lessons 19-24, is worth 12%, and will be provided during the week of April 5th, 2020.

If you miss discussion posts for legitimate reasons (illness or other extenuating circumstances) please contact the instructor to request accommodation. If you require accommodation for more than five missed discussions, documentation is required and such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty’s Academic Counselling office. In such cases the Academic Counselling will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Weekly Quizzes
There will be a short quiz based on the weekly course content to complete each week. The quizzes will be done on OWL using the Tests and Quizzes tool and will be linked to the weekly Lesson pages. While 24 quizzes will be completed during the course, the final quiz mark will consider only the top 22 quizzes (the lowest two will be dropped). If you miss a quiz for legitimate reasons (illness or other extenuating circumstances) please contact the instructor to request accommodation. If you require accommodation for several missed quizzes you may be directed to submit documentation to the Academic Counselling office.

Take Home Exam Reflection Papers
Students will complete a short writing assignment (Reflection) in lieu of mid-year and final exams. For the Mid-year Reflection, students will select a discussion question from Lessons 1-12 and prepare brief Reflection piece on the topic (approximately 500 words) to be submitted during the mid-year exam period. A second reflection paper of the same length will be prepared and submitted during the final exam period, based on a discussion question selected from Lessons 13-24. Instructions for both reflection papers will be released through the OWL Assignments page, papers will be submitted through the Assignments page using the Turnitin function, and graded
papers will be returned through the Assignments page. As the reflection papers replace mid-year and final exams, deadlines must be adhered to unless formal academic accommodation is granted.

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.

**Course Specific Statements and Policies:**

*Use of OWL*

This course will be delivered using OWL, Western’s online course management program. The OWL course webpage will be used for providing the syllabus (using the Syllabus page), providing weekly video lectures (using Lessons pages), weekly discussions of lectures and readings (using the Forums page), completing weekly quizzes, providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). Office hours will be conducted using the OWL Zoom function. Students are encouraged to drop in to the Zoom office hours to discuss any aspect of the course. Lectures will consist of PowerPoint presentations with narration by the Instructor and will be made available in the OWL Lesson pages on Mondays each week, with the exception of Week 6, when the lecture will be released on Tuesday, October 13th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

**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.

**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 by clicking on this link: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=

~ END ~