

**Department of Anthropology**  
**Anth 2296B-001 – Special Topics in Anthropology:**  
**Archaeology of Beer and Brewing**  
**Course Outline**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

*Version date: November 18, 2022*

- **Instructor:**

Matthew Beaudoin (he/him)

Email: mbeaudo7@uwo.ca

Office Hours: by appointment.

- **Course details:**

Mode of delivery: In person. Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30 pm, Classroom: SSC-3006

Credit value: 0.5

- **Requisites:**

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisite: None.

- **Course Description:**

Foodways are incredibly important vehicles of social cohesion and identity formation. The very acts of acquiring, preparing, consuming, and disposing of food and drink have been means to draw people together or differentiate “us from them”. Beer, often referred to as “liquid bread”, is frequently framed only as an intoxicant that has negative impacts on society; however, beer has had important roles as diet/nutrition and as object/catalyst for social and political change, such as playing a significant role in historical events, such as the landing of the Mayflower, the American Revolution, and the agricultural development of Ontario, among many others.

This course explores beer, and other alcohols, and the social role it has played in different contexts, times, and places. We will deconstruct what beer is, how it is made, and its associated meanings and stereotypes. The goal will be to highlight how anthropological concepts (e.g. identity, socio-economic class, gender) can be explored through beer in archaeological contexts. For each topic covered, there will be a general overview of the anthropological concept, a discussion of how this relates to beer, and examples drawn from archaeological research of how they can be explored. The majority of this course will relate to beer and brewing; however, examples will also be drawn from wine, liquor, and other intoxicant research to supplement the concept when relevant.

This course will be graded based on a selection of reading reflection papers, quizzes, infographs, and the creation of a cumulative group website. More information on all assignments will be available on the course OWL site. 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:

- Understand the social and historical importance of beer and other alcoholic beverages in North America and around the world.
- Develop a familiarity with several major anthropological concepts (e.g. class, gender, colonialism) and how they are related to beer and applied in the discipline.
- Recognize how every day and mundane activities can be imbued with meaning and significance.
- **Course Materials:**

The two course books (Ronnenberg and Smith) will be available through the Western Bookstore, as well as are available from the library and other sources.

1. Ronnenberg, Herman Wiley  
2011 Material Culture of Breweries. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek.
2. Smith, Frederick H.  
2008 The Archaeology of Alcohol and Drinking. University of Florida Press, Gainesville

Supplementary readings will be available via OWL.

- **Evaluation:**

Grades will be based as follows:

***Reading Reflections – 20% (10% each)***

Students will need to prepare short (1-2 pages) reading reflection papers for two (2) of the week's readings. These will need to be submitted to OWL prior to the start of the class. Students will have the opportunity to do more reflection papers, but only the two highest grades will be counted.

***Infograph – 20% (10% each)***

Students will need to prepare two (2) infographs based on the readings. These are meant to be used as quick study guides for the class on the topics of the week and will be made available to the class for review. You cannot do an infograph for the weeks that you are completing a reading reflection. Students will have the opportunity to do more infographs, but only the two highest grades will be counted.

***Cumulative Group Website – 30%***

Students will be placed in groups and prepare a website that presents the cumulative knowledge/interests of the course. This will be due at the end of the course.

***Quizzes – 30% (15% each)***

There will be two (2) quizzes completed in class during the course. One will be based on the material from the first half of the semester, and the second will be based on the material from the second half of the semester.

More information on writing assignments, including due dates, will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

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).

\* All assignments will be evaluated using Turn-It-In in the Assignments portal (video/audio submissions must include a transcript). All assignments are required to have a Turn-It-In score below 15%.

- **Academic Statements and Policies:**

***Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course***

In order to pass this course, the student must complete the group assignment.

***Accommodation, Illness Reporting and Academic Considerations***

\*For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the [University's medical illness policy](#).

***Accessible Education***

\* Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. More information can be found on the [Accessible Education site](#), as well as the accommodation policy in the [Academic Calendar](#).

***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.** See link below for more details on the penalties for plagiarism. All assignments will be evaluated using Turn-It-In in the Assignments portal (video/audio submissions must include a transcript). **All assignments are required to have a Turn-It-In score below 15%.**

***Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning***

\* In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

***Institutional Statements and Policies:***

\* All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies on Academic Rights and Responsibilities with regards to academic appeals, accommodation, scholastic discipline and code of conduct. These policies are outlined in the [Academic Calendar under Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#).

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