

BRANDON UNIVERSITY
Department of Anthropology

12:366 Forensic Anthropology Field School
Summer 2022 (Mon. July 4th – Thurs. July 21st)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Brandon University campuses are on the ancestral and traditional lands of the anishinaabeg (Ojibwe), ininiwak (Muskego Cree), īthiniwak (Rocky Cree), anishininiwak (Ojibwe-Cree), Dakota, Denesuline (Dene), and Inuit peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We live and work on Treaty no. 1 and Treaty no. 2 territories; we respect these Treaties, and acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and remain dedicated to working with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. I respect, acknowledge and thank all whom came before and strive to learn and honour Indigenous teachings. I am grateful to live, love, learn, and play on this land.

Lecture Time: Monday – Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm

Room: LI H004 & Brandon Hills field site

Instructor: Dr. Emily Holland

Office: Clark Hall 213

e-mail: hollande@brandonu.ca

Office Hours: During break in class

Pre-requisite: One of the following: 12:256 or permission of Instructor

Course Website: Through Moodle (use your Brandon username and password to login)
key: grave

Required Texts: Dupras, T. L., Schultz, J. J., Wheeler, S. M., & Williams, L. J. (2012). *Forensic recovery of human remains: archaeological approaches*. 2nd Edition. CRC Press. (available on Amazon)

Additional Required Readings: There may be additional recommended reading from time to time, as announced in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OVERVIEW

Calendar Description: This course covers the field component of forensic anthropology from planning and conducting a search for a missing person presumed dead to excavating a clandestine grave to writing a final report and giving a formal presentation. Skills developed in this course are foundational for those interested in crime scene investigation and/or forensic anthropology. The course runs all-day for three weeks Monday to Friday in a spring/summer term. **Warning:** Non-human remains in various stages of decomposition are utilized in the field. **Note:** This course does not qualify students to professionally perform the duties of a forensic anthropologist.

Course Overview:

This course will provide the practical training required to search for, locate, document and recover human remains and forensic evidence from an outdoor crime scene. The course combines in-class instruction with outdoor practical training at a 'scene' at BU owned property in the Brandon Hills. While non-human remains are used in the field component due to ethical considerations, students are expected to treat the case as a real situation and the remains as though they are human. Students will generate their own search plans based on case information and follow through the entire process to the excavation of a clandestine grave. Documentation (note taking, photography, mapping etc.) and maintaining chain of custody (continuity of evidence) will be emphasized. Students will work collaboratively and closely in groups from the initial stages of search planning, through search implementation, documentation, excavation and final reports and presentations considered appropriate for court. The course will develop students' critical thinking, analytical, reflective learning, team-work, leadership and communication skills through an intensive experiential learning opportunity.

OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Develop an understanding of the importance of teamwork & collaboration in forensic anthropology
- 2) Build practical skills in searching and excavating an outdoor crime scene
- 3) Develop an appreciation for the importance of the chain of evidence
- 4) Develop critical thinking, analytical, reflective learning, teamwork and leadership skills
- 5) Improve communication skills and learn how to write a report and presentation appropriate for court

Learning outcomes: By the end of this course you will be able to or have developed skills to:

- 1) Participate actively, professionally and ethically in a forensic anthropological search
- 2) Articulate the importance of, and understand the ramifications of the chain of evidence
- 3) Work cooperatively and productively as an engaged member of a team, often under tight deadlines
- 4) Write a report and create a presentation that can be understood by a varied audience

ASSESSMENT

Assignment/Test	Description	Grade (% of final)	Date Due
Group Search Plan	Detailed plan of search & eqpt list	15	Fri. July 8 th
Test	All material covered to date	10	Mon. July 11 th
Maps (group)	Maps created from practical exercises	5	Mon. July 11 th
Group Case Book	All field forms/data sheets	10	Wed. July 20 th
Individual Case Notebooks	Created throughout field school	10	Thurs. July 21 st
Case Presentation (group)	Final professional presentation of case	15	Thurs. July 21 st
Final Case Report (individual)	Final report of case & conclusions	20	Mon. July 25 th
Participation	Ongoing active & engaged interaction (see description)	15	Ongoing

Statement of "Fair Warning": In this course, students will 1) work with a mock forensic case situation and 2) work with animal remains in various stages of decomposition ('buried remains'). Students may find this offensive, disturbing or otherwise troubling. Any student not wishing to undertake this work should contact the instructor immediately so that enrollment in an alternative course more in keeping with the student's interest can be facilitated.

