

Hello, I'm Professor Gyles Iannone, and I'm here to talk to you about the anthropology and archaeology degrees at Trent University. I want to begin by just telling you a little bit about what anthropology is as a discipline. It was initially conceived of back in the 19th century as a way to study all aspects of the human experience, and so we can look at anthropology as having four main components.

One component focuses on language and science systems and linguistics. Another component looks at cultural aspects, social aspects of being human. A third component looks at our biology, our physical bodies, health and disease. And finally, archaeology looks at all aspects of our life ways, particularly from the past and focusing a lot on our material culture.

So back in the 19th century, when anthropology was created as a discipline, it was already interdisciplinary. So we were very much ahead of the game. We were quite precocious in terms of understanding that to think about what it was to be a human, what it was to live in a community, you needed to understand all these different facets of our existence.

And as an anthropologist or as a member of an anthropology department or someone who's taking classes in an anthropology program, you will find that, you know, there are instructors, there are graduate students who come from all various different kinds of backgrounds and have various different kinds of interests, some of whom are much more comfortable in the sciences, doing scientific work, working in labs with lab coats on and looking into microscopes or various kinds of instruments.

There are other people that are very comfortable speaking to colleagues in the humanities who focus more on written texts and there are archaeologists who are very much environmental in their perspective others that are much more social and are interested in human behavior so you can you can sort of see that the discipline and the kinds of people that you'll find that take anthropology courses or teach anthropology courses really cover the whole gamut from the sciences through the social sciences and humanities.

In terms of Trent's anthropology department it's one of the the biggest and and I think most successful anthropology departments in Canada.

We tend to try to cover all four of the sub-disciplines degree, we have a Bachelor of Science degree to kind of cater to those people that are either more science-based or more arts-based. We have a co-op degree program that allows our students to get job experience and also we find that a lot of our students even without going into the co-op program are able to get job experiences as part of summer hires on culture resource management projects for example. And we also have an accelerated master's program for those students who know that they're going to want to do a master's degree for example.

They can use some of their final year courses to get a head start on their graduate degree studies.

We are interdisciplinary as I said and we are also very broad in terms of our course offerings. Our course offerings really sort of show the extent to which we get our fingers into all the different pies. So you can take a course on cities, for example, that focuses on contemporary New York, or you can take a course on cities that focuses on ancient Babylon and Rome, just for example.

In terms of some of the key outcomes for somebody who takes a anthropology program. You will learn a lot about what it means to be human, what it means to live in a community, in a diverse society.

You will learn about different types of cultural traditions from different times and different places.

You'll sort of appreciate the complexities of living in the world and how people in the past or in the present in your own backyard or on the other side of the world are different from you, but also similar in many ways.

So you will develop an appreciation for the multifaceted character of what it means to be human and different ways of being human.

You'll also focus a lot on our complex relationships, not just with other people, but with a natural environment. And in broader terms, I think anthropology is one of the best disciplines to take, to help develop your critical thinking skills, to engage with the world, with your eyes wide open, to understand what's going on around you, and why it's going on, and what the implications are for you.

I think you'll also learn to be a very good communicator. You'll be able to stand up in a meeting or stand up in public and make yourself heard in an effective manner or in a written form. And anthropologists generally, in many ways, work in groups or work with people. And so I think you will, regardless of what your lifetime job ends up being, you will be a more effective group worker from participating in anthropology courses and exercises and projects.

The archaeology degree is housed within the anthropology department for the most part. We're one of the few universities in Canada where you can get an archaeology degree, a bachelor's degree and a bachelor of science degree, and we also have a bachelor degree for those interested in classical archaeology. So ancient Greece and Rome.

We have a large permanent archaeological faculty, some of whom focus on archaeology, others that focus on the biological side of past populations and so stature, health and disease. We have a lot of different courses taught by a range of researchers who are very active in different parts of the world. We have people working in North America, people working in South America and Central America, parts of Europe, the Mediterranean world, and also Southeast Asia.

We have field opportunities for our students to learn how to do archaeology in a field setting. So we have field schools in Belize, field schools in Ontario and we also take students to Greece and to Vietnam.

So we have in terms of specializations in the archaeological degree you can get specializations in bio-archaeology. Again if you're interested in the human body you're interested in disease and diet.

We have specialization in environmental archaeology if you're interested in the human environment relationship in the past, and also we have a specialization in Mediterranean archeology as well, so if you're interested in Ancient Greece and Rome for example.

