

## Archaeologies of identity

Fall 2020

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**Lecture:** Wednesdays 12:30-3:20pm

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**Office Hours:** contact to schedule an appointment.

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## **Course Description & Objectives**

This course critically considers the theme of 'identity' in archaeology. It starts with an examination of the practitioners themselves, reflecting upon how issues of class, gender and race have influenced the production of archaeological knowledge.

We then turn to the various social identities that scholars claim to be able to view in the archaeological record, i.e. through material culture and practice, rather than focusing on human remains alone. These include the archaeologies of the individual, together with a variety of other axes of identity: age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity etc., examining both *why* we should be interested in eliciting such information and the methods that – allegedly – allow us to do so.

Finally we revisit some of the issues surrounding the definition of larger social groups, starting with a review of culture history before considering the impact of various newer approaches and methods (practice theory, isotopic and genetic analyses etc.) in the return to an archaeology that moves beyond both processes and the individual to discussing communities and 'peoples'.

**Keywords:** identity, archaeological practitioners, sexuality, age, gender, class, culture history, social groups, the individual, communities of practice, isotopic / genetic identities.

## **Required Materials and Texts**

Insoll, T. (ed.) (2007), *The Archaeology of Identities: A Reader*. Routledge, London [available as an e-book via McMaster library]

All other readings will be detailed / made accessible at least a week ahead of time.

## **Class Format**

Synchronous seminars to be run via Zoom; weekly invitations will be emailed out by the instructor – please let me know ahead of time if you have internet access issues. I will NOT be recording these seminars unless you request this due to an absence.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

Class participation	-	40%
Short paper	-	20%
Long paper	-	40%

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

*Class participation* –questions; discussion (engagement/initiation), presentations, annotated bibliography.

*Short paper*: a 5-page paper (double spaced, Times New Roman 12, 1” margins) plus full bibliographic references on: *The identity of the archaeologist is irrelevant to the production of knowledge. Discuss.* Due – 4.30pm Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

*Long paper*: a 10 to 15-page paper on a subject to be decided by the student (with instructor’s approval). Due – 4.30pm Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Long paper topics must be approved. The paper should have a clear structure, argument and conclusion, and should make adequate reference to academic sources. These long papers are graded on:

Content (70%):

- Comprehensiveness of research material (20%)
- Relevance of research material (20%)
- Analysis of subject (10%)
- Coherence and structure of discussion (10%)
- Effectiveness of logic and argument (thesis) (10%)

Presentation (30%):

- Structure of paper (10%)
- Effectiveness of prose (10%)
- Technical aspects (spelling, grammar, etc.) (10%)

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1 (Weds. September 9th)**

Introduction to the course.

### **Week 2 (Weds. September 16th)**

Archaeological identities #1

### **Week 3 (Weds. September 23rd)**

Archaeological identities #2

### **Week 4 (Weds. September 30th)**

The individual in prehistory

### **Week 5 (Weds. October 7th)**

Agents, identity and things

### **Week 6 (Weds. October 14th)**

No class – reading week

### **Week 7 (Weds. October 21st)**

Gender

### **Week 8 (Weds. October 28th)**

Sexuality

### **Week 9 (Weds. November 4th)**

Children

### **Week 10 (Weds. November 11th)**

Ethnicity and kinship

### **Week 11 (Weds. November 18th)**

Biological identities #1 (isotopes)

### **Week 12 (Weds. November 25th)**

Biological identities #2 (genetics)

### **Week 13 (Weds. December 2nd)**

Communities of practice

### **Week 14 (Weds. December 9th)**

Final paper presentations

## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments**

[Insert policy on format of assignments and how to be submitted]

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

### **Late Assignments**

Late 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 an appropriate note/letter from SAS, or other university certification system.

### **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

No grade / reweighting policy - grades will \*not\* be reweighted, i.e. if a presentation or paper is delayed due to ill-health, these pieces of work still have to be completed to satisfactorily finish the course, the grade is not just added to the next requirement.

### **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **University Policies**

### **Online Elements**

This course includes on-line elements, specifically (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), Zoom, Dropbox, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Copyright and Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## **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.

## **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

## **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## **Privacy Protection**

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly,



grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

