

**ANTHROPOLOGY 3313B-001/9105B**

**Artifact Analysis**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Winter 2020**



Projectile points from the Ridge Pine II site in Grand Bend, Ontario  
(Photo courtesy Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants)

**Instructor:** Dr. Peter Timmins (he/him)

**Email:** ptimmins@uwo.ca

**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Zoom – please email Prof. Timmins for an appointment

**Credit value:** 0.5 credit

*Note: This course is cross-listed with graduate and undergraduate students.*

**Mode of delivery:** For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. Classes will be conducted using Zoom videoconferencing technology during synchronous class time and will consist of a lecture followed by a lab. The class will be divided into two smaller groups for the labs.

**Synchronous class time:** Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. EST.

**Calendar Course Description:** This course provides students with a hands-on introduction to the identification, analysis and interpretation of a range of archaeological artifacts including lithics, ceramics and organics. Students will work with archaeological collections that are available for analysis.

**Antirequisites:** None.

**Prerequisites:** Anthropology 2229F/G or permission of the instructor.

### **Course Syllabus:**

In this course we discuss and apply methods for the archaeological analysis of several precontact artifact classes including lithics (stone tools), pottery, organics (especially bone). We will also discuss historic (Euro-Canadian) artifact classes (ceramics, glass, metal). The emphasis will be on learning and using established analytical techniques. Classes will be conducted using Zoom videoconferencing technology during synchronous class time and will consist of a lecture followed by a lab. The class will be divided into two smaller groups for the labs. To facilitate the hands-on experience, each student will be loaned a small collection of teaching artifacts that they can handle and examine as the instructor discusses various artifact classes. Assignments will involve either analysis of artifacts in the artifact kits or artifact datasets provided by the instructor and summarizing results in a report format. 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:

- Describe the historical development of lithic analysis.
- Discuss the basics of lithic tool production including fracture mechanics and stone tool morphological dynamics.
- Describe the various types of lithic raw materials used in lithic tool manufacture.
- Identify lithic tool attributes, recognize tool types and understand basic stone tool typologies.
- Identify flake debitage attributes and understand methods of debitage analysis.
- Analyze various classes of stone tools including cores, flake tools and bifaces.
- Discuss the relationship between artifact types, artifact diversity and site function.
- Describe how lithic analysis can inform our understanding of sedentism.
- Discuss the historical development of ceramic analysis.
- Explain the stages and methods involved in the production of ceramic vessels.
- Discuss various approaches to ceramic typology and analysis.
- Describe how ethnoarchaeology may inform the analysis of archaeological ceramics.
- Summarize the way that ceramics have been used in the construction of chronologies.
- Discuss analyses of ceramic use, activity distribution, production and distribution.
- Understand relationships between ceramics and food, and ceramics and social patterning in the archaeological record.
- Describe the use of ceramic analysis in understanding political organization.
- Discuss the technology of ancient bone tool manufacture.
- Identify ware types used in historic ceramic analysis.
- Summarize the analytical techniques used in the study of common historic artifact categories including food & beverage, architectural, clothing and smoking materials.

## **Course Materials:**

2005 *Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis*, Second Edition. Andrefsky, William Jr. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, New York.

2013 *Pottery in Archaeology*, Second Edition. Clive Orton and Michael Hughes. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, New York. (Note: An electronic version of this text will be available using the Course Readings tool in OWL.)

A small number of additional readings will be accessed through OWL's Course Readings feature. Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

## **Evaluation:**

### **Artifact Analysis Assignments – 60%**

Assignment 1, Lithic Analysis and Interpretation, (Maximum 1500 words) Released Feb. 3, 2021; Due Feb. 24, 2021; Results posted by March 10, 2021, 3 days before the March 14th drop date (submission will be done using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page) – 20%

Assignment 2, Pottery Analysis and Interpretation, (Maximum 1500 words) Released March 10, 2021; Due March 17, 2021 (submission will be done using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page) – 20%

Assignment 3, Integrated Artifact Analysis and Interpretation, (Maximum 1500 words) Final take home exam during the final exam period. Dates and times to be determined (submission will be done using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page). – 20%

Assignments for students enrolled in Anthropology 9105B may differ from those assigned for Anthropology 3313B in the complexity of analyses required and will require responses that are more critically nuanced.

Assignment details will be made available to students on the Assignments page of the course OWL site.

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. As Assignment 3 is a final exam alternative, it cannot be submitted late unless 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](https://www.turnitin.com).

### **Quizzes on Readings – 20%**

There will be short quizzes on the weekly readings each week. These will be completed on the OWL course site using the Tests & Quizzes feature. No make-ups will be permitted for missed quizzes, however, in calculating the final quiz grade only the best 10 will be counted.

### **Lab Exercises – 20%**

The class will complete six lab exercises that will be submitted through OWL and graded. These will be completed during weekly lab sessions and will not be announced in advance. Make ups will not generally be permitted for missed lab exercises, but only the best five lab grades will be counted.

### **Course Specific Statements and Policies:**

In order to pass this course students must submit the final exam alternative (Assignment 3) during the final exam period.

### **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 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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