

Introduction to Physical Anthropology/Archaeology

ANTH 1301 CRN #14434 (in-person) – Fall 2023

Mon., Wed., Fri. | 1:30 – 2:20pm | Liberal Arts Building 108

Instructor: Dr. Gillian Wong (she/her) Email: glwong@utep.edu





Office hours (in-person): Monday & Wednesday 11am – 12:30pm, Old Main 203

Course Description

From the UTEP General Catalog: “Introduction to the evolution of the human adaptive system with particular attention to the somatic and technological components. The biological development of humans, from 3.5 million year old Lucy to modern Homo sapiens, is discussed and correlated with developments in stone and bronze tools, dwelling types, social groupings, political organizations, etc. It emphasizes the genetic unity of humankind in ways that critically inform discussions of race.” This course is 3 credits.

Course Objectives & University Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME
Be able to evaluate the ethics of research being done on humans and our ancestors	 Social Responsibility
Gain perspective on the diversity of the human experience and its vast time depth	 Global Awareness
Become familiar with peer-reviewed journal articles and critically evaluate their content	 Critical Thinking
Find effective means of communicating with fellow students about controversial topics or topics for which we have very little data through group in-class activities and presentations	 Problem Solving & Teamwork

Instructor Info & Communication

Hello, I'm Dr. Wong! I'm an anthropologist who specializes in archaeology. I can be reached most easily by E-mail (glwong@utep.edu). My **office hours** are listed at the top of the syllabus. If you'd like to meet at another time, please set up an appointment. Zoom meetings and in-person meetings are available.

I do not usually check my E-mail on the weekends. Please give me at least 24 hours to respond to any E-mail you send to me during the week.

When sending me an E-mail, use these guidelines:

- Include your name
- E-mail if there is an emergency (when it is safe to do so)
- Assume E-mail messages are permanent and public
- Include a greeting (like “Hello Professor” or “Dear Dr. Wong”) and a closing (like “Sincerely”) with your name

I will send course communications by UTEP email or through Blackboard. CHECK YOUR UTEP EMAIL AND BLACKBOARD REGULARLY.

Course Expectations and Classroom Values

A syllabus not only tells us about what we will accomplish together in this class but explains the expectations we should have for one another. As the instructor, I pledge to treat students with dignity and respect. We all bring valuable life experiences and perspectives to this class.

In the classroom, we will all treat each other with respect and an open mind. This doesn't mean we will always agree but that we understand our classroom is a place of learning and we all have good intentions. We will refrain from using hurtful or inflammatory comments, they will not be tolerated. My classroom is a safe space, which means all ideas are welcome, but we will present them in ways that are thoughtful and do not belittle others.

Being Prepared for this Class

- I recommend taking notes during class.
- Read the readings assigned for the week before coming to Monday's class.
- Check your campus email and the course Blackboard site regularly (I recommend a minimum of every other day during the week). Computers and internet access are available on campus.

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Illness Precautions

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

Lectures

Lecture slides will be available before class time on Blackboard as PDFs.

Assignments & Grading

The breakdown for your final grade percentage and letter grade is as follows:

100-90% = A 89-80% = B 79-70% = C 69-60% = D 59%-below = F

The following table is a breakdown of all assignments and exams in this class and how much each of these is weighted to calculate your final grade:

ASSIGNMENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE
Class Assignments (4 x 5% each)	20%	Varies
Paper: Evaluating Digital Media in Anthropology	20%	Oct. 13 (Oct. 20 – late deadline worth 75%)
Presentation	20%	Dec. 4-7
Exam 1	10%	Sept. 25
Exam 2	10%	Oct. 23
Exam 3	10%	Nov. 20
Exam 4 (Final Exam)	10%	Dec. 13 4:00-6:45pm

I always attempt to program Blackboard to report your grades with the above weights. BUT it doesn't always cooperate or calculate accurately. THIS SYLLABUS is your best resource for calculating your grade. **Please, do not hesitate to contact me with grading questions or if you would like help calculating your course grade.**

It is the student's responsibility to ensure their work is submitted properly on Blackboard. If class work is submitted that is handwritten, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure the writing is legible.

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Attendance and participation are not included in your grade BUT I highly recommend students attend all class meetings and participate to their level of comfort. In general, students who attend regularly and participate in class discussions and assignments tend to do better on exams and assignments.

Late Assignments

I do not accept late work except in unforeseen circumstances (such as an emergency). However, there is one exception: there is **an option to turn the paper in late for credit**. If turning the paper in late, it is eligible for 75% of the original points if **turned in by Oct. 20, 2023**.

Class Assignments (abbreviated CA)

These are assignments that occur during class for a grade. There will be a total of at least six CAs BUT **only your four CAs with the highest grades will count** towards your final course

grade. The only penalty for missing a CA is to receive a grade of zero on the assignment. Students who miss a class in which we did a CA will not have the opportunity to complete that CA and will receive a grade of zero on the assignment.

