

ANTHROPOLOGY 1026G-650
Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2023



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Office Hours: Online, by appointment

Version: Sept.6/22.

Subject to minor updates before January.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: This course will be conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that you will be provided with recorded lectures, lesson materials, and activities that can be done throughout the week on your own time. There are no synchronous lectures. However, there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), Anthropology 1022A/B.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Syllabus: 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.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Define fundamental terminology, concepts, and methods associated with the study of biological anthropology/archaeology.
2. 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.
3. Ask questions relating to common debates in biological anthropology/archaeology and identify answers in the literature using academic research skills.
4. Complete the essential first steps of scholarly research, including locating and critically evaluating scholarly and other information sources relevant to anthropological topics.
5. 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 and eBook versions of the textbook are available at the [Bookstore website](#). Click on Books > Textbook Search, choose University of Western Ontario > Undergraduate Winter/2nd Term 2023 > ANT1026G. You can also get to the textbook listing using this [stable link](#).

Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class. These readings include but are not limited to:

- Ackermann, R., Athreya, S., Bolnick, D., Fuentes, A., Lasisi, T., Lee, S.H., McLean, S.A., and Nelson, R. 2019. "Association of American Anthropologists (AAPA) Statement on Race and Racism".
- Kelly, R. L., and Thomas, D. H. 2017. "Bioarchaeological Approaches to the Past". In: *Archaeology*, 7th edition. Boston: Cengage Learning, pgs. 198-218.
- Lovejoy, O. 1984. "The Natural Detective." *Natural History* 93 (10): 24–28.
- Stanford, C., Allen, J. S., and Antón, S. C. 2017. "Human Variation: Evolution, Adaptation and Adaptability". In: *Exploring Biological Anthropology: The Essentials*, 4th edition. Boston: Pearson, pgs. 105-140.

Evaluation

The evaluation methods described in this course outline are essential requirements for the course.

- Weekly Quizzes (x10) 10%
- Discussion Activities (x2) 20%
- Bipedalism Assignment 25%
- Research Essay 30%
- Take-Home Exam 15%

Weekly Quizzes – 10%

The 10 quizzes (worth 1% each) incorporated into this course are intended to help you stay on top of the course material. Each quiz consists of 10 multiple choice and true/false questions and is based on the readings and resources (e.g., lecture videos, YouTube videos, discussion activities, etc.) covered since the previous quiz. Quizzes are open book. These assessments allow students to demonstrate learning outcome (LO) 1.

Late Policy: Each quiz will be open only for a one-week period. If you miss a quiz deadline, you will no longer be able to complete that quiz. However, the quiz that receives the lowest mark will be dropped from the overall grade calculation for the course.

Discussion Activities – 20%

The two Discussion Activities (worth 10% each) embedded in this course are opportunities to engage with course content, see the thoughts and opinions of your peers, contribute your own questions, or ideas, present evidence from independent research on the web, or reflect on coursework. Additional details for each discussion activity will be posted on the course OWL site.

These assessments allow students to demonstrate LO 1, LO 2, and LO 5.

Late Policy: Unless a student receives accommodation, late discussion activities will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days. Note, both Discussion Activities count towards the overall grade calculation for the course.

The Great Debate: Bipedalism – 25%

For this assignment, you will address an important debate in biological anthropology: “Why did humans develop bipedal locomotion?” As a class, we will read one article that reflects specific researcher’s explanation for the development of bipedalism. Your task will be to describe additional explanations found in the peer-reviewed literature and assess the best explanation among the articles. Word limit 750 words. As part of the bipedalism assignment, you will complete Assignment Check-in Quiz A (3%) to ensure that you are on the right track for the assignment. This assignment allows students to demonstrate LO 2, LO 3, and LO 4.

Research Essay – 30%

For this assignment, you will have the opportunity to choose a topic from two options related to ongoing academic debates in archaeology. Your task is to write a 1250-word paper that critically evaluates the debate. As

part of the research essay, you will be asked to complete Assignment Check-in Quiz B (3%) to ensure that you are following the assignment guidelines. This assignment allows students to demonstrate LO 2, LO 3, and LO 4.

Submitting the Great Debate and Research Essay

For both the Great Debate and Research Essay assignments, you will be able to see your Turn-it-in score once you submit. You may upload multiple times without penalty prior to the due date if you are interested in viewing your Turn-it-in score in advance of the deadline.

If you submit by the due date and achieve a score from Turnitin of <15%, you will receive 2 bonus marks on the assignment. If the assignment receives a Turnitin score >15%, you will have 24 hours to revise and resubmit without academic penalty. First time submissions received after the deadline are considered late and are ineligible for bonus marks.

Late Policy: Unless a student receives accommodation, late Great Debate/Research Essays will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the deadline. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

Take Home Final Exam - 15%

The final exam is cumulative for the course and involves responding to 1-2 mini-essay questions. Mini-essay questions will ask you to identify and explain course concepts, consider the kinds of questions bio-anthropologists and archaeologists work on, and include specific examples from class to illustrate your ideas. The final exam questions will be released after classes end. You will have 3 days from the release of the exam to complete and submit your responses (final due date TBA). This assessment allows students to demonstrate LO 2, LO 5, and LO 1.

Late Policy: If you miss submitting the Final Exam by the deadline, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (Make-up Exam).

