

ANTHROPOLOGY 2261G-001
Adventures in Pop Culture Archaeology
Department of Anthropology
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2022

Version date: July 8, 2021

Class day/time: Tuesdays 1:30-4:30 pm

Classroom: SSC-3026

Instructor: Rebecca Goodwin

Office: SSC-3328

Office hours: TBA

Email: rgoodwi3@uwo.ca

Credit Value: 0.5

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description:

Famous archaeological sites and objects have long captured the public imagination, so it comes as no surprise that archaeology abounds in popular culture. It is often represented, both fictionally and factually, in television and movies, on the internet, and in comics, video games and news media. This course examines how both non-archaeologists and archaeologists present archaeology to the public and considers what these representations reveal about the relationship between archaeology and modern society. We will tackle inaccurate representation, pseudoarchaeology and bad science amongst other topics!

Course Materials:

All assigned readings can be found in the syllabus and are available in digital format through the "Course Readings" feature on the course OWL site. In addition to the readings, students will be expected to view 1-2 pieces of media each week. Links will be provided to view these materials.

Evaluation:

Timeline and Summary of Assignments:

- Participation – 10%
- Small Quizzes – 10%
- Blog Post – 10%
- Media Analyses (2) – 35%
- Public Outreach Project & Personal Reflection – 35%

Participation - 10%

This course will rely heavily on group discussion as a means for analysis and learning. This means students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings and other media. There will be flexible options for participation grades for students who are not comfortable speaking in class, or for students who must miss class for legitimate reasons. Your participation grade will reflect your attendance, preparation for class, engagement with the material and contribution to the conversation. Participation grades can also be earned by participating in the online class discussion board. A thorough description on how participation is graded will be presented in the first class. Students are encouraged to check in regularly about their participation grade.

Small Quizzes – 10%

Each week, you will complete a short quiz (or occasionally an in-class assignment) based on the assigned reading and viewing so please come prepared at the beginning of class. Students will not be able to make up any missed quizzes (except in exceptional circumstances), but I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the course.

Blog Post – 10%

Students will write 400–600-word posts for the class blog about a particular archaeological site or artifact, aimed at a non-academic audience. We will decide on our intended audience and goals as a class and each blog post should conform to our chosen demographic. You must be able to respond to any pseudoarchaeological information that exists about your chosen topic using archaeological evidence. For more information, please see the blog post assignment instructions and list of proposed topics on the course syllabus. Blog posts are due February 8th.

Media Analysis – 35%

Students will write two short, media analysis (750 words) that explore how one or more course themes apply to a piece of media on the required viewing list. Each analysis should incorporate critiques, commentary or theories drawn from course content (including readings), but students must also include their own opinions as well. This assignment has rolling due dates, with each analysis due in class on the week the chosen media is assigned. In addition, you will be required to generate three discussion questions prior to class. These questions will count towards your participation grade and will also be posted to the course discussion board. Both analyses will be worth a cumulative 35%. Please see the assignment instructions for more information.

Public Outreach Project & Personal Reflection – 35%

Throughout the semester we will have a chance to discuss the ways the general public understands and responds to archaeological narratives and evidence. This assignment is *your* chance to respond to this discourse, and provide accurate, up-to-date information, drawn from archaeological evidence. You will work either alone, or collaborative with >5 students to generate an outreach project that relates to or expands on course themes. You can choose any format (a list of suggested formats is available in the course syllabus) or topic, but it must be approved by the instructor. Each group will present their outreach projects to the rest of the class at the end of the semester. These portions of the assignment will be graded collectively. However, each student will also be required to submit a short 800-1000 word reflection paper, detailing their experience with the project. These reflection papers are designed to allow students to discuss the goals and intended audience of their projects in greater depth as well as describe some of the successes and challenges they faced throughout the process. These reflection papers will be individually graded. Please see the assignment instructions for more information. Projects are due March 22nd and reflection on March 29th.

Academic Statements and Policies

Student Responsibilities:

This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. You are responsible for attending class for information in this regard. Updates will be reflected in the syllabus on the course site in OWL. Students are responsible for ALL assigned reading and viewing unless notified otherwise by the instructor. Course readings and attendance are important. Please keep in mind that all material presented in class (much of which is not in the readings) and in the readings is fair game on "pop" quizzes/assignments that will take place each week and that attendance is an element of your participation grade.

Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds. A range of [support services](#) is available.

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 will not be able to complete quizzes for self-reported absences but will be provided with an opportunity to make up those grades with an alternative assignment or can make use of their "dropped" quiz grade for one absence.

If the conditions for an SRA 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 **to their home Academic Counselling office** to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Late Assignments and Missed Classes:

Late penalties for all assignments (not including quizzes or participation) will include 5% deductions for each day past assignment due dates. Please contact the course instructor if you need accommodations prior to the assignment due date. Students who do not use an SRA or who do not have legitimate medical, or compassion grounds will not be allowed to make up any missed quizzes. There will be no opportunities to gain participation grades for missed classes, but students can still post to the course discussion board for participation credit within one week of the missed class.

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 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 written assignments 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](#).

Policy on Laptops and Cellphones in Class:

Laptops and other electronic devices are permitted for note-taking in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites, or using their devices for anything other than course activities, they will be asked to turn off the device and will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. If you are causing distractions, you may be asked to leave. Be sure that all cellphones are turned off at the beginning of class. No electronic devices (mobile phones, tablets etc) will be allowed during quizzes, tests and other in-class evaluations.

Institutional Statements and Policies on Missed Deadlines and Accessibility:

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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