Department of Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY 2101B-650 - Great Archaeological Sites

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2023

Painting of an auroch (bull) at the 16,000 year old site of Lascaux, France. 
Read more on the Lascaux site.

Version Date: August 2, 2022

Classes:
Mode of delivery: Online.
Credit value: 0.5 credit

Instructor:
Dr. Peter Timmins (he/him)
Office: SSC-3
Office hours: TBD
Email: ptimmins@uwo.ca

Requisites:
None.

Course Description:
This online course examines great archaeological sites around the world, including many on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The sites are explored through video lectures and a variety of online resources including web pages, documentaries, video clips and readings. The course covers sites of complex hunter-gatherers, early farmers, and early states and empires in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Aegean, Asia and Mesoamerica, the Andes and the Classical World. Each site is placed within its
cultural context and used to explore common themes in archaeology: death and ritual, the development of complex economies, the origins of writing and science, social inequality, religion and the meaning of monumental architecture. We will also problematize the concept of world heritage by looking at the effects of commodification of the past, the impacts of tourism, and the control and manipulation of heritage sites for political reasons, including the destruction of heritage sites by terrorist groups. A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course OWL site before the first day of classes.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

• Explain the origins of the World Heritage Convention and international efforts to protect world heritage;
• Understand the characteristics of hunter-gatherer and farming societies, as exemplified in a number of well known archaeological sites;
• Discuss the characteristics of several important archaeological sites that represent early states in the Middle East, Egypt and the Mediterranean;
• Understand the distinctive elements of well known archaeological sites that represent early state development in East Asia;
• Summarize the characteristic elements of early state level societies in Mesoamerica and the Andes as exemplified through important archaeological sites;
• Understand the problems associated with the promotion of world heritage and the impacts associated with tourist visitation at important archaeological sites around the world, along with the methods used to manage and preserve these sites.
• Discuss the ways that heritage sites are controlled, manipulated and sometimes destroyed for political reasons.

Course Materials:
As all of the sites discussed have a significant online presence, the weekly course work will be designed to utilize those online resources. Each week, students will view lectures presented as videos of slide shows with narration by the Instructor. These lessons will be supplemented by links to websites, documentaries and video clips, and selected readings. Registered students will be able to access additional information about specific course readings and other resources through the course’s on-line OWL site before the first day of class.

Evaluation:
2 Reflection Papers 30% (15% each)
Weekly discussions 30%
Weekly quizzes 20%
Final take-home exam 20%

Reflection Papers
Students will make weekly posts on discussion questions associated with the weekly lessons and associated resources to an online Discussion Forum. Students will select a discussion topic from the discussion questions in Weeks 1-6 and another post from the discussion topics in Weeks 7-12 to expand into brief reflection pieces (approximately 600 words) which will be submitted for grading. Instructions for reflection papers will be provided on the OWL Assignments page two weeks in
advance of the due dates and reflection papers will be submitted through the OWL Assignments page.

Reflection 1 (Weeks 1-6, release and due dates TBD) 15%
Reflection 2 (Weeks 7-12, release and due dates TBD) 15%

There will be a 2% reduction in 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 Discussions – 30%**
Students are required to submit at least one primary post and one secondary post to the discussion forums each week. These contributions should be thoughtful comments that deal with the issues raised in the weekly course content. Primary posts should be approximately 150 words in length. The instructor will start the discussions by posting questions in a discussion forum at the beginning of each week. Students are encouraged to read and comment on the posts of others (considered secondary posts), however, you may not post more than three secondary posts in each weekly forum. Secondary posts should be between 50 and 100 words.

Further details on Weekly Discussions will be made available before the first week of classes.

**Weekly Quizzes – 20%**
There will be 12 short weekly quizzes delivered via OWL based on the weekly course content. Quizzes will only be available during the week of the lesson to which they apply. Details of quiz release and closing dates are TBD. Make-up quizzes are generally not permitted, however, in calculating the final quiz grade, only your best 10 quizzes will be counted.

**Take-Home Exam – 20%**
A final Take-Home Exam will be assigned during the final exam period. The specific timing for the due date for this exam will be announced when it becomes available. Late exams will not be accepted unless academic accommodation is granted.

**Academic Statements and Policies**

*Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:*

In order to pass this course students must submit the final take-home exam.

*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.

Use of OWL
The OWL course webpage will be used for providing the course outline (using the Syllabus page), providing pdf copies of weekly lecture slides (using Lessons pages), administering and grading weekly quizzes (using the Tests and Quizzes tool, linked to the Lesson pages), providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). 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.

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