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW without academic penalty – TUES. JULY 19TH

Course work worth 30% of your grade will be returned by this date.

Roles and Responsibilities of Students and the Professor

In registering for this course, **students agree to:**

- ✓ **Treat peers, the professor and all materials used in the course with respect, consideration and care: failing to do so could result in your removal from the class period and/or from the course itself**
- ✓ Check their Brandon University email account daily (at minimum)
 - Sometimes the only way for me to contact you is through your BU email
- ✓ Check the course website on Moodle on a daily basis
- ✓ **Be prepared for class & be on time**
- ✓ Participate actively & respectfully in class; discussions, group work and practical exercises
- ✓ Work collaboratively as a member of a team, often under tight deadlines
- ✓ Complete assignments according to instructions and to submit them on time
- ✓ Work to develop the skills & professional attitude appropriate for forensic anthropology
- ✓ Be motivated to learn, whether it be from the professor, peers, class readings or assignments
- ✓ Accept evaluation & feedback from the professor
- ✓ Respect the classroom & the views and opinions of peers and the professor
- ✓ Read & follow Brandon University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

In teaching this course, the **Professor agrees to:**

- ✓ Use electronic means to communicate with students (email and through a course website on Moodle) (in addition to in class communication☺)
- ✓ Be committed to creating a positive learning environment for all students
- ✓ Respect student views and opinions
- ✓ Provide helpful, constructive and fair evaluation and/or feedback on assignments and tests in a timely fashion
- ✓ Be available for office hours or additional time for assistance in understanding assignments and class expectations
- ✓ Follow Brandon University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE & READINGS*

DATE	LECTURE & PRACTICAL	READINGS
WEEK 1: Lecture, practical skill development, reconnaissance & scene identification		
<u>Mon. July 4</u> 9-10:30 10:30-11 11-12 12-1 1-3 3-3:15 3:15-4:30	<u>Searching for Human Remains</u> Intro, Safety, Ethics & Professionalism <i>Break</i> Search & Survey Techniques <i>Lunch</i> Practice search techniques <i>Break</i> Using maps & "The Case"	Chapters 1-3 & 5 & 6
<u>Tue. July 5</u> 9-10 10-10:30 10:30-12 12-1 1-4 4-4:30	<u>Crime Scene Investigation & Documentation</u> Securing the Scene, Establishing a Datum & Crime Scene Protocols <i>Break</i> Documentation: notetaking, photography, evidence <i>Lunch</i> <u>Brandon Hills: Reconnaissance & Search Planning</u> Return to BU	Chapter 4 Devise search plan - due Fri. morning Develop equipment list - due Fri. morning
<u>Wed. July 6</u> 9-10 10-10:30 10:30-12 12-1 1-2:30 2:30-3 3-4:00 4-4:30	<u>Excavation & Mapping</u> Excavation & Stratigraphy <i>Break</i> Stratigraphy Exercises <i>Lunch</i> Mapping Techniques <i>Break</i> Other evidence collection Open questions/catchup	Chapters 7, 8 & 9
<u>Thurs. July 7</u> 9-12 12-1 1-3 3-3:15 3:15-4:30	<u>Mapping</u> Practice mapping techniques <i>Lunch</i> Draw maps <i>Break</i> Open time (finalize search plan)	Chapter 7
<u>Fri. July 8</u> 9-12 12-1 1-2:30 2:30-3 3-4:30	<u>Final Planning Stages</u> Eqpt inventory; make sure ready for field <i>Lunch</i> Excavation Techniques & Human Remains <i>Break</i> Catch-up/final prep	Search Plan & Eqpt List Due at beginning of class (10%) Chapter 8 & 10

