Department of Anthropology

ANTH 4401F - Anthropological Thinking and Practice

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2023

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Walsh

Email: awalsh33@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: the former Anthropology 4400E.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 3350F (or the former Anthropology 3301E) and registration in Year 4 in any anthropology module.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description:

This course is intended to serve as a "capstone" course – meaning that it is intended to (1) encourage students to reflect on and draw from what they have learned through several years of studying anthropology while (2) giving them the opportunity to engage in original "anthropological practice" at an advanced level and in ways that are directed toward a variety of possible futures.

See the course OWL site for more information on how the course will work week to week.

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

- reflect critically on the learning outcomes of the anthropology modules in which they are enrolled and demonstrate how they have achieved these outcomes.
- communicate the importance of anthropology and the value of their own anthropological training to various audiences.
- evaluate the possibilities and limitations of "group work", and plan and carry out effective collaborations.
- effectively communicate their own anthropological passions to various audiences.
- better apply anthropological approaches and insights to a range of topics and experiences.

Course Materials:
Registered students will be able to access course readings the course's OWL site.

Evaluation:
Learning Outcomes Assignment – 10%, ***Submission Window: September 22-29.***

This assignment, fully described on OWL, asks you to reflect critically on the "learning outcomes" associated with your degree. We will discuss this further in class on September 19th.

Flex Assignment(s) – 20%, **See suggested due dates below. These are only suggested to help you with scheduling your work. I will accept any Flex assignments until the last day of classes.**

Every student is required to submit ONE flex assignment, but you are welcome to complete as many as you like. I will count the highest grade and make note of extra work in your final written evaluation.

FLEX 1 -- LinkedIn Assignment -- Recommended due date Oct 7, accepted until Dec 6.

This assignment, related to topics covered in class on September 26, asks you to complete a set of readings on LinkedIn (including an anthropological account of it), create your own LinkedIn profile, seek the advice of a specialist at Western's career office, and begin developing a network of your own. In the end, you are asked to submit a short, 500–800-word, discussion of what you've learned from all this and how you intend to use LinkedIn over the coming year to expand and make the most of your emerging network of contacts. If you already have a LinkedIn profile you can use this as an opportunity to go deeper on the platform or explore other networking opportunities. Just let me know and we can talk about it.

FLEX 2 -- "Who needs Anthropology?" Assignment (option 1) -- Recommended due date Oct 13, accepted until Dec 6.

This assignment, related to topics covered in class on October 3rd, asks you to write a short (800-1000 word) piece (suitable for posting on a site like Sapiens.org or theconversation.com) in which you address a complex topic covered in one of your previous anthropology courses here at Western in a way that is suited to a broad audience. To be discussed further in class.

FLEX 3 -- "Who needs Anthropology?" Assignment (option 2) -- Recommended due date October 20, accepted until Dec 6.

This assignment, related to topics covered in class on October 10th, asks you to write three "case study reports" concerning examples of anthropology put to work in non-academic fields. I will provide examples of what these reports should look like on the lesson page for October 10th, and will give a list of sources to consider using as the basis of your work.

FLEX 4 -- "Breadth of Anthropology" Assignment -- Recommended due date Nov 10, accepted until Dec 6.

This assignment, based on the "Western Anthropology Reads" sources selected by the class on October 17th and discussed on November 7th, asks you to reflect (in no more than 1200 words) on the advantages and limitations of Anthropology's great breadth. What do the sources selected by the class have in common? What sets them apart? To what extent is the variety of topics and approaches found in these sources a problem? To be discussed further in class.

FLEX 5 -- "Living Anthropologically" Assignment -- Recommended due date Dec 1, accepted until Dec 6.

This assignment, related to topics discussed early in the course and covered in class on November 28th, asks you to reflect (in no more than 1200 words) on your experiences of something (i.e., *not* schoolwork) that you have been doing (maybe even for the first time) in your "spare time" throughout the term. It could be learning a new language or skill, joining a club or movement, trying a new sport, attending religious services, meditating … anything really. In addition to your personal reflections, I would like you to include reference to at least one anthropological source or

inspiration that demonstrates how you have been thinking about this activity in an anthropological way. To be discussed further in class.