Instructor Policies

Diversity and Inclusion

I would like to create a learning environment that supports diverse thoughts, perspectives, and experiences. We all bring unique identities to the classroom that reflect differences in age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, and class. I will gladly honour any request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. I will attempt to foster an environment in which you are able to express ideas and hear and respect one another. Please let me know if there are ways that you think I could improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students/student groups.

Engaging in the Online Learning Environment

This course relies on the OWL site to connect you with the syllabus, assignment outlines, content, and other course material. Here, you will engage with me and your peers as we progress through the course. Please keep track of weekly tasks and contribute respectfully to online activities.

Email Response Time

You may contact me by email, but it may take up to 24 hours for a response. If I cannot provide an immediate response, or if the matter is something that I cannot address easily in an email, we will plan to meet virtually. Please ensure that your emails are worded professionally and include the course number (1026G) in the subject line.

Student Success

If you have a question about your progress in the course or if you are struggling to meet deadlines, please reach out to the professor by email.

If you need support with your academic writing skills, please visit the [Writing Support Centre](#) in person or online. The Centre aims to (1) enhance your writing and communication skills and build your confidence, (2) equip you with tools, resources, and knowledge to effectively communicate through writing, (3) increase your critical analysis abilities to effectively communicate scholarly ideas, (4) convey university level writing expectations, and (5) provide you with the skills you need to navigate academic transitions.

[Learning Development and Success](#) supports your development as student by answering questions and providing advice on how to succeed in your studies at Western. They can help you to develop and strengthen academic skills.

[Health and Wellness](#) will help you navigate any kind of mental health issue (e.g., anxiety, stress, etc.) WEC provides free assistance in connecting you with wellness services and resources on and off campus.

Department and University Policies**Course-Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course**

In order to pass this essay course, students must demonstrate competence in essay writing and an appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course. To demonstrate competence and knowledge, students must submit and receive a passing grade on their Research Essay.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations

Please contact the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible if you will be seeking accommodation for a late/missed assignment based on medical or compassionate grounds. For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office. For further information, please consult the University's [medical illness policy](#).

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.

Statement on Turn-it-in

All required written assignments (i.e., Discussion Activities, the Bipedalism Assignment, the Research Essay, and the Take Home Exam) 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.

Academic 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 Breakdown of Topics, Readings and Due Dates

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due Dates
Week 1	Jan 9-15	Mod 1 - Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology: Definitions, branches, situating the discipline	Custom Text: "Through the Lens" (Ch. 1) and "Intro Arch" (Ch. 1 & 3)	Quiz 1 (by Jan 22)
Week 2	Jan 16-22	Mod 2 - Evolutionary Thought and Theory: Science, historical and modern perspectives on evolution	Custom Text: "Through the Lens" (Ch. 3)	Quiz 2 (by Jan 22)
Week 3	Jan 23-29	Mod 3 - Human Biological Evolution: Paleoanthropology, hominins, bipedalism	Custom Text: "Through the Lens" (Ch. 4) Find in OWL: Lovejoy (1984)	Paleoanth Discussion Activity (due Jan 26) Quiz 3 (by Jan 29)
Week 4	Jan 30-Feb 5	Mod 4 - Human Variation & The False Concept of Race: Scientific/ anthropological arguments against biological races	Find in OWL: AAPA Statement on Race/Racism (2019) and Stanford et al. (2017)	Quiz 4 (by Feb 5)
Week 5	Feb 6-12	Mod 5 - Studying Nonhuman Primates: Taxonomy, evolution, and behaviour	Custom Text: "Through the Lens" (Ch. 2)	Quiz 5 (by Feb 12) Check-in Quiz A (by Feb 12)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due Dates
Week 6	Feb 13-17	Complete the Great Debate Assignment	None	Great Debate Assignment (due by Feb 16)
Reading	Week	(Feb 18-26)		
Week 7	Feb 27-Mar 5	Mod 6 - Comprehending the Archaeological Record: Sites, preservation, analysis	Custom Text: "Intro Arch" (Ch. 4; Ch. 5, p. 104-116; Ch. 6, p. 121-132)	Quiz 6 (by Mar 6)
Week 8	Mar 6-12	Mod 7 - Reconstructing Ecological Adaptations: Paleoenvironments, settlement patterns, subsistence strategies	Custom Text: "Intro Arch" (Ch. 8)	Archaeology Discussion Activity (due by Mar 9) Quiz 7 (by Mar 12)
Week 9	Mar 13-19	Mod 8 - Explaining Things of Archaeological Interest: Conceptual frameworks, interpretations, biases	Custom Text: "Intro Arch" (Ch. 10)	Quiz 8 (by Mar 19)
Week 10	Mar 20-26	Mod 9 - Inequality, Identity, and Ideology: Artifacts, symbols, and mortuary data	Custom Text: "Intro Arch" (Ch. 9)	Quiz 9 (by Mar 26)
Week 11	Mar 27-Apr 2	Mod 10 - Bioarchaeology: Ethics, aging, sexing, and indicators of stress and disease	Custom Text: "Intro Arch" (Ch. 6, p. 132-139) Find in OWL: Kelly & Thomas (2017)	Quiz 10 (by Apr 2) Check-In Quiz B (by Apr 2)
Week 12	Apr 3-9	Complete the Research Essay	None	Research Essay (due by Apr 6)
Exam Period	Apr 13-30	Complete the Take Home Exam		Open: TBA Due: TBA