

Anthropology 3455 Stable Isotopes in Bioanthropology Winter 2020

Professor: Dr. Tamara Varney
Office: 2002C
Phone: 807-343-8204
Email: tvarney@lakeheadu.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

Location: BB 2002
Class time: Friday 2:30- 5:30 pm

****I am typically in my office M-F in the late morning into the afternoon until 4pm – you are welcome to drop by and see if I am free; you can also phone or email ahead to see if I am there or make an appointment for a specific day & time. Email is the best way to reach me.**

I cannot guarantee that I will respond in a timely fashion if messages are left on my voice mail rather than email and students should NOT expect less than 24 hour turnaround time to email messages. Please do NOT assume that your message has been received unless you receive an acknowledgement.

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the bioanthropological application of stable isotopes and other biochemical, geochemical and ecological techniques. Various stable isotopes (including C, N, O, S, H, Sr) can be used in the assessment of palaeo-diet, life history and migratory patterns, to infer palaeo-ecological contexts, and also in forensic applications. The focus of this course will be on various applications of stable isotopes to the reconstruction of past human behaviour.

Required Readings: posted weekly on the D2L site

Evaluation:

Your final grade will be based on:

Class participation	15%	
Term Test	15%	Fri, Feb 28
Annotated Bibliography	10%	on day of your seminar
Leading a Seminar	20%	
Term paper proposal with preliminary bibliography	15%	2 weeks after your seminar
Term Paper	20%	4 weeks after your seminar

Class participation – This grade will be based on individual contribution to the discussion in class. Each week, some questions to consider while reading the assigned papers will be provided and discussed at the end of the lecture. A question/discussion period will also follow at the end of each seminar. Grades will be assigned with quality and preparedness being given more weight than quantity. In addition, attendance will be tracked.

Term test – This test will be comprised of questions requiring short written answers (no more than a page) and will be based on the course material covered up to this date.

Leading a seminar – At the beginning of term (week 1), you will be paired with another student (or a group of 3 but only if necessary), assigned a topic and a date for your seminar (20 min in length). You do not have to work as a pair except to coordinate so that your precise topics not overlap completely (this should be easy).

For each seminar, the student will prepare and present a review of the material. **Two (2) readings will be provided and it is required that a minimal of 2 additional readings from primary sources be added to the list.** ALL STUDENTS WILL be required to do these readings in order to prepare for their participation in the seminar discussion. Grading will be based primarily on the insightfulness and thoroughness of the review and the questions offered for discussion as well as answers to questions. **Annotated bibliography** – An annotated bibliography for 10 papers that will form the basis the research for your seminar and perhaps later your term paper will be done. Guidelines and an example will be provided.

Term paper proposal with preliminary bibliography – A minimum of 1.5 pages outlining your term paper (not including references – and not point form!). Your term paper topic should be related to the larger topic of your seminar and the accompanying bibliography can include the readings in your annotated bibliography **BUT MUST ALSO INCLUDE FIVE (5) additional sources.** This exercise will facilitate me to provide you with some feedback and direction on your paper before it is turned in for grading.

Term paper – The term paper will consist of a review of primary literature on the chosen topic (see above). Review articles or chapters in edited volumes may also be used but secondary sources should be kept to a minimum. Internet sources (aside from on line journal articles) **SHOULD BE AVOIDED** and if they do not include citations and references should not be used at all. The paper should be a minimum of 13 pages to a maximum of 20 pages.

**** All written assignments are to be done in 12 point font and double spaced**

NOTE – The reference and citation style of **either** the American Society for Archaeology **OR** APA must be adhered to for all written assignments. The SAA format is preferred and guidelines are available on the MyCourseLinks site for this course. Links to APA guides can be found on the LU Library website.

Please note that **Friday, March 6, 2020** is the last date for withdrawal without academic penalty from this course. Students will have received feedback on 20% of the course mark by that date.

Missed tests & seminars will not be made-up unless official documentation of a reasonable excuse is submitted (e.g. student or family illness, death of family member, car accident).

The same policy applies to **missed due dates for assignments.** Please note that that going off on holidays for the STUDY WEEK or leaving early at the end of term does not constitute a reasonable excuse. Please contact me within **48 hrs.** of any missed due date or test. Late assignments without reasonable excuses will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day.

Submission of assignments will be done via the drop box on the MyCourseLinks site.

Regulations – General Information from the [Academic Calendar](#)

“It is the responsibility of each student registered at Lakehead University to be familiar with, and comply with all the terms, requirements, regulations, policies and conditions in the Lakehead University Academic Calendar. This includes, but is not limited to, Academic Program Requirements, Academic Schedule of Dates, University and Faculty/School Policies and Regulations and the Fees and Refund Policies and Schedules.”

Please note that **Friday, March 6, 2020** is the last date for withdrawal without academic penalty from this course. Students will have received feedback on 20% of the course mark by that date. Students are directed to LU's policy: code of student behaviour, disciplinary, and appeal procedures that can be found at the following links:

[Student Code of Conduct - Academic Integrity](#)

[Student Code of Conduct - Non-Academic](#)

[Student Code of Conduct - Appeal Policy and Judicial Panel Procedures](#)

All students should familiarize themselves with these policies which cover such misconduct as plagiarism, cheating, inappropriate behaviour, and disruption of teaching. More information on academic integrity can be found at:

<https://teachingcommons.lakeheadu.ca/AcademicIntegrity>

Accommodations: Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit:

<http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

An updated course schedule will be posted after seminar topics and dates are set in week 2. All students should have their topics selected before Jan 17.

Tentative Schedule

		Topics:	
1	Jan 10	Course Introduction	
2	Jan 17	Basic Principles, Possibilities, Limitations, Challenges**	T. Varney
3	Jan 24	Research Highlight	T. Varney
4	Jan 31	Research Highlight	TBA
5	Feb 7	Terrestrial vs. non-terrestrial resources (2), Weaning (2)	
6	Feb 14	Diet and status (2-3)	
7	Feb 21	February Break – no class	
8	Feb 28	Term test; Seminar/lecture if needed	
9	Mar 6	Tracing mobility (2-3)	
10	Mar 13	Influences of stress (eg. water, pathology) (2)	
11	Mar 20	Non-human remains as proxies for human behaviour (2-3)	
12	Mar 27	TBA	
13	Apr 3	TBA	

Seminar topics: (there are many options for narrowing down the topics but the basic principles must also be covered). Medical, forensic, and ecological topics are welcome, the focus is expected to be bioanthropological.