

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE - Winter 2025

AN2190(A3): World Prehistory - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Shawn Morton, PhD	PHONE:	(780) 539-2830
OFFICE:	C402	E-MAIL:	smorton@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	W 11:00-12:00 or by appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

An introductory archaeology course that provides an overview of New and Old World prehistory; spans the earliest origins of humans, the spread of anatomically modern humans, the development of hunting and gathering societies, the origins of food production, and the emergence of ancient urban societies.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Feder (2024) *The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory*, 9th Ed., Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S):

On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the use of the vocabulary and concepts of archaeological anthropology.
- Apply critical thinking skills to access, evaluate, and interpret information to draw conclusions and shape arguments.
- Demonstrate a scholarly mindset open to different perspectives, acknowledge the provisional nature of knowledge, and identify the limits of research and understanding.
- Implement qualitative research, including participant observation.
- Express ideas clearly and effectively in writing.

- Act with honesty and integrity to complete academic work and conduct themselves in an academic environment.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Weight
6 reading quizzes, 5 points each, for 30 points total	15%
4 media assignments, 20 points each, for 80 points total	40%
Midterm exam for 30 points total	15%
Final exam for 60 points total	30%
Total = 200 points	100%
Note: All points are weighted equally for 200 points total.	
Extra credit for up to 10 points	5%

Reading Quizzes (6 reading quizzes at 5 points each for 30 points total)

You will be given 6 reading quizzes covering your syllabus and chapters in our textbook throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of a small number of questions (multiple choice, matching, etc.) and are intended to encourage you to keep up with your readings. They are not worth a whole lot of points in the grand scheme of things but could mean the difference between one letter grade and the next; don't let them slip past you! **Reading Quizzes are to be completed on our myClass page, will open Mondays at 8 am of the week assigned, and close Sundays at 11:59 pm (see due dates on schedule).**

Media Assignments (4 assignments at 20 points each for 80 points total)

Our understanding of the ancient world is improving at a remarkable rate. Every day, all over the world, archaeologists are unearthing the relics of our shared heritage and helping to provide context to our modern world. Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to write up four brief summaries (each approximately 500 words; about 1 page single-spaced) on "tales of archaeological discovery" covered by the media. Further, I want you to tell me what **you think** about the discoveries. Are they well covered? What do you find interesting? What new questions does the story raise? What more do you want to know? **Ensure that you choose a story with sufficient detail to meet these guidelines.** You must cite your article in a format that allows me to locate it (i.e., author, title, webpage, link, etc.). Feel free to use any source, from televised media to traditional print and web pages, but make sure that the find discussed is RECENT (i.e., was found within the last 2 years). New discoveries about previously known sites are fine but avoid stories such as "Ten things you didn't know about Egypt's pyramids", etc., and make sure that the story is legitimate (i.e., no pseudo-archaeology). **Media Assignments are to be completed on our myClass page and will open Mondays at 8 am of the week assigned and close Sundays at 11:59 pm (see due dates on schedule).**

Midterm Exams (30 points total)

You will write a midterm exam in this class. It will be worth 30 points and will consist of an essay question and response that will be provided in advance. **Your midterm is to be completed on our myClass page and will open as scheduled on Monday at 8 am of the week assigned and close Sunday at 11:59 pm (see due date on schedule).**

Final Exam (60 points total)

You will have a scheduled final exam in this class; HOWEVER, your exam WILL NOT require you to be physically present on campus and will follow the same format as your midterm exam. Your exam is a TAKE HOME. This Exam is NOT cumulative and will only directly cover the material covered since your midterm. As we will be invoking concepts that are foundational to the discipline of anthropology, it WILL build on the material covered throughout the course. Your final exam will be worth 60 points and consist of an essay question and response that will be provided in advance. **Your final is to be completed on our myClass page and will open on the Monday (at 8 am) of the last week of scheduled classes. The exam is due and will close by 11:59 pm on the date scheduled by the registrar. I will let you know when this information is available.**

Note: I do NOT provide study guides. Significant quantities of research have served to demonstrate that it is not in a student's best interest to be provisioned with a study guide by the instructor. You may not like it, but the reality is that production of your own study guide is an important studying technique in its own right. Like eating vegetables, this is for your own good. You are encouraged to ask questions in class and to approach me in office hours for guidance. Although this isn't a course where you need to memorize a lot of information, you do need to be familiar with what we've covered and where you can find it. Use the tables of objectives included in each module to structure your study guide.

