

ANTHROPOLOGY 2PA3: INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGY



Excavating an early structure at the site of Kala Uyuni. This site is located in Bolivia, South America, and dates back to approximately 800 B.C.

This course is an introduction to archaeology, a sub-discipline of anthropology that studies past societies through their material culture. This course will be a combination of lecture and lab sections.

Tuesday and Friday afternoons will consist of lectures that build upon assigned readings. In these sessions we will cover four broad topics. We will begin with a brief overview of the history of the discipline. In our second topic we will explore the methods of archaeology, including research design, excavation and laboratory techniques. Our third part focuses on interpretation, specifically examining how archaeologists use material culture to explore social, economic and ideological questions of the past. Themes will include shifts in subsistence and settlement patterns, the development of agriculture, colonialism and culture contact. The fourth and final component will examine the ethics and relevancy of archaeology today. Who owns the past? Who are the stakeholders when it comes to historic and prehistoric material culture?

Laboratory/tutorial sessions will provide hands-on exposure to methods and concepts introduced in class, and will provide further opportunity for discussion of course materials with your TAs (Daniel Ionico and Eloi Berube) in smaller settings. These sessions will encourage critical and analytical thinking concerning the interpretation of archeological evidence.

By the end of this course you should all be able to:

- Explain not only what archaeologists do but also how and why they do it, and the elements of an archaeological vision.
- Define archaeological concepts and terms like stratigraphy, relative and absolute dating, sampling, cultural resource management, and many others.
- Demonstrate some practical skills such as basic quantitative methods in zooarchaeology, artifact classification, and synthesis of archaeological data.
- Evaluate the significance and reasonableness of archaeological arguments and claims in the professional and popular media.
- Discuss the importance of the past to the modern world, recognize the viewpoints of different stakeholders and explain the ethics of preserving and studying archaeological remains.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn 2015 Archaeology Essentials (Third Edition). Thames and Hudson.
2. Course pack (also available in the bookstore)

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Your primary responsibility as a student is to master the material presented in class and in the readings. This is an easily achieved objective. Come to class and do the reading! I will post summaries of the class on-line, but this will not suffice if you want to do well. You need to come to lecture having completed the reading for that lecture ahead of time. I understand all of you come from a variety of backgrounds and have various strengths and weaknesses. If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, see me during office hours as soon as you recognize a problem. We will work together to find a solution. DON'T wait until the end of the semester. My goals as an instructor is not just to grade, evaluate, and test, but to help you gain a valuable anthropological perspective to carry outside the class, into whatever discipline you choose.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

- 15% Lab Projects (3, at 5 % each)
- 30% Research paper (5% annotations, 25% actual paper)
- 20% Midterm
- 35 % Final exam (25% from course content, 10% on developing your lab findings)

Lab Projects (15%)

A total of three lab projects will be due over the course of the term. All three of these will be available on the website at least a week before you will work on them in your lab session. Your TA will lead you through the exercises in the lab sessions. While the labs can be completed in groups, you will write up your own independent lab reports. Due dates for the labs will be outlined by your TA.

Research Paper (30%)

By early to mid October you should start looking out for newspaper and magazine articles, or reputable on-line articles on some archaeology that has recently made the news. This can either relate to a specific archaeological site, or a larger issue that relates to topics covered in the course. You may want to start a file folder (physical or on your computer) of various possibilities. On November 12th you will hand in a copy of the reference (and link, if it's on line) and a short abstract of the original article.

Your final paper (5-6 typed, double-spaced pages) is due November 30th. In this paper you will:

- Describe the site or issue being discussed (including the function, time period, etc.)
- Explain how the evidence has been collected (if this is given) and what particular type of evidence is being emphasized
- Find two peer reviewed article (I will explain what this means) either on the site, or other work by the archaeologist referred to in the article
- Address what methodology is being used in the peer-reviewed articles. Can you tell what theoretical perspective is being taken?
- Explore the differences between the popular article and the professional publications. What are the main differences?

