MEET PROFESSOR OVERMANN

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Karenleigh A. Overmann is associate professor of anthropology (adjunct) and director of the Center for Cognitive Archaeology at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. She earned her doctorate in archaeology at the University of Oxford as a Clarendon scholar in 2016. She completed two years of postdoctoral research at the University of Bergen from 2018 to 2020 (MSCA individual fellowship, EU project 785793), and she was a visiting scholar at the University of Pittsburgh from 2020 to 2021. Her research focuses on how societies become numerate and literate by using and modifying material forms over generations of collaborative effort, the effect this elaborational mechanism has on conceptual content, how material forms become increasingly refined to elicit specific behavioral and psychological responses, and what this might augur about the future of human cognition. She has also published on the cognitive significance of stone tools, Neandertal cognition, and the literary works of Jane Austen.

To date, she has published 38 journal articles, 3 reviews, and 17 book chapters, and she has co-edited two special journal issues: "Special issue of *Pragmatics & Cognition*: Creativity, cognition and material culture" (2014) and "Special issue of *Adaptive Behavior*: 4E cognition in the Lower Palaeolithic" (2020) with a third in progress: "Special issue of Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences: Philosophy and prehistory: New perspectives on minds, art and culture" (2024). She has published five books, the most recent of which are *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Archaeology* (Oxford University Press, 2024, co-edited with T. Wynn and F. L. Coolidge) and *The Materiality of Numbers: Emergence and Elaboration from Prehistory to Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

COURSE OBJECTIVE
The purpose of this class is to understand Neandertal cognition through the use of online lectures and supporting material in the form of research articles.

Reading Material
The primary reading material is the online lecture coupled with required readings in the form of several research articles each week. You are expected to review this material as it applies to your weekly lesson. After each chapter, you will be expected to complete an online quiz, a series of multiple choice questions.

Required Text

Wynn, T., & Coolidge, F. L. (2012). *How to think like a Neandertal*Links to an external site.. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

POLICIES (READ THE FINE PRINT!)

Assignments

There are 15 multiple-choice quizzes, a quiz for each week. Each question counts equally. The quizzes comprise all (100%) of the undergraduate grade in the course. For graduate credit, the quizzes count 70% and a term paper (10-20 pages in length, in APA format, on a pre-approved topic) counts 30%.

Grading Policy, Criteria, and Scale

Your grade will be determined by weekly quizzes, each of which will cover chapters from the textbook and selected readings. Your final grade will be determined by the number of points that you receive out of a possible 350 points, noting that the bottom 10% in each category may be awarded a minus, and the top 10% in each category may be awarded a plus/

For **undergraduate students**, the final grade will be determined by the percentage of points received out of a possible 350 points on the 15 quizzes: A (100%–90.0%), B (89.9%–80.0%), C (79.9%–70.0%), D (69.9%–60.0%), F (59.9% and below), with option for plus (upper portion of range) and minus (lower portion of range).

For **graduate students**, the final grade will be determined by the number of points received out of a possible 450 (350 points on the 15 quizzes, plus 100 points awarded for the research paper): A (100%–90.0%), B (89.9%–80.0%), C (79.9%–70.0%), D (69.9%–60.0%), F (59.9% and below), with option for plus (upper portion of range) and minus (lower portion of range).

Extra Credit

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

Graduate Requirements

Graduate students will complete a research paper, 10-20 pages in length and in APA format, on a topic approved by the professors by the specified due date..

Due Dates and Deadlines

The syllabus contains the deadline for each unit and specifies the dates by which the quiz must be completed. For each deadline, you have until 11:59 PM Mountain Standard Time (MST) on the deadline day. Remember, these are DEADLINES. You are encouraged to stay well ahead of these deadlines. The sooner you complete the work, the sooner you'll be done with the course.

You must complete each unit by the specific date in the table above. Once that date has passed, you can still access the material in the unit, but you can no longer take the quiz associated with that unit. For example, if Unit 3 must be completed by Friday, June 23, if you don't take Quiz 3 by 11:59 PM MST on June 23, you will receive a 0 for that quiz.

Attendance and participation

Students are expected to complete all lessons, assignments, and exams. Students who choose to withdraw from the course are responsible for completing the necessary withdrawal forms. Students who stop attending without formally withdrawing still appear

on the final grade roster and must be assigned a grade. Consult the UCCS semester calendar for additional information and withdrawal dates.

