ANTHROPOLOGY 3313B-001/9105B
Artifact Analysis
PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2022-23

 Projectile points from the Ridge Pine II site in Grand Bend, Ontario
(Photo courtesy Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants)

Version date: August 2, 2022

Class day/time: Thursday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Classroom: SSC 2257
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: Anthropology 2229F/G.

Note: This course is cross-listed with graduate and undergraduate students.
Course Description:

This course will explore how archaeologists identify and analyze artifact collections (this course will not be exploring materials such as floral or faunal remains), the work commonly done with artifacts in the lab after fieldwork. While the focus will be on the archaeological analysis of precontact artifact classes, including lithics, pottery and bone artifacts, we will also discuss historic artifact classes (ceramics, glass, metal). The emphasis will be on learning and using established analytical techniques. As well, students will be introduced to matters of managing archaeological collections over the long term, including conservation, providing access, and maintaining collection integrity and contextual data. Most classes will consist of a lecture followed by a lab, although one field trip is planned. To facilitate the hands-on experience, each student will be loaned a small collection of teaching artifacts. Assignments will involve analysis of artifacts in the artifact kits, analysis of artifact datasets provided by the instructor, and a reflection on the planned field trip. 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 class.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the historical development of lithic analysis.
- Discuss the basics of lithic tool production including fracture mechanics and stone tool morphological dynamics.
- Describe the various types of lithic raw materials used in lithic tool manufacture.
- Identify lithic tool attributes, recognize tool types and understand basic stone tool typologies.
- Identify flake debitage attributes and understand methods of debitage analysis.
- Analyze various classes of stone tools including cores, flake tools and bifaces.
- Discuss the relationship between artifact types, artifact diversity and site function.
- Describe how lithic analysis can inform our understanding of sedentism.
- Discuss the historical development of ceramic analysis.
- Explain the stages and methods involved in the production of ceramic vessels.
- Discuss various approaches to ceramic typology and analysis.
- Describe how ethnoarchaeology may inform the analysis of archaeological ceramics.
- Summarize the ways that ceramics have been used in the construction of chronologies.
- Discuss analyses of ceramic use, activity distribution, production and distribution.
- Understand relationships between ceramics and food, and ceramics and social patterning in the archaeological record.
- Describe the use of ceramic analysis in understanding political organization.
- Discuss the technology of ancient bone tool manufacture.
- Identify ware types used in historic ceramic analysis.
- Summarize the analytical techniques used in the study of common historic artifact categories including food & beverage, architectural, clothing and smoking materials.
- Describe the major issues involved in the long term management of archaeological collections and maintenance of collection integrity.
**Course Materials:**


A text on ceramics, to be determined.

(Note: An electronic version of the Andrefsky text should be available using the Course Readings tool in OWL.)

A small number of additional readings will be accessed through OWL’s Course Readings feature. These readings are to be determined.

**Evaluation Details:**

**Assignments – 40%**

Assignment 1, Lithic Analysis and Interpretation, (Maximum 1500 words) Release and due dates TBD (submission using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page). 20%

Assignment 2, Pottery Analysis and Reflection on Field Trip (Maximum 1500 words). Release and due dates TBD (submission using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page). The class will visit the London Clay Art Centre for a pottery manufacture workshop in mid-March. Students will be responsible for their own transportation to the Clay Art Centre in downtown London, although some carpooling may be arranged. There will be an additional cost of $40 for the workshop. An alternate assignment on ceramic analysis will be required for students who cannot attend the workshop. 20%

Assignments for students enrolled in Anthropology 9105B may differ from those assigned for Anthropology 3313B in the complexity of analyses required and will require responses that are more critically nuanced.

Assignment details will be discussed in class and made available on the Assignments page of the course OWL site.

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.

**Late Policy for Assignments**

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.

**Quizzes on Readings – 20%**

There will be 11 short quizzes on the weekly readings. These will be completed on the OWL course site using the Tests & Quizzes feature. The quizzes will be posted on the OWL Lesson page on Thursdays and will close at 9:30 am the following Thursday. The quiz questions will be drawn from the readings to be covered in the week that they are posted (i.e. the Week 1 quiz will cover the Week 1 readings, will be available Jan. 12th and will close at 9:30 am on Jan. 19th). Each quiz will
consist of five true-false questions, will have a 6-minute time limit, and may only be submitted once. No make-ups will be permitted for missed quizzes, however, in calculating the final quiz grade only the best 10 will be counted. There will be no quiz on the readings discussed in the last week of classes (Week 12).

**Lab Exercises – 20%**

The class will complete six lab exercises that will be submitted through OWL and graded. These will be either completed and submitted during weekly lab sessions or submitted prior to the next class using the OWL Assignments page. The dates of the lab exercises will not be announced in advance. Make ups will not generally be permitted for missed lab exercises, but only the best five lab grades will be counted.

**Take-Home Final Exam – 20%**

Final Take Home Exam, Integrated Artifact Analysis and Interpretation, (Maximum 1500 words) Students will have three days during the final exam period to complete the final exam; release and due dates to be determined (submission using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page). The final exam cannot be submitted late unless accommodation is granted.

**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:**

In order to pass this course students must submit the final take home exam (Assignment 3) during the final exam period.

**Use of OWL**

Western’s online course management program, will be used for providing the final course outline 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.