

ANTHROPOLOGY 4401F-001

Anthropological Thinking and Practice

Department of Anthropology

****PROVISIONAL** COURSE OUTLINE**

Fall 2022

Version date: May 2022

Class time and location: Tuesdays 9:30-12:30, SSC-3102.

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Walsh (he/him)

Email: awalsh33@uwo.ca

Office and hours: SSC-3402, meetings by appointment on Zoom or in person.

Requisites

Antirequisites: the former Anthropology 4400E.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 3350F (or the former Anthropology 3301E) and registration in Year 4 in any anthropology module.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course is intended to serve as a “capstone” course – meaning that it is intended to (1) encourage students to reflect on and draw from what they have learned through several years of studying anthropology while (2) giving them the opportunity to engage in original “anthropological practice” at an advanced level and in ways that are directed toward a variety of possible futures.

See the course OWL site for more information on how the course will work week to week.

Learning Outcomes

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

- reflect critically on the learning outcomes of the anthropology modules in which they are enrolled and demonstrate how they have achieved these outcomes.
- communicate the importance of anthropology and the value of their own anthropological training to various audiences.
- evaluate the possibilities and limitations of “group work”, and plan and carry out effective collaborations.
- effectively communicate their own anthropological passions to various audiences.
- better apply anthropological approaches and insights to a range of topics and experiences.

Course Materials

Registered students will be able to access course readings through the course site in OWL.

Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be determined based on three different kinds of assessments. The first will be assessments of “mandatory work” that will be completed by all students in the course. The second will be assessments of what I am calling “flexible assignments”, described below. And the third are Pass/Fail assessments, described below.

Mandatory Work (worth a total of 70%)

Learning Outcomes Assignment – 10% -- Due in early October.

This assignment, fully described on OWL, asks you to reflect critically on the “learning outcomes” associated with your degree in Anthropology. We will discuss this further in class on September 21st and 28th.

Final Project – 50% -- Due at the end of the term.

We will discuss this in class, but there’s no harm in starting to think about it early, so please read on!

This is an independent project that you will be working on throughout the term. The final product could be an original research essay on a topic that has always interested you, a literature review on topics that you are thinking of pursuing in future studies, an overview of anthropological work related to a career or profession that you’ve been thinking about pursuing, or something else. I am open to suggestions. My one request is that this be a project that produces something that you think could be useful to YOU.

I will ask you to start thinking of possible projects in class in September and ask you to discuss your initial thoughts with one another in small groups in class before meeting with me the following week (on Zoom or in person) for 15-20 minutes to start working out a plan for how you might complete this project over the next two months. Students will be asked to submit a project topic and timeline by early October that I will be able to give comments on. *Students who do not submit the project topic and timeline will have 2% deducted from their final grade in the course.* This is not meant to penalize students but to keep us all on track!

In another attempt at keeping everyone on track, I will make sure you have time to meet briefly every week (during class time) in small “project groups” of 4-5 students. These will be opportunities for you to discuss the progress you’ve made, frustrations you’ve encountered, and concerns you have, and then to raise any questions/issues with me and the whole class.

By mid-November you are asked to submit a 300–500-word document communicating the focus of your final project along with a list of at least eight sources and a brief outline of how you anticipate the final product looking. These proposals will be circulated to members of your project groups in advance of the “anti-presentations” that will take place in class in mid-November. I’ll explain more in class, but the simple explanation of what I mean by “anti-presentations” is that rather than asking you to present your proposal to others in your group (i.e., a standard presentation) I will ask you to listen while others discuss your proposal amongst themselves. This sounds scary, I know, but it will be enlightening and engaging in ways that traditional presentations are not. *Students who do not submit the project proposal on time will have 3% deducted from their final grade in the course.* Your final projects are due in the last week of class.

Class Engagement – 15% (5% reported before reading week)

The “class engagement” grade has to do with students’ general engagement in/with the course materials and the class. It will not be based only on how frequently you speak in class. There are many other ways in which students can demonstrate engagement with course materials and the class: by participating in optional forums, communicating over email, offering useful comments to classmates, etc.

Flexible Assignments (worth a total of 20%, you can choose to write one, two or all three of these)

“Who needs Anthropology?” Assignment

This assignment, related to topics covered in class, asks you to write a short (800-1000 word) piece (suitable for posting on a site like Sapiens.org or theconversation.com) in which you address a complex topic covered in one of your previous anthropology courses here at Western in a way that is suited to a broad audience. To be discussed further in class.

“Breadth of Anthropology” Assignment

This assignment, associated with our discussion of the sources selected by the class through the 2022 edition of “Anthropology 4401 Reads” (more on this below), asks you to reflect (in no more than 1500 words) on the advantages and limitations of Anthropology’s great breadth. To be discussed further in class.

“Living Anthropologically” Assignment

This assignment, related to topics covered in class in late November, asks you to reflect (in no more than 1500 words) on your experiences of something (i.e., *not* schoolwork) that you have been doing (maybe for the first time) in your “spare time project”, described below. In addition to your personal reflections, I ask you to include reference to at least one anthropological source or inspiration that demonstrates how you have been thinking about this activity in an anthropological way.

“Anthropology 4401 Reads” Presentation – 5%

All students are asked to come to class in mid-October prepared to present (for 3-5 minutes) on one piece of anthropological writing that they think everyone in class should read. We will then vote as a class, and the top four readings will be the focus of our discussion on the breadth of Anthropology in class later in the term.

Academic and Accommodation Policies

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).

In order 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.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations

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.

Accommodation Policies

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](#)

and the [form for the 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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