

ANTHROPOLOGY 3307A-001
Field Methods in Archaeology
Department of Anthropology
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2021



Field course excavations at the Wheaton site in 2014. (Photo: P. Timmins)

Version date: July 22, 2021

Class day/time: Thursdays, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Class location: Museum of Ontario Archaeology, 1600 Attawandaron Rd., London ON

Instructor: Dr. Peter Timmins (he/him)

Office: SSC 3216

Office hours: To be announced on the course OWL site.

Email: ptimmins@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: This course will be conducted in person. Students will be required to follow Western's Covid-19 health and safety protocols.

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 2229F/G and registration in Anthropology module Year 3 or 4

Course Description:

This course provides students with a basic “hands on” grounding in the methods and techniques used by archaeologists to recover data in the field, and an introduction to preliminary archaeological data processing in the laboratory. The goal is to provide students with basic skills that can be used in cultural resource management (CRM) or academic research contexts. The skills taught will be applicable in a variety of contexts, but we will be focusing on archaeological methods and techniques commonly applied in Southern Ontario.

The course will be run out of the Museum of Ontario Archaeology (1600 Attawandaron Road, London, Ontario) and students will be expected to meet there at the beginning of each class. Classes will be taught both inside (in the Museum) and outside on an archaeological site in the London area. For the first several weeks (September through late October) students should be prepared to spend most of the classes outdoors. We will move inside to focus on lectures and lab work from late October until the end of term. Students will be expected to dress accordingly when working outdoors (warm clothing on cold days, rain gear, appropriate footwear, etc.) and bring necessary accessories (sunscreen, bug repellent, water, lunch, etc.). You will get dirty during the outdoor field activities, so dress appropriately. More details will be provided at the first meeting of the class.

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:

- Participate in an archaeological survey conducted by test pitting or pedestrian survey.
- Understand and assist with the process of setting an archaeological grid using survey equipment.
- Apply basic archaeological excavation skills, including troweling, shovel shining, and screening archaeological deposits.
- Recognize, identify and catalogue historic (19th century) artifacts.
- Draw and photograph excavation units and archaeological features in plan view and profile.
- Conduct basic background research for an archaeological study and summarize the results in a report format.
- Describe basic archaeological methodology and conduct a descriptive analysis of a small 19th century artifact collection.
- Discuss the archaeological assessment process in Ontario and the way that Indigenous communities may be engaged in that process.

Course Materials:

The main resources for this course are documents from the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) that are used to regulate archaeological activities in Ontario. They are available to download in PDF format online, either through the course OWL site or the MHSTCI website. The main document is:

Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport
[2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists.](#)

We will also be reading the MHSTCI guidelines on Indigenous engagement in archaeology:

Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport
[2011 Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology.](#)

Evaluation:

Field Notes - 10%

Submitted in Sept. 30th class 5%

Submitted in Oct. 21st class 5%

Details of field note requirements will be made available in class and on the course OWL site. Final field notes grades posted by Nov. 8, 2021 (4 days prior to the Nov. 12th drop date for the course).

Essays/Written Assignments/Reports – 60%

Assignment 1, Background Research Report 30%

Released Oct. 28, due in class and on OWL on Nov. 11, 2021.

Assignment 2, Archaeological Report 30%

Released Nov. 18, due in class and on OWL on Dec. 2, 2021.

Details of assignments will be made available to students on the course OWL and in class.

Participation/Attendance (lectures and labs) - 15%

Involves attending lectures and lab sessions at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology during the first week and final five weeks of the term. Grades posted at end of course.

If you miss lectures/labs for legitimate reasons (illness or other extenuating circumstances) please contact the instructor to request accommodation.

Fieldwork Participation - 15%

Involves active participation in field activities from the 2nd through the 7th week of the term. Activities include preparing site for excavation, assisting with establishing grid, excavation using shovels and trowels, screening soil to recover artifacts. Grades posted Nov. 8, 2021 (4 days prior to the Nov. 12th drop date for the course).

If you miss fieldwork days for legitimate reasons (illness or other extenuating circumstances) please contact the instructor to request accommodation.

Evaluation Details:

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). Assignments that are not handed in within 10 days of the due date (including weekends and holidays) may receive a grade of zero.

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Course Schedule

We will need to be flexible for the field sessions due to the vagaries of the weather. Students should come to the Museum for 9:30 on Thursday mornings prepared to go into the field. If field sessions are cancelled due to weather, we will process artifacts or have a lecture at the Museum (or both). Any significant changes to the schedule will also be posted on the course OWL site and/or through messages to students through OWL.

Use of OWL

The OWL course webpage will be used for providing the syllabus (using the Syllabus page), providing pdfs of lecture slides (using Lessons pages), providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). All grades will also 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 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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