

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 2229F-001 - Principles of Archaeology
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2023



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

Version date: September 15, 2023

Instructor: Dr. Peter Timmins

Email: ptimmins@uwo.ca

Credit Value: 0.5

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.

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. Here is a link to the Bookstore website:
https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2022A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/ANT2229F

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:

3 Assignments (3x25% each)	75%
Weekly quizzes	25%

Please note that the evaluation methods described in this course outline are essential to the course and alternative assessments are generally not permitted.

Evaluation Details:

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	Released Oct. 3 at 1:30 pm; due Oct. 24 at 9:00 pm. Extended submission window closes Oct. 27 at 9:00 pm.	25%
Assignment 2	Released Oct. 24 at 1:30 pm; due Nov. 14 at 9:00 pm. Extended submission window closes Nov. 17 at 9:00 pm.	25%
Assignment 3	Released Nov. 21 at 1:30 pm; due Dec. 5 at 9:00 pm. Extended submission window closes Dec. 8 at 9:00 pm.	25%
Weekly Quizzes	See weekly schedule for release and due dates.	25%

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

Assignments 1 and 2 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. These assignments will be approximately 1500 words in length. 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. This assignment will be approximately 1500 words in length. Papers will be submitted electronically through OWL using Turnitin.com.

Late Policy

To provide flexibility and negate the need to ask for short extensions, Assignments 1, 2 and 3 will each have a formal due date as well as an extended submission window of three days after the due date that students may use without penalty. Extended submission windows are not due dates and cannot be further extended through academic considerations. Any academic considerations must date from the formal due date of any assignment. There will be a 5% reduction of the assignment grade for each day that an assignment is submitted after the extended submission window (including weekends and holidays). Unless accommodation is granted, assignments that are not handed in within 10 days of the formal 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 each week (12 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. Only your best 10 quizzes will be counted towards your final quiz grade, thus you may miss one or two quizzes without penalty. Quiz results will be

automatically sent to the OWL Gradebook. The release dates and due dates of the quizzes will be provided in the course schedule. 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 and Artificial Intelligence Tools:

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.

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately citing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. If an AI program refers to specific studies, students should review and cite the original sources. Essays, written assignments and/or reports should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing of essays and other written assessments.

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 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, 2 and 3 are considered essays. In order to pass this course, students must submit and receive a passing grade on at least two of the three written assignments.

Grades

Note also that the grade submission system will automatically round up final grades in certain cases (e.g., 74.6 becomes 75). Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need (i.e. the need to obtain or maintain a scholarship). Students cannot complete extra work for extra credit or to "make up" for a course component that was missed or performed poorly. It is important to monitor your performance in the course.

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.

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.

All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

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](#).

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topics and Readings
Week 1,	No class
Week 2, September 12	Lecture 1: Introducing Archaeology and the History of Archaeological Thought Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 1, Supplementary Reading: Lewis Binford (1962) <i>Archaeology as Anthropology</i> Week 1 Quiz released Sept. 12 at 1:30 pm; due Sept. 19 at 1:30 pm
Week 3, September 19	Lecture 2: The Variety of the Evidence: The Archaeological Record Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 2 Supp. Reading: Michael Schiffer (1972) <i>Archaeological Context and Systemic Context</i> Week 2 Quiz released Sept. 19 1:30 pm; due Sept. 26 at 1:30 pm

- Week 4, September 26 Lecture 3: Archaeological Survey and Excavation
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 3
Week 3 Quiz released Sept. 26 at 1:30 pm; due Oct. 3, 1:30 pm
- Week 5, October 3 Lecture 4: Dating Methods and Chronology
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 4
Week 4 Quiz released Oct. 3 at 1:30 pm; due Oct. 10, 1:30 pm
** Assignment # 1 released Oct. 3 at 1:30 pm
- Week 6, October 10 Lecture 5: How were Societies Organized: Social Archaeology
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 5
Week 5 Quiz released Oct. 10 at 1:30 pm; due Oct. 17, 1:30 pm
- Week 7, October 17 Lecture 6: What was the Environment and What did they Eat?
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 6
Week 6 Quiz released Oct. 17 at 1:30 pm; due Oct. 24, 1:30 pm
- Week 8, October 24 Lecture 7: How were Artifacts Made, Used and Distributed?
Technology, Trade and Exchange
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 7
Week 7 Quiz released Oct. 24 at 1:30 pm; due Nov. 7, 1:30 pm
** Assignment 1 due Oct. 24 at 9:00 pm
** Assignment 2 released Oct. 24 at 1:30 pm
- October 31 Fall study break – no class
- Week 9, November 7 Lecture 8: What Were They Like? The Bioarchaeology of People
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 8
Week 8 Quiz released Nov. 7, 1:30 pm; due Nov. 14, 1:30 pm
- Week 10, November 14 Lecture 9: What Did They Think? Cognitive Archaeology
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 9
Week 9 Quiz released Nov. 14, 1:30 pm; due Nov. 21, 1:30 pm
** Assignment #2 due Nov. 14 at 9:00 pm
- Week 11, November 21 Field trip to the Museum of Ontario Archaeology
Video of Lecture 10: Why Did Things Change? Explanation in
Archaeology – Students will view a video lecture posted on the OWL
Lesson page.
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 10
Week 10 Quiz released Nov. 21, 1:30 pm; due Nov. 28, 1:30 pm
** Assignment #3 released Nov. 21 at 1:30 pm
- Week 12, November 28 Lecture 11: Whose Past? Archaeology and the Public
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 11
Supp. Reading: Kerry Thompson (2011) *The Navajo Nation, Diné
archaeologists, Diné Archaeology and Diné Communities*
Week 11 Quiz released Nov. 28, 1:30 pm: due Dec. 5, 1:30 pm

Week 13, December 5

Lecture 12: The Future of the Past, Managing Our Heritage
Renfrew & Bahn, Chapter 12

Week 12 Quiz released Dec. 5, 1:30 pm: due Dec. 8, 9:00 pm

** Assignment #3 due Dec. 5 at 9:00 pm.

End