WEEK 2: FIELD		
Mon. July 11 9-10:30 10:30-11 11-12 12-1 1-4 4-4:30	<u>Test @ BU</u> Test (10%) (pending weather) <i>Break</i> Review search plan w feedback, changes if needed, finalize areas <i>Lunch & travel to site</i> <u>Scene Day 1: Brandon Hills</u> Conduct Search Pack up, debriefing on site & return to BU	Maps Due at beginning of class (5%)
Tues. July 12 9-9:30 9:30-4 4-4:30	<u>Scene Day 2: Brandon Hills</u> Briefing on site Conduct Search Pack up, debriefing on site & return to BU	
Wed. July 13 9-9:30 9:30-4 4-4:30	<u>Scene Day 3: Brandon Hills</u> Briefing on site Complete Search & Prepare for Excavation Pack up, debriefing on site & return to BU	
Thurs. July 14 9-9:30 9:30-4:00 4-4:30	<u>Scene Day 4: Brandon Hills</u> Briefing on site Prep and/or excavate grave; document scene Pack up, debriefing on site & return to BU	
Fri. July 15 9-9:30 9:30-4:00 4-4:30	<u>Scene Day 5: Brandon Hills</u> Briefing on site Finish Excavation & Scene Documentation Pack up, debriefing on site & return to BU	

WEEK 3: FINAL DAY AT SCENE & POST-PROCESSING		
<u>Mon. July 18</u>	<u>Scene Day 6: Brandon Hills FINAL DAY</u>	
9-9:30	Briefing on site	
9:30-4	Close Scene & Equipment Care	
4-4:30	Pack up, debriefing on site & return to BU	
<u>Tues. July 19</u>	<u>Post-Processing Day 1</u>	Chapter 11 & 4
9-10	<i>Lecture:</i> Evidence photography	
9:30-10	<i>Break</i>	
10:30-12	<i>Lab:</i> Photograph evidence	
12-1	<i>Lunch</i>	
1-2	<i>Lecture:</i> Determining Forensic Significance & materials recognition	
2-2:30	<i>Break</i>	
2:30-3:30	<i>Lecture:</i> mapping software options; working with GIS Data or similar	
<u>Wed. July 20</u>	<u>Post-Processing Day 2</u>	Group Case Book Due (10%)
9-10	<i>Lecture:</i> Scene Reconstruction	
10-10:30	<i>Break</i>	
10:30-12	<i>Lab:</i> Trace evidence collection	
12-1	<i>Lunch</i>	
1-4:30	Open work time	
<u>Thurs. July 21</u>	<u>Post-Processing Day 3</u>	Individual Case Notebooks due (10%)
9-12	Open	
12-1	<i>Lunch</i>	
1-2	Final Presentations (15%)	
2-4:30	Finalize equipment inventories, cleaning etc.	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MONDAY JULY 24TH, 2022</u> Final Case Report Due (20%) This means you have the weekend to finalize your report.</p>		

* subject to change – all changes will be made available to students in a timely fashion

**must be read before class so you are prepared to answer questions and complete labs. There will not be time in class or lab to complete the readings.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS & TESTS

Group Search Plan: The search plan is a detailed document that explains exactly what you will do and how you will do it in the process of searching the scene, documenting evidence and excavating the grave/collecting the remains. It will include a timeline for each day of the search that includes the duties assigned to each team member. **The search plan is a group assignment**, but the individual responsible for each section must be indicated. The search plan will include the equipment list and all data/field forms you intend to use. The quality of the search plan will determine which team gets their desired search area and when they can start their search. A search will be delayed if the search plan is inadequate.

Maps: As a team you will create maps based on the exercises completed in class. One map must be a vertical profile map based on the stratigraphy exercise.

Test: There is a single test in this course. It will cover all material covered in the course and all readings up until the date on which the test runs (**Monday July 11th**). The test can include but is not limited to definitions, short answer and longer answer questions that will draw on problem solving and critical thinking skills in addition to content. The test date may be moved to accommodate weather (i.e. a rain day in the field is a perfect day to write a test).

Individual Case Notebooks: You will use one notebook for all case information throughout the course. It must follow the rules of note taking as covered in class. It is a comprehensive and detailed account of what you did on the 'case' and must be submitted as is. It is not something you get to re-write.

Group Case Book: This is a compilation of all the field forms you created for use in the field, and could include checklists of duties to do each day, datasheets for mapping info, list of how to document evidence etc. Each form should include an explanation as to how to use it and the book itself should cover all aspects of fieldwork.

Final Case Report: Everyone must submit independent final case reports.

Participation: It is not enough just to attend classes to get participation points. Participation includes asking and answering questions, working in a positive way with classmates, actively engaging in all classes, demonstrating that the readings have been completed, being prepared etc. Professional and ethical behaviour, attention to health and safety, leadership, collegiality and promoting positive teamwork will all be taken into account.

