

**- LITHIC ANALYSIS –  
ANTHROPOLOGY 3LA3, Term 2, 2017-18**

**Instructor:** Tristan Carter (CNH 507) - [stringy@mcmaster.ca](mailto:stringy@mcmaster.ca)

**Office Hours:** Fridays, 12-1pm and by appointment

**Lab Times & Location:** Tuesday, 2.30 – 5.20 pm - KTH B122A

**Open lab hours:** Friday, 1 – 3pm – KTH B122A

**Course Outline & Aims**

A global approach to the theories and methods used by archaeologists to analyse stone tools and the major debates these data contribute to. The class has a strong hands-on component, with the student gaining skills in materials' and artefact identification and analysis. The class is underpinned by an anthropologically and theoretically driven consideration of practice and tradition, from the significance accorded 'natural' resources and their procurement, via how we conceptualise the circulation and exchange of materials and objects, to how we understand the choices made by ancient stone workers.

**Required Text:**

Andrefsky Jr, W. (2005), *Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – textbook available via *Titles* or *Amazon*.

A series of other papers and articles will also be set for required reading, with information and URL's provided the class Avenue site.

**Course Requirements**

The course has a number of requirements, including bell-ringer exams, response papers, and project reports; details of all components to be provided in class.

Bell-ringer exams (n=2) - 20% (10% for each one)  
 Response papers (n=3) - 20% (5-10% for each one)  
 Project reports (n=7) - 60% (5-10% for each one)

**Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topic	Requirements
1	Jan 9	INTRODUCTION – class overview, aims, structure  Intro to flaked stone technology & basic terminology  Produce flake for illustration (Project #1)	
2	Jan 16	EXPERIMENTAL STONE TECHNOLOGY  Knapping exhibition by Mike Lorthrop  Making your own arrowhead	Submit project #1 – lithic illustration (5%)

3	Jan 23	<p>RAW MATERIALS #1 – ‘Natural’ influences</p> <p>Petrology, fracture mechanics, physical characterisation</p> <p>Design heat treatment project (Project #2)</p>	Submit paper #1 – experimental archaeology (5%)
4	Jan 30	<p>RAW MATERIALS #2 – ‘Cultural’ practices</p> <p>Quarrying, workshops, selection processes and the <i>chaîne opératoire</i></p> <p>Video – <i>Spear in the Stone</i></p>	Bell-ringer #1 - basic terminology (10%)
5	Feb 6	<p>TYPOLOGY</p> <p>Typology and the interpretation of morphological variability (Bordes’ typology, culture history etc)</p> <p>Recording retouched tool types</p>	Submit project #2 – heat treatment experiment (10%)
6	Feb 13	<p>TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>Introduction to flake and blade technologies, basic terms, significance, evolution and human cognition</p> <p>Experimental project (hard .v. soft hammer)</p>	Submit paper #2 – lithic typology (10%)
7	Feb 20	MID-TERM RECESS	
8	Feb 27	<p>FUNCTIONAL ANALYSES</p> <p>History of use-wear studies, low .v. high-power debate, residue analyses and aDNA</p> <p>Experimental project (low-power)</p>	Submit project #3 – hard .v. soft hammer (10%)
9	Mar 6	<p>STONE TOOLS AS SOCIAL MEDIA</p> <p>The role of lithic technology in social relations, symbolism and identity construction.</p> <p>Continue use-wear experimental programme</p>	Submit paper #3 – social meaning in lithics (5%)
10	Mar 13	<p>PROJECTILES</p> <p>Origin and development (spears, atlatls, arrows), discriminating point types (form &amp; function), understanding variability, cultural significance...</p> <p>Project – Projectiles in Ontario archaeology</p>	Submit project #4 – use-wear analysis (10%)
11	Mar 20	<p>ORGANISATION OF PRODUCTION</p> <p>From expedient to specialist, insights to socio-economic processes via production, the <i>chaîne opératoire</i></p> <p>Continue projectiles project</p>	

12	Mar 27	<p>SOURCING STUDIES -1</p> <p>Aims, methodological bases, history of use; visit to MAX Lab.</p> <p>Project – interrogating sourcing data (small-set)</p>	Submit project #5 – projectiles’ analysis (10%)
13	Apr 3	<p>SOURCING STUDIES - 2</p> <p>Lab – elementally characterising your own artefacts / raw materials</p> <p>Project – interrogating sourcing data (big-set)</p>	Submit project #6 – sourcing data analysis (5%)
14	n/a	<b>EXAM WEEK</b>	Submit project #7 – characterisation study (10%) (Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April)

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

### *Late Assignments*

Assignments must be handed in to the professor by the assigned date. Late project reports will be 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 (e.g. MSAF – see below). Please note that if you are handing in an assignment out of lab time, you must use the drop box opposite the elevators on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Chester New Hall (Dept. Of Anthropology), in which case please mark the paper clearly as to which course it belongs to. The drop box is checked at 4pm each business day. Assignments received after 4pm will be dated the following day.

**No grade / reweighting policy** - grades will \*not\* be reweighted, i.e. if an exam/paper is missed, then a make-up exam/paper has to be taken, the grade is not just added to the next requirement

### **McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) policy**

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”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015.

If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean’s office.

[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](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)

### AODA

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Marcia Furtado at 905-525-9140 extension 24423 or email [furtam1@mcmaster.ca](mailto:furtam1@mcmaster.ca)