

ANTHROPOLOGY 4401F-650

Anthropological Thinking and Practice

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Walsh (he/him)

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Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online, synchronously, using Zoom videoconferencing technology, with discussions to take place weekly during the scheduled synchronous class time. Additional course content will be made available to students through the course's OWL site.

Synchronous class time: Tuesdays 2:30 p.m. -- 4:30 p.m. EST.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar Course Description: This course explores current anthropological debates, trends in anthropological practice, and contemporary theoretical frameworks that inform the ways in which anthropology is applied within and outside of universities.

Antirequisites: The former Anthropology 4400E.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 3350F (or the former Anthropology 3301E), and registration in Year 4 in any Anthropology module.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

This course will be taught for the first time under the unusual circumstances of the 2020-21 academic year. We will meet weekly for synchronous sessions, doing what we can to manage the limitations and make the most of the possibilities that come with this format.

This course is intended to serve as a "capstone" course – meaning that it is intended to (1) encourage students to reflect on and draw from what they have learned through several years of studying anthropology while (2) giving them the opportunity to engage in original "anthropological practice" at an advanced level and in ways that are directed toward a variety of possible futures.

See the course OWL site for more information on how the course will work week to week.

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

- reflect critically on the learning outcomes of the anthropology modules in which they are enrolled, and demonstrate how they have achieved these outcomes.
- communicate the importance of anthropology and the value of their own anthropological training to various audiences.
- evaluate the possibilities and limitations of “group work”, and plan and carry out effective collaborations.
- effectively communicate their own anthropological passions to various audiences.
- better apply anthropological approaches and insights to a range of topics and experiences.

Course Materials:

Registered students will be able to access course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Individual Reflection on Group Work – 5% -- Due by Wednesday, September 23rd.

Learning Outcomes Assignment – 5% -- Due by Wednesday, September 30th.

Who Needs Anthropology? Assignment – 15% -- Due by Monday, October 12th.

Personal Statements Assignment – 5%* -- Due by Friday, October 16th.

“Anthropology 4401 Reads” Presentation – 5%* -- Delivered in class on Tuesday, October 20

Breadth of Anthropology Assignment – 20% -- Due by Midnight on Tuesday, November 10th.

Essay Revision Assignment – 25% (plan due in class on November 17 worth 5%*, preliminary presentation of revision in class on December 1 worth 5%*, final assignment due December 12 worth 20%)

Class Engagement – 10%

“Spare Time” Project – 10%*

*Work marked with an asterisk is required but will not be graded. Instead, students who complete this work will be acknowledged as having done so, and at the end of the course will receive a percentage grade on this work that is equivalent to the total grade attributed to their evaluated work in the course. For example, a student who receives a final grade on evaluated work of 80% will receive an 4/5 on their “Personal Statement Assignment”.

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.

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).

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this 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.

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.

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 Recordings

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

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: [Western's academic policies](#).