Mid-term (20%) and Final Exam (35%)

Exams will cover material from lectures AND material from the text. Course exams will not expressly include material from the labs. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and similar questions. Several questions will come from in-class discussions not included in uploaded class notes - ***you need to come to class to do well on these exams***. Your midterm exam is on October 26th. The final exam will focus primarily on the material covered after the midterm. The final exam will include an essay for which you will be given the question in advance. No extensions, deferrals, make-ups, etc. of any kind can be granted without official documentation through university channels.

Grade Scale:

Following convention (<http://registrar.mcmaster/calendar/current/pg145.html>) this grading system will be used in this course.

90-100% A+	77-79% B+	67-69% C+	57-59% D+	0-49 F
85-89% A	73-76% B	63-66% C	53-56% D	
80-84% A-	70-72% B-	60-62% C-	50-52% D-	

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.

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 The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- 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)
- Improper collaboration in group work. (Insert specific course information)
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

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)

MSAF

- 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

AODA

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Eszter Bell at 905-525-9140 extension 24423 or email bellesz@mcmaster.ca term work in his/her course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

* Subject to change, but any modification will be done well in advance, and you will be informed ahead of time. ** A-E= Archaeological Essential Readings, CP= Course pack

TOPIC 1: INTRODUCTION & HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

September 6th: Why Anthropological Archaeology?
A-E Introduction

September 9th: "The Dark Abyss of Time": Intellectual Foundations and Culture History
A-E Chapter 1

September 13th: "Just the Facts?": New Archaeology and Post-processualism
CP: What is Archaeology?

TOPIC 2: DOING ARCHAEOLOGY

September 16th: What is the Archaeological Record?
A-E Chapter 2

September 20th: Finding Sites
A-E Chapter 3

September 23rd: Digging Sites
CP "Google Earth and Archaeology"

September 27th: Dating by Ordering Things
A-E Chapter 4

Dr. Andy Roddick, roddick@mcmaster.ca
Chester New Hall 509, (905) 525-9140 x 23913

Tues & Fri 3:30-4:20, HH 109
Office Hours: Tue 2-3/ Fri 2-3

CP Using Seriation to Examine the Origins of the Iroquois

September 30th: Dating Through Chronometric Means
CP Archaeological Dating

October 4th: Thinking from Things: Material Culture and the Middle-Range
CP Obsessed with Old Technology

October 7th: Thinking from Things: Stone Tools
A-E Chapter 7

October 10th-14th: **MID-TERM RECESS**

October 18th: Thinking from Things: Pottery
CP: Early Pottery at 20,000 years ago
CP: Pottery Invented in China
CP: What makes us human

October 21st: **MIDTERM**

October 25: Environmental Archaeology
A-E Chapter 6

October 28th: Ecofacts: Following Animal Bones (and researching final paper)
CP “The Zooarchaeology of a Peruvian Civilization”

November 1st: Ecofacts: Studying seeds and other plant-y things
CP “Star Carr”

November 4th: Bioarchaeology: Examining Individual Lives
A-E Chapter 8

TOPIC 3: INTERPRETING THE PAST

November 8th: Archaeological Interpretation and Ordering Cultures
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPER DUE
A-E Chapter 5

November 11th: Defining the Social Politics of Cahokia
CP “Domination and Ideology in the Mississippian World”

November 15th: Engendering the Past (and writing final paper)
CP “The Archaeology of Gender”

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November 18th: Historical Bioarchaeology: Individuals and Identity in New York City CP
Bioarchaeology – “The New York African American Burial Ground”

November 22nd: Cognition, Belief and Symbols
A-E Chapter 9

November 25th: GUEST LECTURE TBA

TOPIC 4: THE PAST IN THE PRESENT:

November 29th: Archaeology in Your Backyard
CP Mantle Site
CP Heritage Legislation in Canada
FINAL PAPER DUE

December 2nd: "Managing" the archaeological record
A-E Chapter 12
CP: “Stolen History: Looting and Illicit Trade”

December 6th: Final Exam Review Session