CLASS POLICIES

Students are expected to be aware of and abide by University regulations and policies, as outlined in the current [University Calendar 2020-2021](#) particularly **section 3.14 Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct** including but not limited to the following policies: [Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#). You are expected to abide by these regulations in all regards.

1) Class Interaction

Class Notes: Lecture slides will not be shared.

You are encouraged to take notes by hand as this is a useful skill to develop and is an important cognitive process for information retention. **It is not permitted to record or photograph lectures** (unless an accommodation is required as per Student Accessibility Services). Typing your notes during class does not use the same cognitive process as taking notes by hand. Typing is a passive activity while writing by hand, and trying to determine what you want to write so your hand does not cramp, becomes an active process. It is through active learning methods that information is retained and stored in long-term memory. Laptops will be allowed, but access to the Internet during lecture will not be tolerated. If using a laptop, you may be asked to sit at the back of the class to prevent disturbing others.

Names: Students' names may be divulged in the classroom, both orally and in written form, to other members of the class. Students who are concerned about such disclosures should contact the course instructor to identify whether there are any possible alternatives.

Inclusivity: Dr. Holland is firmly committed to equity, diversity and equality in all aspects of campus life, including the classroom and learning environment. Diversity and differences in opinion and worldview are to be respected in this course and Dr. Holland will do as much as possible to ensure an environment where everyone feels welcome and comfortable to voice their opinions or raise questions regardless of cultural, ethnic or religious background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or disability. Creating a welcoming and anti-discrimination environment also depends on the support and understanding of all students in the class. **We all have a responsibility to prevent offensive or discriminatory behaviour and its occurrence in this class will not be tolerated.**

Pronouns: A fixed binary pronoun use of 'him/her', 'he/she' does not apply to all people. Other pronouns that help generate a gender neutral or non-binary environment are possible, and are welcome in this class. If you have a pronoun of preference please let Dr. Holland know (in person or by email) as soon as possible.

2) Treatment of Materials used in Class

All material must be treated carefully to minimize harm/damage to yourself, fellow students and lab materials (real and cast animal and human skeletal remains and equipment). **Human skeletal remains** must always be treated with care and respect. Any behaviour otherwise is considered unethical. Unethical behaviour and the misuse of class materials could result in you being asked to leave the class/lab.

3) Punctuality and Attendance

You are responsible for attending every class and practical session for the entire duration of the course. Remember you are responsible for ALL material covered in the lectures (including any guest lectures, videos or other media presented during class time), labs and assigned readings. **If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate.** **Lectures will NOT be posted.** Class will start at promptly 9am and will end at 5pm with at least one break. Please be ready to start on time. Lateness is distracting and ill-mannered. If late, ensure minimal disruption.

4) Courtesy

Please turn off all cell phones and other non-essential electronic devices (i.e. iPod) when you arrive. During the class your attention is to be focused on what is going on in the class, not on outside issues,

material from other courses or the Internet. There will be a strict no texting/internet policy in this course. This policy can be amended when in the field as needed.

Talking and carrying on conversation during the lecture while not only disrespectful to the instructor and other students, is also very distracting. If you have a question, please do not hesitate to ask, you are probably not the only one who has that question!

5) Quality

Your work is your responsibility and as a result, your mark is up to you. If you want an A, you must earn it. Be diligent, pay attention and work hard. Challenge yourself and you could be surprised!

EMAIL POLICY: your email could be deleted and not answered if this policy is not followed

1. All emails must be professional and include the following:

- a. 12:366 in the subject line
- b. A salutation (at the beginning of the email; i.e. Dear Dr. Holland)
- c. Questions/concerns that are clear and to the point with appropriate grammar
- d. A signature – your full name preceded by a ‘thank you’ or other formality at the end

2. IMPORTANT: Ensure that you have read over the syllabus before you submit a question by email. If your question is easily addressed by referring to the syllabus, your email may not be answered. I encourage you to ask questions about course content, assignments etc. in lecture (the beginning and end are most convenient times), as you are likely not the only person who has that question.

3. I will not check or respond to emails after 7pm. A response will (usually) come within 48hrs.

4. Do not assume I have received your email until you have a response from me. Use your Brandon University email address. I try to respond to emails within 48 hours but understanding for responses that take longer over a weekend or holiday is appreciated. Keep in mind that if you email a question within 24 hours or less of a test date or assignment due date you might not get an answer.

