



## **ANTH 3W03 – Bioarchaeology of (Dis)ability and Care**

### **Main Critical Research Assignment Applying and Critiquing the Bioarchaeology of Care**

**Winter 2020**

**Consists of three separate components  
Totals 65% of your final grade**

This project allows you to use your **creativity** and design a **practical and applied** project to test and critique the Bioarchaeology of Care frameworks. Through your in-depth investigation of a case study, you will **identify limitations** in the current approach. Your work will also act to propose **exciting and new ideas** in the study of human difference and care by suggesting new avenues of research, lines of evidence, and ideas worth consideration.

#### **Assignment Summary:**

This is a large, three-part assignment; each component builds on the previous one. You will work throughout the term to research, apply, analyze, and critique a bioarchaeological case study from before the year 2000. This assignment requires you to use the Index of Care and your knowledge about impairment and/or disability. Your project will not only evaluate and critique, but also strive to project future approaches worth considering when evaluating lived experiences of poor-health using skeletal material.

#### **Part I: Project Proposal (15%) Due February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Introduce your project idea in 500 words. In this proposal, you will explain what case you would like to reanalyze using the Index of Care and justify your topic choice (i.e., why does this require reanalysis). You might explore some of the limitations and outcomes you expect to encounter in your project. Remember, your case should be a bioarchaeological/palaeopathological study from before, approximately, the year 2000. This case study should focus on an individual who may have experienced impairment as a result of a pathological condition. The case study must not use the Index or Bioarchaeology of Care framework.

In this proposal, you will also include a reading list of five, carefully chosen peer-reviewed articles that articulate with your topic. Please list these articles in APA citation style. You must have at least two articles that pertain to the site, temporal and/or social context; and two articles that discuss the modern clinical evaluation of the functional and/or social repercussions of the pathological condition you have

chosen. Please include a sentence justifying why these are the most important and relevant articles to include in your research. These articles will be used to complete Part II; before you begin, you may find it useful to glance at the Index of Care (Part II, <http://www.indexofcare.org/>) to clarify why the contextual and clinical entries are needed.

**Submit your completed annotated bibliography on Avenue to Learn on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** (Note: .pdf and .word files are acceptable, .pages files cannot be read and therefore cannot be submitted to Avenue for grading).

**Grading Rubric:**

<b>Suitability of Article</b> The chosen topic should be a bioarch/palaeopath case study that does not employ the Index of Care framework, yet seems suitably ‘severe’ for a reanalysis of care in the past.	<b>/2</b>
<b>Style &amp; Structure</b> Grammar, formatting, sentence structure, clarity.	<b>/2</b>
<b>Content &amp; Proposal</b> Student clearly describes their plan for the execution this research, including what they believe the limitations and outcomes might be.	<b>/6</b>
<b>Quality/Relevance of Suggested Readings</b> 1 point awarded per reading. These must be correctly formatted in APA citation style.	<b>/5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>/15</b>

## **Part II: Export from the Index of Care (25%) Due March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

In the second part of the assignment, you will use the Index of Care on your selected case study. We will discuss how to use the Index of Care website in class (ca. Jan 28<sup>th</sup>). It is important to attend this class to be sure that you are familiar with the system and what is expected of you for this assignment. This part of the assignment will take a considerable amount of time and research. Please make sure to start early.

### **Instructions on using the Index of Care Website:**

Go to the website, <http://www.indexofcare.org/>. In order to use the website, you must register, create a username/password, and log in. Do **NOT** forget your username and password! No accommodations will be provided for people who lose access to their work in this manner.

Once you are logged in, spend some time familiarizing yourself with the website. Click through the various pages. When you are ready to start entering the information about your case study, click the tab labelled “Case Studies” at the top of the page. On the new page that opens, create a new index of care record. I would recommend naming this record after the author(s) of the case study (e.g., Gilmour et al. 2018), you may also wish to include your own last name and some other brief descriptor (e.g., Gilmour et al. 2018 – SMITH – Trauma). Provide a brief description of the record. It might be useful to include your case study description/proposal from Part I here.

Once you have created a new record, it will take you immediately into ‘Step 1’. You’ll notice the four steps required in the Index of Care are listed on the left (see Figure 1. Steps are indicated with Red Arrows). Familiarize yourself with the content required for these steps by clicking through the pages. Note that each step may have multiple ‘pages’ of information to enter (these are listed along the bottom of each Step’s page, indicated in Figure 1 with pink arrows).

