

ANTHROP 707

Term 1

Instructor: Dr. Megan Brickley
Email: brickley@mcmaster.ca
Seminar: Wednesday 8:30 – 11:20 am
(EST) Chester New Hall 307

Office: Chester New Hall 518
Office Hours: By appointment in person
or via Zoom

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Course Description

Paleopathology, the study of pathological conditions in past communities, is inherently interdisciplinary and provides a long-term view of many current health issues. This course uses information derived from human remains alongside that obtained from recent clinical medicine and biomedical sciences to inform an understanding of past health and disease. The course provides an introduction to archaeological human remains and key debates on conditions such as: infectious disease; the metabolic syndrome; cancer; nutritional deficiency and traumatic injuries.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Have a knowledge of paleopathology and be aware of key debates linked to longer-term perspectives on the key group of diseases covered in the course.
- Be aware of current ideas in both biomedical/clinical and bioarchaeology/paleopathology research on the conditions.
- Be able to work both independently and as part of a team to introduce and lead discussion on topics.
- Develop an independent research project and present the results as a paper written in the style of a journal article.

Required Materials and Texts

- Weekly readings available through McMaster library or uploaded on A2L.

Class Format

The course is organized as a 2 hour and 40 minute seminar with no formal lectures by the course facilitator. Each week a condition is covered students should find a paper that can be used to contribute to discussion in class (a schedule with allocation of Paleopathology/Bioarchaeology, Clinical/Biomedical, and Medical anthropology papers will be distributed at the start of term). Papers should be uploaded to the Avenue to Learn Discussion folder by 9AM EST on the Monday before the class. Each class will start with a thirty minute introduction by allocated member(s) of the course followed by discussion to selected papers to open discussion. Student letter allocations will be drawn randomly in the first class.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Presentations/leading discussion – 15% (both individual and teamwork will be considered with a 50:50 split – 7.5% individual, 7.5% teamwork)
2. In-class participation – 20% (ongoing throughout course)
3. Research proposal – 15% due on Oct. 4th by 9am EST
4. Research paper – 50% likely to be due by Dec 16th by 9am EST (TBC)

Course Evaluation – Details

Presentations and Leading in-class discussion (15%)

Each student will lead two discussions throughout the course. The first as part of a team (7.5%) and the second individually (7.5%). Students will be assigned their discussion weeks in the first class.

In-class participation (20%), Ongoing throughout course

Students are expected to come prepared to class ready to actively participate in group discussions.

Research proposal (15%), due October 5th by 9am EST

Initial plans will be discussed in class and the preliminary proposal should set out the basic aims of the research topic and the research questions to be explored. Bullet points can be used to set out information.

Word limit 1500 words + a bibliography of items cited.

Plans should be sent via email to the instructor (word or PDF format can be used).

Research paper (50%), likely to be due by 9am EST December 16th 2020 (TBC)

Students can select a project related to their own research interests as long as they fall broadly within the scope of the course. Choice of final paper topics is open; research papers take the form of a paper written in the style of a journal paper and can be based on various topics adjacent to course materials. In addition to human paleopathology, I am open to projects based entirely on biomedical work, classical texts, zooarchaeological or archaeobotanical materials – as long as they have past human health at their core. Assistance will be provided in developing ideas during class discussions and individually when proposals are reviewed. Students are free to undertake projects that utilize on-line resources (published [available] papers, books or data sets/digital collections) or a lab based project. For lab projects, Dr. Brickley has some research resources that include x-rays and CT scans of archaeological human bone. Word limit of 6000 words, information included in a Table or Appendix and the list of literature cited do not count towards the word limit. Figures may be used.

Papers should be sent via email to the instructor (word or PDF format can be used).

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Sept 14th)

Sept 14th – Introduction to the Seminar. Origins and potential of Paleopathology to provide a long-term perspectives on current health

Readings: Grauer, A. L. (2018). A century of paleopathology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 165(4), 904-914. DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.23366

Week 2 (Sept 21st)

Sept 21st – How do we study health and disease in past and present groups? Practical and theoretical underpinnings and approaches.

