

**Department of Anthropology**

**ANTHRO 1022A 001/002: Introduction to Biological Anthropology and  
Archaeology**

**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**

**Fall 2026**

*Date: June 16, 2026*

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Waters-Rist & Dr. Alec McLellan

Method of delivery: in person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), Anthropology 1026F/G.

Prerequisites: None.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

**Course Description:**

Why take this course? You won't just learn the fundamentals of how biological anthropology and archaeology help us understand our deep history and the world around us. You will also have an opportunity to engage in debates that are still ongoing in the field, and to interpret evidence through the lenses of biological anthropology and archaeology. The underlying theme connecting these fields is the study of human evolution, both biological and cultural -- the examination of our biological nature, our biological roots, our cultural past, and the way we engage with all of these things in the present. Both biological anthropology and archaeology also document and celebrate human diversity, past and present. We will cover a range of topics: the place of biological anthropology and archaeology within the broader discipline of anthropology and their contributions to modern society; the genetic basis of evolution; the ecology and behaviour of non-human primates; interpreting the fossil record of human evolution; the origin of our species, *Homo sapiens*; and human variation and adaptability. We will also explore how the archaeological record forms; different types of archaeological evidence; archaeological methods and interpretation; mechanisms of cultural change; and how our understanding of the human past shapes and is shaped by the world today.

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:**

The majority of course readings will be in the "Archaeology and Biological Anthropology Custom Course Book, 1022" from University of Toronto Press Custom Publishing. The textbook includes selected readings from: *Through the Lens of Anthropology: An Introduction to Human Evolution and Culture*, Second Edition, by Robert J. Muckle and Laura Tubelle de González; and *Introducing Archaeology*, Third Edition, by Robert J. Muckle and Stacey L. Camp.

You can order a hard copy of the course text or the e-book version (which provides instant access) through The Book Store at Western. The hard copy will cost between \$50-55. The e-book version will cost between \$45-50.

Students are welcome to use second-hand or earlier editions of this custom textbook. The custom coursebook has not changed since 2021, so you can use second-hand copies from 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, or 2025, if you can find them.

Other short readings for specific weeks will be posted on the OWL Brightspace course site.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly Online Quizzes	10%
2 Assignments	30%
5 Labs	25%
Final Exam (multiple choice)	35%

Note, the evaluation methods described in this course outline are essential requirements for the course. Alternative assessments are not available.

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