

ANTHROPOLOGY 2100-650
Archaeology and World Prehistory
Department of Anthropology
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall/Winter 2021



Version date: August 5, 2021

Mode of delivery: This course is conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Instructor: Prof Peter Timmins

Office: SSC 3216

Office hours: To be announced on the course OWL site.

Email: ptimmins@uwo.ca

Credit Value: 1.0

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the discipline of archaeology and an overview of world prehistory. The course is divided into four segments. The first provides an introduction to archaeological method and theory, the second part covers the origins of modern humans and their dispersal around the world, the third covers post-Pleistocene adaptations including the origins of agriculture, and the fourth segment deals with the rise of complex societies. The course concludes with a brief discussion of the current state of archaeology and the future of 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 site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Identify key developments in the history of archaeological thought.
- Describe archaeological field methods in general terms and understand how archaeologists collect and interpret their data.
- Summarize general trends in the evolution of the human skeleton as seen in fossil hominin species.
- Identify the major developments in stone tool technology and human adaptations from the Lower to the Upper Paleolithic.
- Discuss the main changes in plants, animals and human behaviour that accompanied the development of agriculture around the world.
- Understand the characteristics of several early farming societies in the Near East, Europe, East Asia, the Americas and the South Pacific.
- Summarize the fundamental characteristics of ancient complex societies (from an archaeological perspective) and understand how they are expressed among ancient complex societies around the world.

Course Materials:

Each week students will view lectures presented as videos of slide shows with voice over narration by the Instructor. These lessons will be supplemented by readings from the text and optional links to relevant online resources.

Textbook:

Chazan, Michael 2021 *World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways through Time*, 5th Edition, Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

This is a well-written, well-illustrated and comprehensive text on world prehistory. Students should read the assigned sections in conjunction with each lesson. The text will be available at the Western Bookstore by September.

Evaluation:

Student evaluation will be broken down as follows:

Weekly Participation in Discussions (Lessons 2-25)	48%
Weekly Quizzes (Lessons 2-25)	32%

First Term Reflection Paper (due December 8, 2021)	10%
Second Term Reflection Paper (due April 1, 2022)	10%

Evaluation Details:

Weekly Discussions

Weekly discussions will be held using the OWL Forums tool. Discussion questions that draw upon the material covered in each class will be formulated by the instructor and linked to the weekly Lessons page. Students are required to submit at least one primary post (100-150 words) to the discussion forums each week. Each primary discussion post is graded out of three. There are opportunities to receive up to one bonus mark for posting comments on the posts of other students each week (each substantive comment is worth .5 marks). Additional details about discussion grading, including a marking rubric, will be provided in Lecture 1 and an introductory memo posted on the course OWL site. Discussion grades will be posted in the OWL gradebook as discussion posts are graded.

If you miss discussion posts for legitimate reasons (illness or other extenuating circumstances) please contact the instructor to request accommodation. If you require accommodation for more than five missed discussions, documentation is required and such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate faculty's Academic Counselling office. In such cases the Academic Counselling will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Online Etiquette for Discussions

To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. "Flaming" is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Weekly Quizzes

There will be a short quiz based on the weekly course content to complete each week, with the exception of Week 1. The quizzes will be done on OWL using the Tests and Quizzes tool and will be linked to the weekly Lesson pages. While 24 quizzes will be completed during the course, the final quiz mark will consider only the top 20 quizzes (the lowest two quiz marks in each term will be dropped). Given that students may miss up to four quizzes without penalty, make-ups for missed quizzes will not be granted; however, if you miss several sequential quizzes due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, you may request accommodation from the Academic Counselling office.

End of Term Reflection Papers

Students will complete a short writing assignment (Reflection) at the end of each term. For the First Term Reflection Paper, students will select a discussion question from Lessons 2-13 and prepare a brief reflection piece on the topic (approximately 500 words) to be submitted by the last day of classes (Dec. 8, 2021). A second reflection paper of the same length will be prepared and submitted at the end of the second term (April 1, 2021), based on a discussion question selected

from Lessons 14-25. Instructions for both reflection papers will be released through the OWL Assignments page at least three weeks in advance of their due dates. Papers will be submitted through the Assignments page using the Turnitin function and graded papers will be returned through the Assignments page.

Academic Statements and Policies

Academic Integrity - 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.

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](https://www.turnitin.com).

Use of OWL

This course will be delivered using OWL, Western's online course management program. The OWL course webpage will be used for providing the syllabus (using the Syllabus page), providing weekly video lectures (using Lessons pages), weekly discussions of lectures and readings (using the Forums page), completing weekly quizzes, providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). Office hours will be conducted in person, but the instructor can also meet with students via Zoom video if necessary. Lectures will consist of PowerPoint presentations with narration by the Instructor and will be made available in the OWL Lesson pages on Mondays each week, with the exception of Week 6, when the lecture will be released on Tuesday, October 12th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

Accommodation Policies:

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.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their

instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

[Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

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](#).

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