Readings: Individual list allocated

Grauer, A. L. (2018). Paleopathology: from bones to social behavior. In A. Katzenberg, & A. Grauer (Eds.), *Biological Anthropology of the Human Skeleton, Third Edition* (pp. 447-465). Wiley: New Jersey.

Week 3 (Sept 28th)

Sept 28th – Skeletal growth and development: A foundation for understanding past disease.

Readings: Mays, S. (2018). How should we diagnose disease in palaeopathology? Some epistemological considerations. *International Journal of Paleopathology*, 20, 12-19. DOI: [10.1016/j.ijpp.2017.10.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpp.2017.10.006).

Notes: [Student team A](#), [B](#), [C](#)

Week 4 (Oct 5th)

Oct 5th – Metabolic and endocrine diseases.

Readings: Brickley, M. B. Morgan, B. (2022). Metabolic and Endocrine Disease. In A. L. Grauer (Ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Paleopathology*. Manuscript submitted in final form.

Notes: First draft research proposal due 9am EST.

Week 5 (Oct 12th)

Oct 12th – 16th Recess week No Class.

Week 6 (Oct 19th)

Oct 19th – Individual appointments to discuss proposals. No Class.

Notes: Times to be arranged

Week 7 (Oct 26th)

Oct 26th – Anemia and co-occurrence of nutritional disease

Readings: Chapters 9 & 10 Brickley et al. 2020. *The Bioarchaeology of Metabolic Bone Disease* 2nd ed.

Notes: [Student team D & E](#)

Week 8 (Nov 2nd)

Nov 2nd – Congenital conditions: Parental links to child health.

Readings: Gowland, R. Halcrow, S. (2020). Introduction: The Mother-Infant Nexus in Archaeology and Anthropology. In: Gowland, R. Halcrow, S. (eds) *The Mother-Infant Nexus in Anthropology. Bioarchaeology and Social Theory*. Springer, Cham.

Notes: [Students A](#)

Week 9 (Nov 9th)

Nov 9th – Infectious disease in past communities

Readings: Dutour, O. (2016). Paleopathology of human infections: old bones, antique books, ancient and modern molecules. *Microbiology Spectrum*, 4(4), 4-4.

Notes: [Students B](#)

Week 10 (Nov 16th)

Nov 16th – Fractures: Traumatic injury and underlying health problems

Readings: Mant, M. de la Cova, C. & Brickley, M. B. (2021). Intersectionality and trauma analysis in bioarchaeology. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 174, 583-594.

Notes: [Students C](#)

Week 11 (Nov 23rd)

Nov 23rd – Paleo-oncology: How ancient are cancers?

Readings: Mitchell, P. D., Dittmar, J. M., Mulder, B., Inskip, S., Littlewood, A., Cessford, C., & Robb, J. E. (2021). The prevalence of cancer in Britain before industrialization. *Cancer*, 127(17), 3054-3059.

Notes: [Students D](#)

Week 12 (Nov 30th)

Nov 30th – The visible and the invisible. Joint disease in the context of diabetes.

Readings: Buckley, H.R., & Buikstra, J.E. (2019). Stone Agers in the Fast Lane? How Bioarchaeologists Can Address the Paleo Diet Myth. In J.E. Buikstra

(Ed.), *Bioarchaeologists Speak Out: Deep Time Perspectives on Contemporary Issues* (pp. 161-180). Cham: Springer.

Notes: [Students E](#)

Week 13 (Dec 7th)

Dec 7th – Review of findings.

Readings: N/A

Notes: Students will present their provisional findings for their research paper and get feedback prior to writing up their final paper.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments (research proposal and final paper) should be submitted to the instructor via email.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Lateness penalty for unapproved lateness: 10% per day including weekend days

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Will be discussed on a case by case basis taking into consideration individual circumstances and documentation.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.