

- ARCHAEOLOGY & HERITAGE: ETHICS, POLITICS & PRACTICE –
ANTHROPOLOGY 4AH3, Term 1, 2019-20

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

Contact: stringy@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: Thursdays 12pm and by appointment

Seminar Time & Location: Thursdays, 8.30 - 11.20 am – **DSB B105**

NO course textbook - for details on weekly readings 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’ 21st 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 ethics, 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 responses, 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 / presentations	-	40%
Response papers	-	35%
Final paper proposal	-	5%
Final paper	-	20%

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Requirements
1	Sept. 5 th	Class overview, requirements etc.	
2	Sept 12 th	All archaeology is political! From the politics of the past & archaeology's practitioners, to critical theory	Response 1
3	Sept 19 th	Archaeology as political engagement: Consciousness raising, green issues <i>inter alia</i>	Response 2
4	Sept 26 th	Archaeology for whom? Post-colonial and indigenous archaeologies.	Response 3
5	Oct 3 rd	Power of the trowel: Forensics, mass-graves, death-camps & issues of authority and truth	Response 4
6	Oct 10 th	Warfare & 'the archaeological record': Ethical crises for archaeology	Response 5
7	Oct 17 th	Reading Week – NO CLASS	
8	Oct 24 th	Ethics and archaeology: Background to the debate and current issues	Response 6
9	Oct 31 st	Mortuary archaeology and the 'harvesting' of aDNA	Response 7
10	Nov 7 th	Heritage, stewardship and conservation	Response 8
11	Nov 14 th	Looting, collecting and the illicit antiquities trade	Response 9
12	Nov 21 st	Publish or perish? Academic publishing, grey literature and the media	Final paper proposal
13	Nov 28 th	The graduate mill: Advancing your career or filling their coffers?	Response 10
14	Dec 5 th	EXAM WEEK – no class	Final Paper – Sunday 8 th

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All projects are to be emailed to the instructor (stringy@mcmaster.ca) by the **end of that week's class**.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
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

A penalty of **5% per day** will be applied to late assignments (that were not discussed with me at least one day prior to the deadline) for a **maximum of 4 days**, including weekends. After 4 days, assignments will no longer be accepted, and a grade of zero will be assigned.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Students who will be absent from class or expect to miss work for any reason should notify me **prior to** the class time or deadline. Extensions may be granted for illness, provided students discuss this with me **at least one day** before the deadline. In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar, "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work." If you have any questions about the **MSAF**, please contact the Associate Dean's office.

http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_for_Missed_Academic_Term_Work

An arrangement can be made for a missed mid-term exam to be taken at a later date if the student provides an appropriate note/letter from your Faculty Office or SAS (see below).

No grade / reweighting policy - grades will ***NOT*** be reweighted, e.g. if an exam is missed, then a make-up exam has to be taken, 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

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 behavior 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 types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

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.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

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.

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.

Course Modification

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 his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.