

ANTHROPOLOGY 2229F-650

Principles of Archaeology

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2020



*Excavations at the site of Çatalhöyük Photo: Jason Quinlan, Çatal Newsletter 2016,
[Read the full article in the Catal Newsletter.](#)*

Instructor: Dr. Peter Timmins (he/him)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, on Zoom

Credit value: 0.5 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: This course provides an overview of the goals, theory and analytical methods of archaeology as practised by anthropologists. The course serves to provide a basic appreciation of how one is able to go from the material remains of past peoples to statements about the nature of their cultural systems, and also, how archaeologists are uniquely poised to address certain general questions of concern to all anthropologists.

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), or one of Anthropology 1025F/G or Anthropology 1021A/B and one of Anthropology 1026F/G or Anthropology 1022A/B.

Course Syllabus:

This course provides an overview of the method and theory of anthropological archaeology. The main goal of the course is to demonstrate how archaeologists work with the material remains of past peoples to make inferences about conditions and events in the human past. In doing this the course will also illustrate how archaeology is uniquely suited to answer questions of general anthropological interest. The focus is on the nature of archaeology as a discipline and how archaeologists make sense of their data, rather than field techniques or major archaeological discoveries.

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:

- Discuss the history of archaeology with specific reference to developments in American anthropological archaeology;
- Understand the structure of archaeological inquiry and scientific approaches applied in archaeology;
- Explain the nature of the archaeological record and how archaeologists acquire their data through survey and excavation;
- Outline the principles of important absolute and relative dating methods used in archaeology;
- Discuss the analytical dimensions of time, space and form in archaeology;
- Understand basic principles of taphonomy, experimental archaeology and ethnoarchaeology;
- Describe basic analytical approaches to plant remains and animal remains recovered from archaeological contexts;
- Discuss bioarchaeological approaches to human skeletal material from archaeological contexts;
- Explain how archaeologists reconstruct past social and political systems;
- Understand archaeological approaches to cognitive archaeology or the archaeology of the human mind;
- Discuss major themes in historical archaeology; and
- Describe some current trends in the practice of archaeology and applied archaeology.

Course Materials:

Most readings will be taken from one comprehensive text:

Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn, 2018, *Archaeology Essentials: Theories/Methods/Practice*, 4th edition. Thames & Hudson, London. The text is available at the Western Bookstore for in-store pick-up or can be delivered.

In addition to the basic text, a small number of supplementary readings (4 or 5) will be required reading for specific lectures. These readings will all be made available in .pdf format through the course OWL site. Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Students will be required to view video lectures, participate in discussions using the OWL Forums tool, complete two assignments, and write a final take home exam/assignment. The due dates and percentage values of these components are outlined below.

Assignment 1	Released Oct. 13 th , at 9 am, due Oct. 30 th , at 5 pm	20%
Assignment 2	Released Oct. 30 th , at 5 pm, due Nov. 20 th , at 5 pm	20%
Participation in Weekly Discussions		20%
Weekly Quizzes		20%
Final Take Home Exam in the Final Exam Period		20%

Evaluation Details:

The assignments will involve the application of analytical techniques discussed in lectures. Results are to be presented in a report format (details will be provided in the assignment) and submitted electronic copy submitted electronically through OWL. 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.

For Assignments 1 and 2 there will be a 2% reduction of the assignment grade for each day that an assignment is late (including weekends and holidays). Unless accommodation is granted, assignments that are not handed in within 10 days of the due date (including weekends and holidays) may receive a grade of zero.

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. Students are required to submit at least one primary post and one secondary post to the discussion forums each week. Each discussion post is graded and there are opportunities to receive bonus marks for posting early in the week. Additional details about discussion grading, including a marking rubric, will be provided in Lecture 1 and an introductory memo posted on the course OWL site. You will receive two evaluations of your participation in the discussions. The first evaluation will be posted by November 6th, 2020, five days prior to the Nov. 12th drop date for the course. It is worth 10% and covers the Week 2-Week 7 discussions. The second discussion grade covers Weeks 8 to 13, is also worth 10%, and will be provided during the week of December 14th, 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.

The weekly quizzes will be based on the weekly readings and lecture. Your best 10 quizzes will be counted towards your final quiz grade. Quiz results will be automatically sent to the OWL Gradebook.

The final take home exam must be submitted by the due date and must also be submitted using Turnitin.com.

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

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:

Anthropology 2229F is considered an essay course. In order to pass an essay 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

In order to pass this course, students must submit the Final Take Home Exam and submit and receive a passing grade on one of the two assignments.

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 and 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 also be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

Online Etiquette for Discussions:

To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette during the online discussions:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. "Flaming" is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Accommodation Policies:

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.

All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

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](#).

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](#).