

Department of Anthropology

ANTH 3332F-001 - Anthropological Perspectives on the Lifecourse

Provisional Course Outline

Fall 2023

Version date: Aug 29, 2023

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Walsh

Email: awalsh33@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Registration in third year or above.

Course Description:

This course examines how various stages in the human lifecourse are understood and experienced in different sociocultural contexts. Students in this course will undertake cross-cultural considerations of topics including conception, birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, parenthood, aging, death and the afterlife. We will complement weekly readings and discussions on particular stages of the lifecourse with a term-long focus on the question of what it means to live a "good life" in different socio-cultural contexts. This will be accomplished through discussions of particular sources and group projects.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Voice a distinctive perspective on the human lifecourse informed by longstanding and recent insights drawn from research in sociocultural anthropology and related disciplines.
- Appreciate the value and the limitations of a cross-cultural approach to the study of the human lifecourse and human aging.
- Reflect critically on the nature/nurture debate within and outside of academia and communicate knowledgeably concerning anthropological contributions to this debate.
- Reflect and communicate critically on complexity of "cross-cultural communication".

Course Materials:

Registered students will be able to access course readings through the "Course Readings" tool on the course's OWL site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on 10 quizzes on weekly readings, a midterm evaluation, a research essay, and a final exam as follows:

10 Quizzes – 1% each (10% total). Students will complete a short quiz every week before class (excepting Week one and Week 12). I will count the top 9 of these quizzes, meaning that students can miss/skip one of them without penalty.

Midterm evaluation – 20%. To be discussed further in class. The midterm will take place during our regularly scheduled class time.

Essay/Project – 30%. To be discussed further in class.

Final exam – 30%. During the December exam period.

Participation – 10%. I expect that students will regularly attend class and will demonstrate their engagement with course material through in-class discussions and/or direct communication with me. Students who meet this expectation will receive a participation grade that is equivalent (in percentage terms) to the grade they receive in the rest of the course. Thus, a student who achieves a final grade of 80% on the assessments indicated above will receive a grade of 8/10 for participation. Students who do not meet the above noted expectations for participation are likely to receive participation grade that is slightly lower than this baseline, and students who exceed these expectations are likely to receive a participation grade that is slightly higher than this baseline.

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](#).