

ANTHROPOLOGY 2229F-001
Principles of Archaeology
Department of Anthropology
PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2022-23



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

Version date: June 17, 2022

Class day/time: Wednesdays 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Classroom: UCC 41

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

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description:

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 both in hard copy and as an e-book.

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 attend in person lectures, view one video lecture, attend a field trip to the Museum of Ontario Archaeology, complete weekly online quizzes using OWL, and complete

three assignments. The due dates and percentage values of the assignments and quizzes are outlined below.

Assignment 1	Release date and due date TBD.	25%
Assignment 2	Release date and due date TBD.	25%
Assignment 3	Release date and due date TBD.	25%
Weekly Quizzes	Release dates and due dates TBD.	25%

Evaluation Details:

Assignments 1 and 2 (2 x 25 = 50%)

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 electronically through OWL. All required papers will 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.

Assignment 3 - Reflection on Field Trip to Museum of Ontario Archaeology (25%)

Near the end of the course the class will go on a field trip to the Museum of Ontario Archaeology. After the visit students will be required to prepare a reflection paper on "Archaeology and the Public" that considers how archaeology is presented to the public in general and at the Museum in particular. Papers will be submitted electronically through OWL using Turnitin.com.

Late Policy

For Assignments 1, 2 and 3 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 Quizzes

The weekly quizzes will be based on the weekly readings and lectures and will be held in Weeks 1 through 11 (11 quizzes in total). The quizzes will be done on OWL using the Tests and Quizzes tool and will be linked to the weekly Lesson pages. Your best 10 quizzes will be counted towards your final quiz grade. Quiz results will be automatically sent to the OWL Gradebook. Details on quizzes including release dates and due dates will be available in the detailed course schedule during the first week of classes. Make-ups for missed quizzes will generally not be granted. If you miss several sequential quizzes due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, you must request accommodation from the Academic Counselling office.

Academic Statements and Policies:

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 this course Assignments 1 and 2 are considered essays. In order to pass this course, students must submit and receive a passing grade on at least one of the two assignments.

Use of OWL

Western's online course management program, will be used for providing the syllabus and weekly schedule (using the Syllabus page), completing weekly quizzes (using the Test and Quizzes tool), providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). Pdf copies of Powerpoint presentations will be made available in the OWL Lesson pages after each class. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

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](#).

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](#).

Course Schedule

Dates	Topics and Readings
TBD	TBD