One of the best ways I think to give you an idea of the range of topics that we specialize in, the types of courses that you will be able to take and the types of experiences you might be able to have is just quickly walk you through our faculty and let you know what their main research interests are and what are some of the courses they teach are.

So I'll just begin with myself. I'm Professor **Gyles Iannone**. I'm an archaeologist. I'm very interested in early states and the development of the first cities. I'm also interested in settlement archaeology, so I'm really interested in looking at how common people in the past live people who were urban citizens but maybe not elites or people that lived in suburban or rural communities surrounding ancient cities. I spent a lot of time studying the ancient Maya of Mesoamerica.

I spent 24 years excavating in the country of Belize and I used to take students from Trent with me as part of a field school every year and then I began to sort of branch out a little bit and now I spend a lot of my research time in Southeast Asia. I worked in Myanmar for a while until the military coup, and now I have a project, a very interesting project in Vietnam that I'm taking Trent students with me.

Some of the courses I teach, are ANTH 2122, Farms to Empires, and also the Archaeology of Complexity, so this looks at the development of inequality and the state and urban living.

I also teach a course on the archaeology of climate change by looking at case studies from around the world, from the distant past to the more recent past, and I also teach a course on the collapse of complex societies, looking at some very successful and large complex societies in the past like Rome or the Maya who ran into troubles and the idea is that we can learn from these case studies.

Our most recent hire is **Leanne Tripp** who's a medical anthropologist. She's interested in disease and demographics. She has done a lot of work in the Mediterranean region particularly in Gibraltar and on the island of Malta, particularly looking at historic diseases in those areas. She has also looked more closer to home in indigenous populations in Canada and the impacts of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic and tuberculosis syndemic. And she's also done some research on the most recent epidemic, which of course was COVID-19, and particularly its influence on indigenous populations. And she also has an interest in the study of primates, particularly macaques on the Island of Gibraltar. So she teaches courses on biological anthropology, plagues and people, contemporary human variation in evolution and biological explorations of the human life course.

Dr. Jocelyn Williams is another biological anthropologist. And she is also interested in disease as well as diet. She works with stable isotopes to try and reconstruct diets of people that lived in the past and to also understand their mobility, where people were born and where they died. She also has an interest in infant feeding practices and health and the impacts of colonialism. She's done a lot of work in Peru with the Spanish conquest and the Inca Empire, as well as work in Central America and Mesoamerica on Maya peoples, their mortuary practices and their diets. She teaches courses in Darwin death and disease, human pathology, paleopathology, advanced skeletal biology and nutritional anthropology.

Dr. James Conolly is an archaeologist. He's worked in many parts of the world, including all around the Mediterranean. But more recently, he is focusing much more on Ontario archaeology, North American archaeology, Great Lakes archaeology, and he teaches courses in those areas. He also has research interests in underwater survey and he has his own research vessel. And he also does a lot of research with GIS and remote sensing.

Professor Sharon Hepburn is a cultural anthropologist who specializes in travel and tourism and sensory mediation of culture and death in the idea of mortality and she teaches courses in cultural anthropology, culture and mortality, Buddhism, culture and society. She's done research in Tibet and Nepal as well as in Ireland.

Professor Roger Lohmann is also a cultural anthropologist based down in Durham. Some of his research interests are culture and dreams and dogs, the film, The Hidden People of New Guinea, and the spiritual beings and hauntings. He's done a lot of work in the past in New Guinea. He teaches courses on people of Pacific, the Pacific Ocean, Oceania, ethnographic methods and ethics, and the anthropology of religion.

Professor Rodney Fitzsimons is an archaeologist specializing in the Mediterranean, and particularly ancient Greek civilizations. He's done a lot of work on the island of Crete. His main areas of interest are material culture and identity, pre and proto-historic Aegean societies, monumental architecture, and early state formation and urbanization. He teaches very popular courses on the Trojan War, on the archaeology and art history of archaeology.

Professor Helen Haines is also an archaeologist specializing in the ancient cultures of Mesoamerica, particularly the country of Belize. She focuses her research on political and social economies, early state systems, and she also does work in Ontario as well, particularly historical archaeology. She teaches courses on farms to empires, so convergence again of complexity, and the first states, the first cities. She also teaches the collapse of complex societies, and she is currently running the Belize Field School. She's based in Durham.

Professor Anne Meneley is a cultural anthropologist who works in many parts of the world. She worked in the Middle East for many, many years. She's also done some research in the Mediterranean world. She's interested in food and politics. She's done some interesting research on olive oil and the Middle East. She also is interested in walking and mobilities and plants and gardens. She teaches some interesting courses in culture and food, and anthropology of the city.