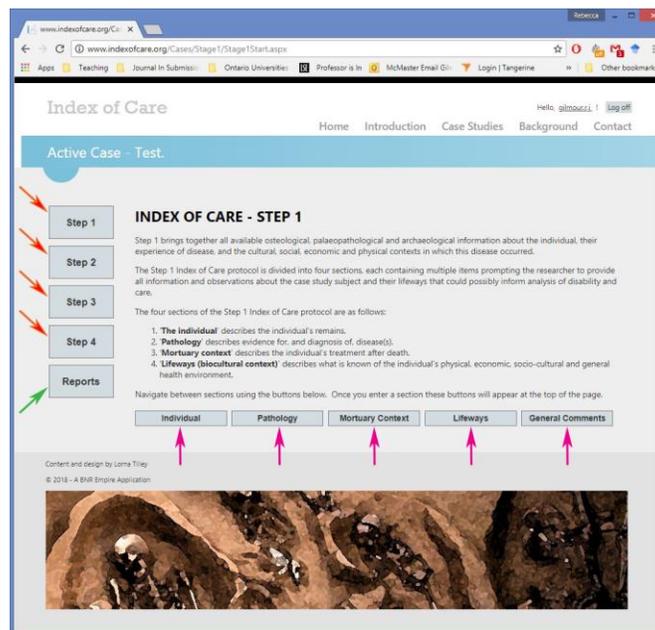


Figure 1 – This is a screen capture from the Index of Care website (after you create a project). The Steps that must be completed are indicated with red arrows along the left, note that some Steps have multiple stages (indicated with pink arrows). Once all the Steps are filled in and complete, generate reports from the ‘Reports’ page (indicated with the green arrow).

Complete the Index of Care Steps from 1 through 4 to the best of your abilities. Some fields will be able to be answered based on the information contained within your published case study, while other fields will require additional research (include citation information). **This is where your strategically chosen articles from Part I of this assignment could help you!** You will also have to supplement these with additional peer-reviewed research.

When all your Steps are completed, click on the 'Reports' button on the left (indicated with a green arrow on Figure 1). On this page you will be able to generate Word document reports for each individual Step. Download these and combine into a single document. As the final generated report(s) are saved in Word, you are able to make last minute edits here (including adding a reference list).

**Some students have had issues with the online software clearing/deleting their work! To avoid this, it is recommended to either make regular exported backups, or even export the form first, fill it in, and copy/paste into the IOC later (if necessary).**

Finally, write and include a **very short reflection** on your experience with the Index of Care tool and on your final outcomes. In <250 words, reflect on how, after you've used it, you feel that this method may help/hinder interpretations of past peoples, and how it might be improved.

**Submit your completed report (Steps 1-4) on Avenue to Learn by March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.**

*Some additional comments:*

1. While the index of care is usually used by researchers collecting primary data, we will be using it to re-evaluate and re-interpret an existing (older) case study. As such, be sure to **include citations where necessary**.
2. There may not be sufficient information available to answer all the questions/fill in all the blanks. While this is to be expected, make sure to justify and explain why you are unable to fill in certain sections. Being able to **identify the limitations of the work** is normal practice in academic work, and will be very useful to Part III of this assignment.
3. It is not possible to assign a minimum or maximum word/page count for this part of the assignment. Please just stick to the necessary, relevant, and important points. **Extra-long answers will not earn you a higher grade** (just as extra-short answers may not earn you a higher grade).

**Grading Rubric:**

<b>Clarity</b> Grammar, structure, formatting, spelling, etc.	<b>/5</b>
<b>Comprehensiveness, Interpretations, and Explanations</b> How thorough and complete is the research? Are there noticeable or important gaps that should be addressed to better interpret a case using the Index of Care?	<b>/12</b>
<b>Acknowledgement of Limitations</b> No bioarchaeological research is without its limitations. What limits the interpretations in this case study? These limitations will likely be discussed throughout.	<b>/3</b>
<b>Referencing</b> APA citation style used. Sufficient and appropriate references integrated throughout.	<b>/5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>/25</b>

**Part III: Poster and 3-Minute Thesis Presentation (based on Part I & II) (25%) Due March 31<sup>st</sup> in class.**

The final part of the term assignment is a **poster and presentation** to be presented in class on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

This poster will bring Parts I and II together in a critical manner. Pull your Index of Care findings together to re-evaluate and interpret a previously published case-study. Present your findings in a visually appealing way. Please remember that posters should have relatively few words, many recommend ~500-800 (and no more than ~1000). Try to incorporate images and graphics where possible. **Be creative!** This is an opportunity to really try something new and different (but please still give me some academic content for grading purposes!). There has been a movement to revise academic poster design ([worth having a think about](#)); if in doubt about your approach, please ask!