5. Email is NOT a substitute for meeting with the Professor during office hours. Nor is it an appropriate mechanism to receive private instruction prior to a test or to explain material that was covered in lectures that you did not attend.

COURSE WEBSITE

The course website is accessible through Moodle.brandonu.ca. You can access Moodle using your Novell username and password. Check Moodle frequently as announcements, additional readings and other important documents will be posted there. **Lectures will not be posted.** Information on the course page is not to replace attendance or participation in lecture and labs.

TEACHING METHODS

Material will be presented in various formats including but not limited to; lectures using Microsoft PowerPoint; hands-on demonstration, simple lecture style that does not use presentation software, to class based discussion. Students will be called upon to answer questions pertaining to the lecture/lab material and the assigned readings and to work in pairs/groups to come up with answers and/or questions. Students are expected to take notes.

Recording or taking photos of lectures is not permitted without permission/accommodation.

ATTENDANCE & GRADING POLICIES

- 1) Students are expected to attend all classes.
 - 2) **Missed classes** – students are responsible for contacting a peer in the class to ensure they have copies of the material covered during their absence.
 - 3) **Missed tests or labs** – makeup tests/labs or other accommodations will only be considered for those students that are absent for a valid reason (illness, serious family emergency or religious holiday) **and** provide appropriate documentation (see below) **and** discuss their absence with Dr. Holland (either by email or in person) **within one week of their absence. All three of these requirements must be met before any accommodation will be made.**
 - a. Appropriate documentation – a valid medical note from your family physician on the date of the absence or a letter from the Registrar's Office.
 - b. Documentation must be handed in to Dr. Holland within one week of the absence (illness or emergency) or one week prior to a planned absence (religious holiday).
 - c. Please remember that a planned vacation is not considered a valid reason for an absence.
 - 4) **Handing in work** – all work should be submitted on time and ***handed in to the instructor personally at the beginning of class on the due date.*** Any work submitted at the end of class (other than those specifically indicated as otherwise) will be considered late, **and a 10% deduction** will apply. Please note, if you are having any trouble with any of the assignments, contact ME!
 - 5) **Late Course Work – Labs will not be accepted late.** The written assignments should be submitted by the due date (or earlier) otherwise a late penalty of 10% of the total possible marks will be deducted per day late, including weekends. Late assignments will ***only be accepted up to 5 days (including weekends) after the original due date.*** It is your responsibility to hand in assignments to me, at my convenience. You may NOT submit assignments by e-mail unless explicitly given permission by me to do so. Only valid documented excuses (i.e. illness with appropriate documentation) will be accepted to avoid late penalties.
- IN ALL CASES** – if you think you will miss a test, hand in an assignment late or otherwise have difficulty completing the requirements for this course, please contact Dr. Holland in person or by email **IN ADVANCE** or as soon as possible.

6) **Returning work** – All work submitted on time will be marked and returned to students within a minimum of two weeks.

7) **FINAL GRADES** are considered tentative until approved by the Dean.

8) **GRADE SYSTEM**

Percentage	Grade	GPA ¹	Term	Description
90-100 85-89 80-84	A+ A A-	4.3 4.0 3.7	Distinction	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization of and capacity to analyze and synthesize information; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
77-79 73-76 70-72	B+ B B-	3.3 3.0 2.7	Superior	Evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
67-69 63-66 60-62	C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7	Average	Student who is profiting from their university experience; demonstrated understanding of subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
50-59	D	1.0	Marginal	Some evidence of familiarity with the subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytical skills have been developed.
0-49	F	0.0	Inadequate	Little evidence of even a superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills, with limited or irrelevant use of literature.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any attempt to gain undue advantage over classmates by plagiarizing, other forms of cheating and any forms of academic misconduct or academic dishonesty are taken very seriously by both Brandon University and Dr. Holland. Brandon University has an established procedures and policies with respect to suspected plagiarism and/or cheating on tests, assignments and examinations [Academic Integrity Policy](#). **Students are expected to be aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty and misconduct and to avoid such in all regards.** See section 3.14 (Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct) of the Undergraduate Calendar or section 3.9 (Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct) of the Graduate Calendar. Violations of this policy will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, cheating, falsification of records or research misconduct will result in disciplinary action. A student who is determined to be responsible for academic dishonesty or misconduct may be subject to the imposition of one or more of the following:

1. Requirement to repeat the assignment or examination, with or without grade reduction
2. Assignment of a grade of zero in the assignment, test or exam
3. Assignment of "F-AD" in the course in which the offence is committed
4. Suspension from some or all courses in which a final grade has not been entered and the

assignment of "F-AD" in all such courses

5. Suspension from all Brandon University teams, clubs or like organizations for a period of 1 to 5 years
6. Suspension from the faculty for a period of 1 to 5 years
7. Expulsion from the faculty
8. Suspension from the University for a period of 1 to 5 years
9. Expulsion from the University
10. Cancellation or revocation of degree

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Exam dates

In-class testing and in-class final examinations shall occur in the slot for the class as established in the registration guide. NO in-class tests or final examinations shall be administered where the time established for the test or the actual duration of the test exceeds the duration of the class or laboratory as established in the registration guide. This regulation in no way limits Brandon University's duty to ensure that reasonable academic accommodation is made available for students with disabilities. (AFC Motion, December 8, 2015)

With the exception of laboratory examinations in the Arts and Sciences, no in-class tests or final examinations that are worth more than 10% of the final grade may be held during the last 14 calendar days of classes in the Fall or Winter term. (AFC Motion, December 8, 2015)

Statement on Accommodation

Students with diverse needs are welcome in this course and Dr. Holland encourages students with a disability or special need to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at BU (see below). Students are encouraged to review the Undergraduate Calendar, the University website and SAS for information regarding all services available on campus. The sooner the University is aware of your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Brandon University values diversity and inclusion, recognizing disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive for all students. The Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office works with students who have permanent, chronic, or temporary disabilities. SAS will provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, or temporary), you are invited to contact Student Accessibility Services to arrange a confidential discussion.

If you are registered with SAS and have a letter requesting accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the term to discuss the accommodations outline in your letter. Additional information is available at the Student Accessibility Services website.

Accessibility Services Coordinator: **Michelle Magnusson**

Location: Room 106 A.E., McKenzie Building

Phone: **204-727-9759**

Email: magnussonm@brandonu.ca

Website: <https://www.brandonu.ca/student-services/student-accessibility-services/>

Personal Counseling

A wide variety of people at various times in their lives need counseling. It is never wrong to ask for help or guidance from a counselor or to talk to a counselor to help you through a tough period. University is particularly challenging as it often involves living away from home for the first time, the stress of academic courses, balancing work and school and family and friends and everything (!!!!) can be overwhelming! You are not alone. The counseling services at BU are there to help.

Website: <http://www.brandonu.ca/student-services/personal-counselling/>

Academic Advising

Our academic advisors assist students with explorations of life and personal goals, career plans and academic plans. They also help to answer such questions as: What preparatory courses are required? What grades are needed? What are the requirements for degree programs or specific majors or minors? What courses should students take during the first year? (information taken directly from website).

Phone (Student Services): (204) 727-9739

Website: <http://www.brandonu.ca/student-services/academic-advising/>

Academic Skills Centre - USE ME!!

The Academic Skills Centre offers a broad range of academic support services to assist students. The Centre's primary goal is to help students become more efficient learners, equipped with greater confidence, motivation and skill. Students are encouraged to access the Centre's services through either individual appointments designed to address specific learning issues or group workshops that deal with some of the most common learning issues facing students (information taken directly from website). The Centre offers workshops, has three related offices that cover math, learning and writing skills, has advice about the university transition, and of course recommended apps!! ☺

Website: <http://www.brandonu.ca/student-services/academic-skills/>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Sexuality Education Resource Centre – a safe environment in which to seek information about sexual health and well-being, sexuality, LGBTTQ* identities, experiences and awareness. 1700 Pacific Ave – walking distance to BU. <http://www.serc.mb.ca/about-serc/serc-brandon>

Crisis: The Klinik Crisis Program -24/7- **free and confidential** counselling, support and referrals for people who are suicidal, in crisis or struggling to cope. <http://klinik.mb.ca/crisis-support/>

Klinik Criss Line
Phone: (204) 786-8686
Toll free: 1-888-322-3019
TTY: (204) 784-4097

Sexual Assault Crisis Line
Phone: (204) 786-8631
Toll free: 1-888-292-7565
TTY: (204) 784-4097

If you need help, reach out.