Professor Laure Dubreuil is an archaeologist, focusing mainly in the Middle East, and she is interested in the origins of farming. She also studies stone tools and ancient technologies, and she uses experimental archaeology as a means to try and understand how ancient stone tools were actually used. She does her research in Southwest Asia, as well as in Mongolia. She teaches courses on foraging to farming, so our earlier hunter gatherer fisher societies and how some of them eventually transitioned into being more settled agricultural societies. She teaches lab methods course, particularly focusing on bones and stone tools (lithics), as well as a course on origins and spread of agriculture.

Paul Manning is a cultural anthropologist with research interest in folklore, gardens, and material culture. He's done research in Georgia, Wales, and North America, and he's also a linguistic anthropologist who's very interested in signs and symbols. He teaches popular courses on the anthropology of language and the anthropology of drinks and drinking.

Professor Paul Szpak is an archaeologist in our department. He's very scientific in his research interests. He studies stable isotopes to learn about things like people's mobility as well as their diets. He studies environmental issues such as paleoecology and human subsistence. Geographically, he has done work in the Arctic, in the Canadian Arctic, in Alaska and Greenland, as well as a lot of work in South America, so Peru and Chile. He teaches courses on introduction to archaeological science and ancient biomolecules and stable isotopes in the biosphere.

Professor Eugene Morin is an archaeologist, very interested in our earliest ancestors, particularly Neanderthals. He's an expert in European Paleolithic with a particular focus on faunal analysis. So he's interested in animal bones and what they tell us about climate, about diet, about human behavior. He's a human behavioral ecologist and again his focus is mainly on hunter-gatherer fisher societies. He teaches courses on archaeozoology, so identifying animal bones from the past, how those animal bones may have been modified by butchering, etc., and teaches courses also on hunter-gatherers.

Jennifer Moore is an archaeologist in our department focusing mainly on the Mediterranean, in particular North Africa. She looks at votive and funerary practices. She does a lot of ceramic analysis so pottery analysis and looks at pottery indications of culture and trade. She looks at indigenous populations in North Africa and particularly influences from the Carthaginians and the Romans. She teaches popular courses on Egyptian archaeology, Greco-Roman mystery cults and religions and as well as cultural heritage and threats and responses to cultural heritage in different parts of the world.

Another way to sort of think about doing an anthropology or archaeology degree is to sort of look at what some of our students have done after leaving Trent. And so I've just selected some of my former students to see what they're doing now.

So Jeffrey Seibert is working in Ontario. He's a regional archaeologist with the has built quite a successful career for himself with the government and does a lot of work with liaising with indigenous populations.

Zana Mody is currently doing her PhD. She had an interest in environmental studies and combined that with archaeology to become a, she's doing work now sort of as a socio-ecologist, particularly with emphasis on sort of marine wetlands, and she's working in different parts of the world.

Maxime Lamoureux-St-Hillaire ended up doing his PhD down at Tulane University in New Orleans, and he's now actually a professor at Mount Royal University in Calgary with a specialization in the Maya cultures of Central America.

Barbara Slim came to Trent from Mexico and worked for many years with me down in Belize. She's now the principal archaeologist at a large company that basically does impact assessments. So when there are big developments going on, just like there's environmental assessments, there's also archaeological assessments to make sure that there's no cultural heritage that's going to be damaged and so Barbara is the principal archaeologist for a large company that oversees a number of crews that go out and do assessments all around Ontario.

Talis Talving-Loza actually came from Mexico and did his degrees at Trent as well and Talis is now currently employed by the federal government and has made again quite a successful career for himself following his archaeology degree.

Leah-Marie Marajh is also a Trent graduate, worked with me in Myanmar and other parts of Southeast Asia and was interested very much in water management. So her research looked at water management in the past and then she went on to look more at water management in the present, but she also picked up a lot of GIS skills and now she's a web geospatial leader for the Greater Guelph metropolitan area.

So you can see hopefully from looking at our faculty and looking at what some of my own students have done, that archeology and anthropology degrees do open up a lot of opportunities for you and I think that they are the kind of degrees that you will pick up a lot of skills that are useful for almost any job that you might end up getting and I think if you choose anthropology or archaeology as your home discipline and for your degrees you're going to have you're going to learn a lot you're going to have a lot of fun doing it so thank you very much for listening and I hope to see you soon.