

**- ARCHAEOLOGY & HERITAGE: ETHICS, POLITICS & PRACTICE –**  
**ANTHROPOLOGY 4E03, Term 1, 2014-15**

**Instructor:** Tristan Carter (Chester New Hall, Room 507)

**Contact:** [stringy@mcmaster.ca](mailto:stringy@mcmaster.ca)

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10am and by appointment

**Seminar Time & Location:** Tuesdays, 11.30am - 2.20 pm - CNH/223

**Required Text:** Vitelli, K.D. and Colwell-Chanthaphonh, C. (2006), *Archaeological Ethics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Altamira Press, Toronto.

**NB** - For details on which readings are associated with each class, see course *Avenue* facility.

### **Course Outline & Aims**

This course begins with the premise that archaeology is avowedly political, its practice and practitioners deeply entangled with western value systems and epistemologies. This class discusses these issues – taking a historical viewpoint – before then considering the practice of archaeology in a globalised post-colonial 21<sup>st</sup> century context.

We start with querying the very *raison d'être* of archaeology as it stands today, before considering the various contexts within which archaeology engages with *contemporary* issues, debates and controversies.

We shall ask how archaeologists can use their skills and knowledge to ethically contribute to society at large and consider some of the pressing issues facing the discipline today.

The topics variously include indigenous rights, archaeology and the military, forensics and truth, heritage-commemoration and commodification, looting, the dissemination of archaeological data, and the value of a career in archaeology.

### **Course Requirements**

The course has weekly response papers, plus a final paper (and its proposal); a significant weight is given to in-class discussion, including presentations. Details of all components to be provided in class.

Class participation / presentation	-	20%
Response papers	-	50%
Long paper	-	30%

## Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Requirements
1	-	No class	
2	Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	Class overview, requirements etc.	
3	Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	All archaeology is political! From the politics of the past & archaeology's practitioners, to critical theory	Response paper 1
4	Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Archaeology as political engagement.	Response paper 2
5	Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Archaeology for whom? Post-colonial and indigenous archaeologies.	Response paper 3
6	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Power of the trowel: Forensics, mass-graves, death-camps & issues of authority and truth	Response paper 4
7	Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>	Warfare & 'the archaeological record': Ethical crises for archaeology	Response paper 5
8	Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ethics and archaeology: Background to the debate and current issues	Response paper 6
9	Oct 28 <sup>th</sup>	The death of mortuary archaeology? NAGPRA revisited	Response paper 7
10	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	Heritage, stewardship and conservation	Response paper 8
11	Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Looting, collecting and the illicit antiquities trade	Response paper 9
12	Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	Haven't you found it all by now?' Why are we still digging in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century	Final paper proposal
13	Nov 25 <sup>nd</sup>	Publish or perish? Academic publishing, grey literature and the media	Response paper 10
14	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The graduate mill: Advancing your career or filling their coffers?	
15	n/a	EXAM WEEK – no class	FINAL PAPER – Monday 8th

### ***Late Assignments***

Assignments must be handed in during class time (unless otherwise stated). Late responses / papers are penalized 5% of the mark per day including weekends and holidays with a maximum of 4 days late after which a 0 grade will be awarded. Extensions can only be gained if the student provides appropriate cover from MSAF, SAS, or other university certification system. Please note that if you are asked to hand in an assignment out of class time, you must use the drop box opposite the elevators on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Chester New Hall (Dept. of Anthropology). **You CANNOT email/fax your assignment, or slide it under any office door.** The drop box is checked at 4pm each business day. Assignments received after 4pm will be dated the following day.

**Academic Skills Counselling and Services for Students with Disabilities** are available through the Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

Tel: 905-525-9140 x28652

Email: [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca)

Website: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca>

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, [www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac\\_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm)

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own for which other credit has been obtained. (*Insert specific course information, e.g., style guide*)
2. Improper collaboration in group work. (*Insert specific course information*)
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

**USE OF COMPUTERS:** Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

## **FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

\*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link  
(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)