

**CS 4585F (FALL 2025)**

**VINDOLANDA FIELD SCHOOL  
RESEARCH PROJECT**



**INSTRUCTOR INFO:**

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Greene

Office Hours: TBA

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Only students who have taken part in CS4580: The Vindolanda Field School are eligible to register for CS4585. Permission from the instructor and the Department of Classical Studies is required.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL**

There are no textbooks for this course. This is an independent research course and you will gather the resources that pertain to your individual archaeological research project through the course of your research during the semester. I am here to help if you are having any trouble finding specific sources pertinent to your subject. We will discuss this further during our meetings.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

On successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to:

1. organize an archaeological research project of significant size independently.
2. present the results of their research in a professional format with all conventions of the discipline of archaeology in place.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES/TRANSFERABLE SKILLS**

Students completing this course are expected to have acquired:

1. the ability to analyze archaeological evidence: Students should gain a developed understanding of the potential, as well as limits and restrictions, of our evidence in the reconstruction of past societies.
2. writing skills: Students will learn to synthesize material and present their thoughts clearly and concisely within prescribed limits, to present a thesis statement with clear objectives and approach, and to cogently argue a point in written format.
3. communication skills: The ability to present succinct thoughts in oral discussion is important. Students will practice communicating by stating their opinions and posing questions in our research meetings. It is hoped that students will learn to be inquisitive, to question presumed “fact,” and to learn to craft an argument for oral presentation.

## **ASSIGNMENTS and ASSESSMENT**

This is an independent research course with one assignment worth 100% of the grade: a significant research project that shows in-depth knowledge of the archaeological subject chosen and ability to execute a flawless final research product. The assessment will be based on the cumulative process of the research throughout the semester, which will be executed through meetings and help with the instructor, milestone goals along the way, as well as the final product submitted at the end of the project.

The deadline is flexible in the last two weeks of the teaching semester (not during the final exam period) and will be decided in consultation between the student and the instructor.

\* Please note that because the submission deadline for this assignment already includes flexibility in the form of acceptance without penalty within a 2-week window, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility, without appropriate discussion with the instructor. Students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline discussed and chosen together. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students should discuss the issue with the instructor first, and they will then be advised if they need to seek Academic Consideration. Should students submit their assessment beyond the period of flexibility, a late penalty of 5% per day will be applied. Academic Consideration requests may be granted **only** for extenuating circumstances that **started before** the deadline and **lasted longer** than the No-Late-Penalty Period.

**Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:**

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

**For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar’s webpage:**

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/)

**All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.**

## **USE OF AI ON ASSIGNMENTS**

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration and we can discuss during our meetings how to best use AI tools in this particular course; however, students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students’ own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning

environment that promotes critical thinking and independent inquiry, and allows them to produce original written contributions.

## **ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS (per University Policies)**

### **ACADEMIC OFFENSES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, here:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>.

#### **Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### **POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Religious Accommodation requests for final exams should be submitted via the Student Absence Portal.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION**

**Academic Accommodation** is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students.”

[https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

#### **Special Examinations**

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Academic Advising**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

(<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentssupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

### **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.