*Final Project – 50%, **Submission Window for Final Projects: December 4-6 (but I'm happy to accept it earlier if it's done!)***

We will discuss this in class, but there's no harm in starting to think about it early, so please read on …

This is an independent project that you will be working on throughout the term. The final product could be an original research essay on a topic that has always interested you, a literature review on topics that you are thinking of pursuing in future studies, an overview of anthropological work related to a career or profession that you've been thinking about pursuing, a comprehensive report on career options in a particular subfield, or something else. I am open to suggestions. My one request is that you think of this project as something you're doing for yourself (i.e., and not just for me or to complete a requirement of this course).

I will ask you to start thinking of possible projects as of our first class and ask you to discuss your initial thoughts with one another in small groups in our second class. I will then ask you to meet with me for 15-20 minutes (on Zoom or in person) to start outlining a plan for how you might complete this project over the next few months. Students are asked to submit a project topic and timeline to me **by October 10th**. *Students who do not submit the project topic and timeline will have 5% deducted from their final grade in the course.* This is not meant to penalize you but to keep us all on track!

By November 10th you are asked to submit a 300–500-word document communicating the focus of your final project along with a list of at least eight sources and a brief outline of how you anticipate the final product looking. These proposals will be circulated to members of your project groups in advance of the "anti-presentations" that will take place in class in mid-November. What is an anti-presentation? Simply put, rather than ask you to present your proposal to others in your group (i.e., a standard presentation) I will ask you to listen while others discuss your proposal amongst themselves. This sounds scary, I know, but it will be enlightening and engaging in ways that traditional presentations are not. *Students who do not submit the project proposal on time will have 5% deducted from their final grade in the course.*

I will most likely ask to meet with you one-on-one again in the week following these anti-presentations to discuss your plans for the final weeks of class. The submission window for final projects opens on **December 4th and closes on December 6th.**

Class Engagement – 10% (5% reported by October 13)

The "class engagement" grade has to do with your general engagement in/with the course materials and the class, week to week. Although regular attendance and participating in class discussions will certainly count towards this component of your grade, there are many other ways in which students can demonstrate engagement with course materials and the class: by participating in OWL forums, communicating over email, offering useful comments to classmates, etc. To give you a sense of how you are doing and what you might work on, I will provide you with a preliminary grade out of 5 by October 13th.

Required but not graded – 10% (Graded Pass/Fail)

This is all work that is required but will not be evaluated. In all cases you will submit something through OWL's assignment tab to indicate that you've completed the work. This work includes:

- Before class on September 26th, read handouts on LinkedIn and create or revise a LinkedIn profile (1 mark).

- Before class on October 3rd, let me know what examples of "public anthropology" you have read in preparation for class discussion (1 mark).
- Before class on October 10th, let me know what example of "applied anthropology" you have read in preparation for class discussion (1 mark).
- Before class on October 17th, let me know what "Western Anthropology Reads" source you will be presenting to the class, and provide a SINGLE PowerPoint slide to go with your presentation (3 marks).
- Before class on October 24th, let me know what bit of anthropological jargon you will be presenting (and defending) during small group discussions (1 mark).
- Participate in Final Project Anti-Presentations on November 14th (2 marks).
- Before class on November 21, let me know what question you are most interested in asking Dr. Danilyn Rutherford about the future of Anthropology (1 mark).

Academic and Accommodation Policies

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass This Course:

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. *To pass this essay course, students must submit and receive a passing grade on the Essay/Project*.

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) policies in the Academic Calendar. Such items include accommodations for students with disabilities, religious holidays, consideration for medical illness, academic appeals, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and code of student conduct.

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.

Academic Consideration for Student Absences

For students who have missed, or will miss, any course work, whether it be for medical related or non-medical related, please read the details and instructions on "[What is Academic Consideration](#)".

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.

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. Please see [Accessible Education](#) for information.

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.](#)