Guidelines for your poster: For this poster, we will follow the guidelines set out for posters by the American Association of Physical Anthropologists; you can find these [AAPA guidelines here](#). Please take note of the size guidelines and suggestions for organization & legibility. There are LOTS of additional resources online to give you guidance for how to make a poster. For example, this youtube video instructional for making a poster using PowerPoint ([link](#)). If you're more technologically adept, you may also use programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, and many others! If you do choose to use different software, please submit your file to Avenue in pdf format.

In class, we will project each poster on the overhead projector. You will present your research in a 3-Minute Thesis style presentation, in class, on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please see the [3MT website](#) for examples (Check out this bioarchaeology example by [Dr. Amy Scott!](#)). Often 3MT participants are encouraged to use a single-slide visual; compared to these 3MT slides, your posters may be more traditional in design. While you should definitely use your images to refer to while presenting, your posters should also act as stand-alone presentation pieces, such as for a conference. Because of this, you might consider developing a poster that could be presented at a student conference, such as the McMaster Anthropology Society Undergraduate Conference each spring!

In your poster and presentation you may wish to touch on your experiences using the Index of Care. How useful is this tool? Go beyond comments on the organization of the website (these are probably not relevant here) and critique the design, content, and application of the Index. Did you encounter, or do you foresee any difficulties, in the Index of Care's application? Use specific examples from Parts I and II to illustrate your critique.

**Please submit your PowerPoint or pdf poster to the dropbox on Avenue to Learn by 9:00am on March 31<sup>st</sup>.** I will prepare these for presentation later in the day; these submitted posters will be considered more closely for grading.

**Poster Rubric /15**

<p><b>Clarity &amp; Design</b>          Grammar, structure, formatting, spelling, etc.          Effectiveness of poster design. Not too wordy, well thought out and organized. Visuals included and used where appropriate.</p>	<p><b>/5</b></p>
<p><b>Comprehensiveness, Interpretations, and Explanations</b>          How thorough and complete is the research? Are there noticeable or important gaps that should be addressed to better interpret a case using the Index of Care? Does the student acknowledge and discuss their limitations? Is the study comprehensively researched and referenced?</p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>	<p><b>/15</b></p>

**Presentation Rubric /10**

<p><b>Clarity &amp; Organization</b>          Does the student keep to the 3 minute limit? Is the research presented in a clear and efficient way within this time frame?</p>	<p><b>/2</b></p>
<p><b>Content &amp; Research</b>          Is the research sound and thorough? Are the findings and limitations discussed comprehensively? Are the students able to answer questions about their work?</p>	<p><b>/5</b></p>
<p><b>Peer-Score</b>          Your class-mates will participate in the scoring of each presentation. Each student in the class will complete a rubric and assign a final grade to each presenter. These grades will be totaled and averaged to comprise this score /5.</p>	<p><b>/3</b></p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>	<p><b>/10</b></p>

\*Note: Part of the participation score for the presentations week will be to join in by asking questions of presentations.

**Formatting Specifics for ALL Sections of the Assignment:**

Please write in full sentences and paragraphs, using Times New Roman Font, 12 point, and 1.5 to double spaced (except for the Index of Care Report when the generated export formatting is fine). For some sections of the Index of Care (Part II) it may be appropriate to use point form (e.g., when listing bones present), please use your careful discretion. Margins should be set at 1 inch. The Index of Care auto-generated report may pose an exception to the font and margin formatting, you may submit this as it is generated, but please do not make your margins smaller just to add more text! Please number your pages. Make sure that your name and student number is included in all submitted work (including the Index of Care auto-generated reports).

*Citations:*

Make sure that you are referencing your sources when needed (and it will be needed!). Please use APA citation style.

*Word Count Summaries:*

- Part I:** 500 words maximum
- Part II:** Not possible to specify word count for this section, but please **be reasonable** and use your best editing skills!
- Part III:** Effective posters are usually (much less than) <1000 words