

**Department of Anthropology**

**ANTHRO 1026G-650: Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology**

**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**

**Winter 2026**

*Date: June 24, 2025*

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Trombley

Method of delivery: Online.

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

**Course Description:**

Why take this course? You will get more than just the fundamentals of how biological anthropology and archaeology are used to understand the world around us. You will have the opportunity to engage in disciplinary debates that are still ongoing in the field. For example, we will explore arguments for why humans first started walking upright (there are many!) We will discuss famous archaeological hoaxes and what can be learned from them. We will examine the challenges associated with interpreting the past from archaeological artifacts and ancient human remains. And finally, you will have the chance to research key questions in archaeology that range from topics like Neanderthal behaviour, the evolutionary spread of humans around the world, significant societal changes in the ancient past, and the impact of non-scientific approaches to archaeology on the discipline.

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

**Learning Outcomes**

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

- Define fundamental terminology, concepts, and methods associated with the study of biological anthropology/archaeology.
- Identify the kinds of questions anthropologists ask about past people and their environments and describe how anthropologists answer those questions using multiple lines of evidence.
- Ask questions relating to common debates in biological anthropology/archaeology and identify answers in the literature using academic research skills.
- Complete the essential first steps of scholarly research, including locating and critically evaluating scholarly and other information sources relevant to anthropological topics.

- Articulate connections between biological anthropology/archaeology, today's society, and your own lives.

**Course Materials:**

Your custom text for this course is titled, "Archaeology and Biological Anthropology" and is published by the University of Toronto Press. This text combines excerpts from two different textbooks: Through the Lens of Anthropology (By Muckle & Tubelle de González) and Introducing Archaeology (By Muckle).

Both paper (\$50.95) and eBook (\$45.00) versions of the textbook are available at the bookstore website. Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly Quizzes	40%
Weekly Discussions	20%
Essay 1 - Biological	10%
Essay 2 - Archaeology	10%
Take Home Exam	20%

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