

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 1026F-650

Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Summer 2025

Date: March 5, 2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. K. Olsen (she/her)

Method of delivery: Asynchronous Online

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking the Academic Calendar:

<https://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ANTHRO&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#top>

Course Description:

This course offers 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 past behaviour from archaeological artifacts and ancient human remains. Through the course assignments, you will gain a deeper understanding of our evolutionary history and apply analytical skills to interpreting the "stuff" that humans leave behind that points to their knowledge, beliefs, and activities.

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.

Course Materials:

Required textbook: The custom course text, "Archaeology and Biological Anthropology," is published by the University of Toronto Press. The text combines excerpts from *Through the Lens of Anthropology* (by Muckle, Tubelle de González, and Camp) and *Introducing Archaeology* (by Muckle and Camp). Both paper and eBook versions of the textbook are available through the Western Bookstore. The textbook costs approximately \$51.00. Students are welcome to purchase second-hand editions of this textbook if available.

In addition to the textbook, required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Ten quizzes (multiple-choice questions, 1 quiz per module)
- Five weekly activities (participation in short survey, reflection, discussion or other learning activity)
- Two written assignments (minimum 750 words/assignment, fulfills essay requirement)
- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, cumulative)

Evaluation Breakdown:

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| • Module Quizzes (10 x 1.5%) | 15% |
| • Weekly Activities (5 x 3%) | 15% |
| • Written Assignments (2 x 25%) | 50% |
| • Final Exam | 20% |

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