

**Department of Anthropology**  
**ANTHRO 3307A - Field Methods in Archaeology**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Fall 2023**



Field course excavations at the Wheaton site in 2022. (Photo: P. Timmins)

*Version date: September 13, 2023*

**Instructor and Course Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Peter Timmins

Email: [ptimmins@uwo.ca](mailto:ptimmins@uwo.ca)

Credit Value: 0.5 credit

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 2229F/G and registration in Anthropology module Year 3 or 4.

**Course Description:**

This course provides students with a basic “hands on” grounding in the methods and techniques used by archaeologists to recover data in the field, and an introduction to preliminary archaeological data processing in the laboratory. The goal is to provide students with basic skills that can be used in cultural resource management (CRM) or academic research contexts. The skills taught will be applicable in a variety of contexts, but we will be focusing on archaeological methods and techniques commonly applied in Southern Ontario.

The course will be run out of the Museum of Ontario Archaeology (1600 Attawandaron Road, London, Ontario) and students will be expected to meet there at the beginning of each class. Classes will be taught both inside (in the Museum) and outside on an archaeological site in the

London area. For the first several weeks (September through late October) students should be prepared to spend most of the classes outdoors. We will move inside to focus on lectures and lab work from early November until the end of term. Students will be expected to dress accordingly when working outdoors (warm clothing on cold days, rain gear when necessary, appropriate footwear, etc.) and bring necessary accessories (sunscreen, bug repellent, water, lunch, etc.). You will get dirty during the outdoor field activities, so dress appropriately. More details will be provided at the first meeting of the class.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Participate in an archaeological survey conducted by test pitting or pedestrian survey.
- Understand and assist with the process of setting an archaeological grid using survey equipment.
- Apply basic archaeological excavation skills, including troweling, shovel shining, and screening archaeological deposits.
- Recognize, identify and catalogue historic (19th century) artifacts.
- Draw and photograph excavation units and archaeological features in plan view and profile.
- Conduct basic background research for an archaeological study and summarize the results in a report format.
- Describe basic archaeological methodology and conduct a descriptive analysis of a small 19th century artifact collection.
- Discuss the archaeological assessment process in Ontario and the way that Indigenous communities may be engaged in that process.

### **Course Materials:**

The main resources for this course are documents from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) that are used to regulate archaeological activities in Ontario. They are available to download in PDF format online, either through the course OWL site or the MCM website. The main document is:

Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport

[2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists.](#)

We will also be reading the MHSTCI guidelines on Indigenous engagement in archaeology:

Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport

[2011 Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology.](#)

### **Course Schedule**

We will need to be flexible for the field sessions due to the vagaries of the weather. On days scheduled for fieldwork students should come to the Museum for 9:30 on Thursday mornings prepared to go into the field, unless they receive a message via OWL that fieldwork is cancelled. If

field sessions are cancelled due to weather, we will process artifacts or have a lecture at the Museum (or both). Any significant changes to the schedule will also be posted on the course OWL site and/or through messages to students through OWL.

### **Use of OWL**

The OWL course webpage will be used for providing the syllabus (using the Syllabus page), providing pdfs of lecture slides (using Lessons pages), providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). All grades will also be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

### **Evaluation:**

#### **Field Notes - 10%**

Details of field note requirements will be made available in class and on the course OWL site.

#### **Essays/Written Assignments/Reports – 60%**

Assignment 1, Background Research Report                      30%

Released on OWL Nov. 9th; due Nov. 23rd at 9:30 am. Extended submission window Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

Assignment 2, Archaeological Report                                      30%

Released on OWL Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>; due Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Extended submission window Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

Details of assignments will be made available to students on the course OWL site and in class.

#### **Participation/Attendance (lectures and labs) - 15%**

Involves attending lectures and lab sessions at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology during the first week and final five weeks of the term. Grades posted at end of course.

If you miss lectures/labs for legitimate reasons (illness or other extenuating circumstances) please contact the instructor to request accommodation.

#### **Fieldwork Participation - 15%**

Involves active participation in field activities from the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the term. Activities include preparing site for excavation, assisting with establishing grid, excavation using shovels and trowels, screening soil to recover artifacts.

If you miss fieldwork days for legitimate reasons (illness or other extenuating circumstances) please contact the instructor to request accommodation.

#### **Evaluation Details:**

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

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.

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.

There is no final exam in this course.

**Late Policy:**

To provide flexibility and negate the need to ask for short extensions, Assignments 1 and 2 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.

No accommodation 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 accommodation based on medical or compassionate grounds.

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

**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.

### **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](#).

### **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](#).

## **Weekly Class Schedule**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>
Week 1 (Sept. 7)	Part 1: Lecture 1 at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology. Introduction to the course; Health & Safety in the Field.  Part 2: We will go outside for the second half of the class to learn about pedestrian survey, operation of total station survey equipment and grid layout. Please dress for the weather.
Week 2 (Sept. 14)	Fieldwork at the Wheaton site.
Week 3 (Sept. 21)	Fieldwork at the Wheaton site.
Week 4 (Sept. 28)	Fieldwork at the Wheaton site.
Week 5 (Oct. 5)	Fieldwork at the Wheaton site. Field Notes to be submitted in class.
Week 6 (Oct. 12)	Fieldwork at the Wheaton site.
Week 7 (Oct. 19)	Fieldwork at the Wheaton site.
Week 8 (Oct. 26)	Fieldwork at the Wheaton site. Field notes to be submitted in class.
No class (Nov. 2)	Fall Reading Week.
Week 9 (Nov. 9)	Lecture at the MOA. Lecture 2, Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments.  Readings: Archaeology in the Context of Land Use Planning and Development, and Chapter 1, Stage 1: Background Study and Optional

Property Inspection. *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, Ontario* (2011).

Chapter 2, Stage 2: Property Assessment. In *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, Ontario* (2011). *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, Ontario* (2011).

Fieldwork participation grades to be posted by this date.

**\*\* Assignment 1 released on OWL.**

Week 10 (Nov. 16) Lecture and lab at MOA. Lecture 3: Part 1, Introduction to Historic Ceramics.  
Part 2, Introduction to Artifact Cataloguing.  
Part 3, Artifact Cleaning and Cataloguing (time permitting).  
Part 4, Field trip to the Library Archives and Map & Data Centre.

Week 11 (Nov. 23) Lecture and lab at MOA. Lecture 4: Stage 3 Archaeological Assessments.  
Reading: Chapter 3, Stage 3: Site Specific Assessment. *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, Ontario* (2011).

**\*\* Assignment 1 due on OWL. Assignment 2 released on OWL.**

Week 12 (Nov. 30) Lecture and lab at MOA. Lecture 5: Stage 4 Archaeological Assessments.  
Reading: Stage 4: Mitigation of Development Impacts. In *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, Ontario* (2011).

Week 13 (Dec. 7) Lecture and lab at MOA. Lecture 6, Part 1: Human Remains Investigations in Ontario.  
Reading: None.  
Lecture 6, Part 2: Engaging Indigenous Communities in Ontario Archaeology.  
Reading: *Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology*. Ontario (2022).

**\*\* Assignment 2 due on OWL.**

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