Preparation

Students should prepare for the weekly lesson by reading the material listed for each session. Students should have a general grasp of the relevant ideas introduced in the material. Students should be prepared to apply reading assignments and material presented in previous weeks to the current week's exams.

Student Academic Ethics Code

UCCS has a Student Academic Ethics Code. As noted in the code, students "shall observe complete honesty in all academic matters to include course requirements, classroom activities, research, and scholarship." The Student Academic Ethics Code is posted here: https://vcaf.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1631/files/inline-files/2017-JUN-27_200-019%20Academic%20Ethics%20Code-APPROVED.docx.pdf

Use of AI Tools

The use of AI tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for specific assignments only, and these will be graded as assisted rather than original work. When the use of the tool is allowed, it will be explicitly noted in the assignment directions. Students are responsible for the information they submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). The use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited, using quotation marks or other appropriate indicators of quoted material when appropriate, in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Writing quality

Written assignments will be graded as follows: 30% Clarity (clear, concise, understandable writing); 30% Organization (thesis statement, topic sentences, development following the thesis, a conclusion that does not introduce new ideas), and 40% Support (uses examples from the course material that are relevant to the original question).

Academic Calendar

Please refer to the Academic Calendar for important logistical information such as the last day you may add a class during the semester, the census date, the final day you may drop a class and still receive a refund, fee deadlines, holidays, etc.

Course Evaluation

The UCCS Anthropology department is committed to providing the best possible learning experience to every student. A key mechanism to provide ongoing excellence in teaching and learning is to gather your thoughts on each course and the effectiveness of our faculty. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing an online evaluation, typically during the last two weeks of the semester. These faculty evaluations are called Faculty Course Questionnaires (FCQs). The are forwarded to the course instructors after final grades are submitted and contain no identifying information in regard to individual students (i.e., they are anonymous). Additional instructions will be provided via a notification sent to student UCCS email accounts later in the semester. Please know that student feedback is extremely valuable to your instructor, the Anthropology department, and UCCS as a whole. In particular, constructive comments guide the enhancement of future versions of this course.

Excel Centers

If you feel your performance in this class would benefit from additional tutelage, UCCS offers a network of five online and on-campus centers, each offering a unique program of academic support to help all UCCS students succeed in every aspect of their academic careers.

Disabilities

A student with a disability who will need accommodations for this course must contact and register with the Disability Services Office, and provide them with documentation of the disability, so that appropriate accommodations for the student's situation can be determined. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, the student should contact the Disability Services Offices as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations cannot be provided until an accommodation letter has been given to the faculty member. The student may contact Disability Services at Main Hall, room 105, 719-255-3354 or dservice@uccs.edu for more information about receiving accommodations.

Military Service

Students who are active or reserve military with the potential of being called to service and/or training during the course should coordinate with the instructor during the first week to discuss accommodations. For additional information on military student support, see the veteran and military affairs.

Communication

Dr. Overmann's primary method of communicating with students is by email. She checks her email compulsively and expects students to check theirs regularly. Consistent with UCCS policy, university email addresses will be used (e.g., student@uccs.edu).

The Professor's Expectations for Students

During completion of this course, you must abide by the UCCS Student Conduct Code. This code specifies what is considered proper and improper student conduct, including matters such as cheating and inappropriate behavior. Students who do not abide by the code can receive sanctions ranging up to expulsion from the university.

Remember that this is a 3 credit-hour course. Please plan on spending a lot of time working on this class. This time will include reviewing lesson plans, completing online lectures, and completing quizzes.

Of course, the amount of time spent does not guarantee you any particular grade. Your letter grade will reflect the amount of material that you learned, as reflected in your quiz scores and the overall quality of your contributions to the course.

We will be respectful of you as students. We will not demean you, insult you, or embarrass you. We expect that you will be respectful and civil in the discussion boards as our students. To us, this means that you will not post off-topic or rude comments.

Solving Technical Difficulties

When you're having technical difficulties (pages not loading, connectivity problems, not able to view images, things not working as they should, etc.), please contact the 24/7 Canvas Telephone Support at 844.802.9230 or online at the Canvas Support CommunityLinks to an external site. Links to an external site.page. Please note this service is separate from the UCCS IT Helpdesk.

Help Understanding Course Material

When you have questions regarding course policies, grading criteria, quiz administration, etc., please post your question to the Discussion Board or ask your professors via email.