Papers

There is one paper for this class: the Evaluating Digital Media in Anthropology Paper Details for this paper will be provided in class and on Blackboard. Papers should be submitted online through Blackboard. They are due by 11:59pm on their due date. Part of your grade for the paper includes formatting, please read the formatting requirements carefully before submitting your paper.

Presentation

During the last week of classes, students will give group presentations to the class. Each presentation will introduce, then critically evaluate a journal article in either archaeology or physical anthropology. Presentation requirements and details on grading will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

Exams

There are four exams in this class. Exam 4 is the final exam. The exams are not cumulative. They will be a mixture of multiple choice, key terms, fill in the blank, true/false, and short essay questions. Review sheets will be provided for each exam. *If it's not on the review sheet, it won't be on the exam.* Time will be provided during class for exam review.

Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#)

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Artificial Intelligence Use

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is permitted in this course only for your own personal use (for example, as a study aid). You may not use AI tools to complete any course assignments, exams, papers, or presentations unless you are using it as an example of AI generated text. Here is an example of an acceptable use of AI-generated text:

People commonly assume that archaeologists study dinosaurs even though many easily accessible resources are available that contradict this assumption. For example, I asked Chat GPT to define archaeology with reference to dinosaurs and its response stated: "However, when it comes to dinosaurs, archaeology is not the primary field of study. Instead, the study of dinosaurs falls under the realm of paleontology."

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Extra Credit

I do not normally offer any extra credit assignments. IF I decide to offer extra credit assignments, the extra credit points will be applied to your final grade. There may be extra credit questions on exams or CAs.

No student can receive over 100% on an assignment, exam, or paper; if a student receives more than full credit on any of these their grade on that assignment will be recorded as 100%.

Attendance & Course Drop Policy

Attendance is not mandatory in this class, however, I recommend you attend regularly to be successful. I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Course Textbooks

Each week textbook readings are assigned. These readings provide a foundation for the information I present in class. The readings will come from two textbooks:

1. Wolcott Paskey, Amanda and Beasley Cisneros, AnnMarie. 2020. *Digging into Archaeology: A Brief OER Introduction to Archaeology with Activities*. Academic Senate for California Community College Open Educational Resources Initiative.
 - o Provided as a PDF on Blackboard
 - o Called "*Digging*" on the course schedule, below
 - o The chapters in this book include several activities. When chapters from this book are assigned, the activities are not included, only the content before the activities

2. Shook, Beth, Braff, Lara, Nelson, Katie, and Aguilera, Kelsie. 2023. *Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology*. 2nd edition. American Anthropological Association.
 - Available free here: <https://explorations.americananthro.org/>
 - Called “*Explorations*” on the course schedule, below

Additional Readings and Resources

Readings and resources additional to textbook chapters are also assigned throughout the course. These will be available either through Blackboard or online. A list of all additional readings and resources can be found after the course schedule. The dates that each additional reading and resource is assigned are provided in the course schedule below.

Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS & IMPORTANT DATES
Week 1 Aug 28 – Sept 1	Introduction to Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explorations</i> Ch. 1 • <i>Digging</i> Ch. 1 • Nelson & Gonzalez (2023) <p>Sept. 1 NO CLASS (Dr. Wong out of town)</p>
Week 2 Sept 4 – 8	Ethics in Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Digging</i> Ch. 16 • <i>Explorations</i> – section “Ethics & Human Rights” (in Ch. 15 ***this ch has pictures of human remains***) • Atalay, Shannon, & Swogger 2017
Week 3 Sept 11 – 15	Fieldwork and Fossils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Digging</i> Ch. 4-7 • <i>Explorations</i> Ch. 7 • <i>Origin Stories</i> – Field School Diaries <p>Sept. 15 Exam 1 Review Guide posted</p>
Week 4 Sept 18 – 22	Other Archaeology & Physical Anthropology Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explorations</i> Appendix D • <i>Digging</i> Ch. 8, 9 <p>Sept. 22 Review for Exam 1 in class</p>
Week 5 Sept 25 – 29	Evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explorations</i> Ch. 4 <p>Sept. 25 Exam 1</p>
Week 6 Oct 2 – 6	Primates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explorations</i> Ch. 5 • <i>Just the Zoo of Us</i> – Episode 96
Week 7 Oct 9 – 13	Early Hominins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explorations</i> Ch. 9 • Plummer et al. (2023) <p>Oct. 13 Exam 2 Review Guide posted Oct. 13 Paper due</p>

