

**- CURRENT DEBATES IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PREHISTORY –
ANTHROPOLOGY 3EM3, Term 2, 2016-17**

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

Contact: stringy@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: Monday, 5.30-6.30pm or by appointment

Lecture / Seminar: Wednesdays, 11.30am - 2.20pm – **HH 305**

Readings: there is NO textbook. All texts will be e-journal articles, with links provided via the course Avenue facility.

Course Outline & Aims

This course will review of developments in Eastern Mediterranean prehistory from the Palaeolithic to the Late Bronze Age, using this regional/temporal backdrop to examine a number of major debates of more general significance in anthropological archaeology, including:

- how we produce knowledge
- the politics of archaeology
- what it is to be human
- socio-economic transformations
- the bases of political power
- belief systems
- gender relations
- value regimes

- WEEK 1** Weds. 4th Jan. – Introduction to the course: aims, scope, requirements
- WEEK 2** Weds. 11th Jan. – (1) Defining the ‘Eastern Mediterranean’: ecology and geo-politics
(2) Production of Eastern Mediterranean prehistory: colonial practices
- WEEK 3** Weds. 18th Jan. – (1) The earlier prehistoric background
(2) **Seminar 1:** Politics of the Past
- WEEK 4** Weds. 25th Jan. – (1) Islands: Their significance and processes of colonisation
(2) **Seminar 2:** Why do we argue about Neanderthal seafaring?
- WEEK 5** Weds. 1st Feb. – (1) From hunter to farmer: Current models and data.
(2) **Seminar 3:** What do we mean by ‘the Neolithic’?
- WEEK 6** Weds. 8th Feb. – (1) Çatalhöyük: A case study in Neolithic archaeology
(2) **Seminar 4:** Gender and power: Social distinction in early farming societies
- WEEK 7** Weds. 15th Feb. – Part #1 - Early metallurgy: New desires and power structures
(2) **Seminar 5:** Situating innovation change in prehistory
- WEEK 8** **MID-TERM RECESS**

- WEEK 9** Weds. 1st March. – (1) Boats, burials & bodies: The Early Bronze Age Cyclades
(2) **Seminar 6:** Bases of power: the authority of distant knowledge
- WEEK 10** Weds. 8th March. – (1) From kings to factions: What are the Cretan ‘palaces’?
(2) **Seminar 7:** Consuming power: Sensorial archaeologies
- WEEK 11** Weds. 15th March – (1) Early World Systems: The Old Assyrian trade colonies
(2) **Seminar 8:** Colonial encounters: The archaeology of identity
Submit long-paper proposal
- WEEK 12** Weds. 22nd March – (1) Akrotiri and Crete: The impact of the Theran eruption
(2) **Seminar 9:** Cultural responses to natural disasters
- WEEK 13** Weds. 29th March – (1) Elite practices in the Late Bronze Age East Mediterranean
(2) **Seminar 10:** Naturalising power: Strategies of legitimacy at Knossos & beyond
- WEEK 14** Weds. 5th April – Collapse: The ‘end of the Bronze Age’
Submit final paper / critical review of the course
- WEEK 15** EXAM WEEK (irrelevant as we have no exam...)

Course Requirements

The course is evaluated on the basis of seminar presentation, general class participation, weekly responses and a final paper; the value of these components is as follows:

Seminar presentation	-	20%
Seminar attendance / responses	-	50%
Long paper proposal	-	5%
Long paper	-	25%

Seminar participation / responses – grade based on the student’s attendance and participation in general discussion, one leading of discussion / presentation and submission of all required response-papers.

Long-paper proposal – a long-paper proposal is to be submitted in class on **Wednesday 15th March**. It should include a title, a 500 word statement about the proposed topic, and at least 5 appropriate sources.

Long-paper – A final 10 page paper is due in class on **Wednesday 5th April**; format details to be provided.

NOTE THAT ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED: We do not re-distribute/re-weigh grades in the event of an MSAF. An MSAF simply gives you an extension on work missed.

Late Assignments

Assignments must be handed to your instructor at the start of the class on the assigned date. Late assignments are penalized 10% of the mark per 24 hour period or part thereof with a maximum of 72 hours (3 days and 30%) after which a zero grade will be submitted. Extensions can only be gained if the student provides appropriate documentation from SAS, or other university certification system (e.g. MSAF – see below). **You CANNOT email your assignment, or slide it under any office door.** Any late submission needs to be placed in the Dept. of Anthropology drop box (5th floor CNH opposite elevators) which is checked at 4pm each business day. Assignments received after 4pm will be dated the following day.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) policy

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)
- Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:
 - The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
 - The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from ‘less than 30%’ to ‘less than 25%’ of the course weight.
 - The ‘one MSAF per term’ limit is retained.
 - As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.
- Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations > Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here: [http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work](http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_for_Missed_Academic_Term_Work)

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 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, <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

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.
2. Improper collaboration in group work
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

The instructor & university reserve the right to modify elements of the Course during the term. The university may change the dates & deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice & communication with the students will be given with explanation & the opportunity to comment

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)