Extra Credit (up to 10 points)

Extra credit is as stated, extra points above and beyond your regular class assignments. These points are somewhat easy to acquire, but to receive any point you must do exactly as asked. Opportunities for extra credit (worth 5 points each) will be announced throughout the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s)
Getting Started			
1.1	Jan. 6	Introduction to course.	Syllabus
Module 1 - What is Archaeology?			
1.2	Jan. 8	What is archaeology? What is a social science?	Chapters 1 & 2
Homework: Reading Quiz 1 - Due Sunday, Jan. 12, 11:59 pm			
Module 2 - Our Origins			
2.1	Jan. 13	Before we were us	Chapters 3 & 4
2.2	Jan. 15		
Homework: Media Assignment 1 - Due Sunday, Jan. 19, 11:59 pm			
3.1	Jan. 20	The first humans	Chapters 5 & 6
3.2	Jan. 22		
Homework: Reading Quiz 2 - Due Sunday, Jan. 26, 11:59 pm			
4.1	Jan. 27	Our spread around the world	Chapter 7
4.2	Jan. 29		
Homework: Reading Quiz 3 - Due Sunday, Feb. 2, 11:59 pm			
Module 3 - Increasing Complexity			
5.1	Feb. 3	First Farmers	Chapter 8
5.2	Feb. 5		
Homework: Media Assignment 2 - Due Sunday, Feb. 9, 11:59 pm			
6.1	Feb. 10	First Farmers	
6.2	Feb. 12		
Midterm Exam - Due Sunday, Feb. 16, 11:59 pm			
7.1	Feb. 17	Family Day - No Classes	
7.2	Feb. 19	Reading Break - No Classes	
8.1	Feb. 24	Origins of complexity	Chapter 9
8.2	Feb. 26		
Homework: Reading Quiz 4 - Due Sunday, Mar. 2, 11:59 pm			
Module 4 - A Hit Parade of Early States			
9.1	Mar. 3	First States: SW Asia and the Mediterranean	Chapter 10
9.2	Mar. 5		
Homework: Media Assignment 3 - Due Sunday, Mar. 9, 11:59 pm			
10.1	Mar. 10	First States: Africa	
10.2	Mar. 12		
11.1	Mar. 17	First States: South Asia and China	Chapter 11
11.2	Mar. 19		
Homework: Reading Quiz 5 - Due Sunday, Mar. 23, 11:59 pm			
12.1	Mar. 24	First States: Mesoamerica	Chapter 12
12.2	Mar. 26		
13.1	Mar. 31	First States: The Andes	Chapter 13
13.2	Apr. 2		
Homework: Media Assignment 4 - Due Sunday, Apr. 6, 11:59 pm			
14.1	Apr. 7	First States: North America	Chapter 14
14.2	Apr. 9	Wrap up	
Homework: Reading Quiz 6 - Due Sunday, Apr. 13, 11:59 pm			
Final Exam - Date TBD			

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Late Assignment/Make-up Policy: You are expected to follow the schedule as posted and **late assignments will not be accepted**, except with my permission. Contrary to a popular idiom, it is always better to ask

for permission than forgiveness; if you know that you are going to miss a deadline, please let me know in advance.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will not be taken, and no part of your grade is directly tied to attendance/participation. You are paying good money for this class and committing a significant amount of time to it. To get the most for your money and effort, **attendance is strongly encouraged.**

Classroom Climate Expectations: To create and maintain a safe and productive learning environment in the classroom, standards of behaviours are expected as follows:

1. **Listen** attentively and TAKE NOTES.
2. **Communicate** clearly and actively when asking questions or during discussions.
3. **Be respectful** when asking questions/discussing topics with EVERYONE. This does not mean that you need to agree with all the views/opinions expressed but note that there is a difference between being critical or engaging in a productive conversation and being confrontational or abusive.
4. **Refrain** from excessive talking or use of technology for NONACADEMIC PURPOSES. You are supposed to be in class, so BE IN CLASS.

If you choose to violate the above expectations, either once or repeatedly the following consequences will be enforced:

1. Verbal warning;
2. Meeting after class/in office hours, or;
3. Pursuing a report of non-academic misconduct under the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Note that you should not take your performance in this course as an indication of how much I like or respect you. No, that will depend on whether you laugh at my jokes (that was a joke). It goes without saying that post-secondary education is a process. You'll figure out what works for you. I'm here to help. Also, looking for a little extra credit? Just send me an email with "AN2190 – Extra Credit" in the subject line and the word "Ramidus" as the body.