Week 8 Oct 16 – 20	Genus <i>Homo</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explorations</i> Ch. 10-12 • Goldfield 2021 <p>Oct. 20 Review for Exam 2 in class Oct. 20 Late due date for paper</p>
Week 9 Oct 23 – 27	Race & Human Variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explorations</i> Ch. 13 • Kenyon-Flatt (2021) <p>Oct. 23 Exam 2</p>
Week 10 Oct 30 – Nov 3	Human Prehistory/History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explorations</i> Ch. 12 • <i>Digging</i> Ch. 11, 14
Week 11 Nov 6 – 10	Subsistence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Digging</i> Ch. 10 • Shearn (2020) • Kwon (2020) <p>Nov. 10 Exam 3 Review Guide posted</p>
Week 12 Nov 13 – 17	Gender in Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milo (2020) • Coltofean-Arizancu et al. (2021) • Fuentes (2022) <p>Nov. 17 Review for Exam 3 in class</p>
Week 13 Nov 20 – 24	<p>Mon. & Wed.: Conservation, Sustainability, & Climate Change</p> <p>Friday: Case Study & Presentation Prep</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwards & Steele (2011) – case study • <i>Explorations</i> Appendix B • Schydlovskyi et al. (2023) <p>Nov. 20 Exam 3</p>
Week 14 Nov 27 – Dec 1	<p>Mon. & Wed: Presentation Prep</p> <p>Friday: Student Presentations</p>	<p>Dec. 1 Exam 4 Review Guide posted Dec. 1 Student presentations start</p>
Week 15 Dec 4 - 7	Student Presentations	Dec. 6 Review for Exam 4 in class
EXAM 4 (FINAL EXAM): Wednesday Dec. 13, 4:00-6:45pm		

Details on Additional Readings and Resources

Week 1

Nelson, P. & Gonzalez, S. What do Archaeologists Do? *Sapiens* 9 February 2023.
<https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/what-do-archaeologists-do/>

Week 2

Atalay, Sonya, Shannon, Jen, and Swogger, John G. 2017. Journeys to Complete the Work. NAGPRA Comics 1: Stories About Repatriations. PDF available for download:
<https://scholar.colorado.edu/concern/books/s7526d43c>. Comic website:
<https://nagpracomics.weebly.com/the-comics.html>

Week 3

Origin Stories – The Leakey Foundation Podcast. 06 July 2023. "Episode 66: Field School Diaries." Available on their website (<https://leakeyfoundation.org/originstories/>) or on any podcast app.

Week 6

Just the Zoo of Us, Episode 96 "Orangutans w/Dr. Lara Durgavich!" Available on their website (<https://www.justthezooofus.com/how-to-listen>) or any podcast app.

Week 7

Plummer, T.W. et al. 2023. Expanded geographic distribution and dietary strategies of the earliest Oldowan hominins and *Paranthropus*. *Science* 379: 561-566.

Week 8

Goldfield, A. Mapping Human and Neanderthal Genomes. *Sapiens* 15 Feb 2021. <https://www.sapiens.org/biology/human-genome-project-neanderthals/>

Week 9

Kenyon-Flatt, B. How Scientific Taxonomy Constructed the Myth of Race. *Sapiens* 19 March 2021. <https://www.sapiens.org/biology/race-scientific-taxonomy/>

Week 11

Shearn, I. 2020. Chapter 5: Subsistence. In: Brown, N., McIlwraith, T., & Tubelle de González (Ed.s) *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology*, 2nd edition. The Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges, American Anthropological Association. <https://pressbooks.pub/perspectives/chapter/subsistence/>

Kwon, D. Hunting Down the Facts About Paleo Diets. *Sapiens* 27 October 2022. <https://www.sapiens.org/biology/paleo-diet-inaccurate/>

Week 12

Milo, Stefan. "Venus Figurines: What do they mean? Feat. The Dirt." YouTube Video 6 July 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47cluxRzSy8>

Coltofean-Arizancu, L., Gaydarska, B., & Matic, U. (Ed.s) 2021. *Gender Stereotypes in Archaeology*. Sidestone Press, Leiden. Available to download or read online here: <https://www.sidestone.com/books/gender-stereotypes-in-archaeology>

Fuentes, A. Busting Myths About Sex and Gender. *Sapiens* 11 May 2022. <https://www.sapiens.org/biology/busting-myths-about-sex-and-gender/>

Week 13

Edwards, G.L. & Steele, T.E. 2011. Suid Bone Marrow Yields and How They May Influence Resource Choice. *Journal of Taphonomy* 9(3): 163-179

Shydlovskiy, P., Telizhenko, S., & Ivakin, V. Archaeological Heritage as a Target during War. *The European Archaeologist* 75 – Winter 2023. <https://www.e-a->

a.org/EAA/Publications/Tea/TEA_74/Special_Section/EAA/Navigation_Publications/Tea_74_content/Special_Section.aspx

UTEP Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources my submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

[UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.