

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 3308G-001: Principles of Archaeology
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2026

Date: July 23, 2024

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Neal Ferris

Method of delivery: In person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 2229F/G

Course Description:

This course is an opportunity for students to expand their understanding of how material culture comes into being, how archaeologists conceive, study, and make meaning from those material practices, and what this imperfect record can tell us about human experiences over time, and what it can't tell us about human heritage in the present. The course will be structured around major intellectual trends in archaeology, offering students an opportunity to explore key concepts for the discipline, as well as think about and experience of material practice and making meaning from those practices.

Course Materials:

Readings will be a critical part of in-class discussion and projects. Readings will be available online.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

In-class Participation = 10%

Reflections/Commentaries on assigned readings and discussion (15%; 10%)

In class Project Mardi Gras materialities (15%)

In class Project Pottery Working (25%)

Field Trip – Museum of Ontario Archaeology (25%)

Workshop costs: Clayworx Pottery workshop (\$45 est); Museum (\$25 est.)

The majority of the evaluative content for this course is taught in class time, so it is essential to attend classes to do well in the course. There will be limited to no accommodations granted for missing in-class exercises or participating in in-class evaluative content since they are essential for this course. **But note that you can complete SOME of the assignments with partial participation.** However, if you are concerned about your ability to regularly attend classes and participate in the in-class assignments as designed, please consider whether you should enroll in the course.