

WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY 2WA3

Winter 2022

Instructor: Beatrice Fletcher
Email: fletchba@mcmaster.ca
Lecture: Tuesdays 7pm-9pm, BSB 106

Office: Chester New Hall 515
Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:30pm-6:30pm; Wednesdays 11am-12pm and by Appointment

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Course Description

Archaeologists seek to understand human experience by consulting the material culture record. This often-challenging endeavour can provide fascinating glimpses into our past and inform our understanding of the present. In this course, we will be exploring case studies from across the globe, gaining insight into how archaeologists generate their interpretations. Covering topics from hominin evolution through to “complex” societies, we will explore the kinds of evidence archaeologists consult and the research questions that drive ongoing archaeological investigation.

This course will be structured around lectures where you will be introduced to key archaeological sites and finds. You will also have the opportunity to engage with methodological and theoretical approaches through short, low-stakes tutorial materials that will be delivered via Avenue to Learn. Focusing on research and writing skills, this course will provide you with the tools to engage with archaeological media and exhibits and evaluate academic debates.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Describe standard archaeological methods and the types of insight they might provide
- Assess popular archaeology writing with reference to peer-reviewed literature
- Describe central debates in world archaeology, evaluating the contributions and limitations of case studies
- Conduct independent research and form an informed opinion on an ongoing archaeological debate
- Evaluate the importance of archaeological heritage and articulate the challenges faced when seeking to preserve archaeological sites or materials.

Required Materials and Texts

Feder, K.L. (2019). *The Past in Perspective. An Introduction to Human Prehistory* (8th edition), Oxford University Press.

This textbook is available at the campus store and can be purchased in print or as an e-text. You may also be able to find more affordable used versions of the text at local bookstores or on Amazon. If you have any concerns about textbook affordability, please contact the course instructor.

Class Format

This class will consist of weekly lectures on Tuesdays from 7-9pm in room 106 of the Burke Science Building (BSB 106).

Weekly asynchronous tutorial material, usually taking about 1 hour to complete, will also be posted to Avenue to Learn.

Students are expected to come to class having read the associated readings for that week. Readings will be drawn from the textbook or posted to Avenue to Learn as .pdf files. Additional reading and optional readings will be posted to Avenue to Learn. Lectures may summarize important elements of the readings but will not replace thorough engagement with the assigned material.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Tutorial Reflections/Activities (10%)
2. Mid-Term Paper Topic Proposal (5%)
3. Mid-Term Paper (20%)
4. Mid-Term Exam (25%)
5. Final Paper Annotated Bibliography (10%)
6. Final Paper (30%)

Course Evaluation – Details

Tutorial Reflections/Activities (10%), due weekly

Tutorial reflections/activities will be based on the week's asynchronous tutorial (posted to avenue to learn by 8am Wednesday each week).

After having viewed the posted slide deck, video, or completed the activity you will be asked to either:

- Write a short (~250 word) reflection
or
- Submit your completed activity

The exact components required for each week's submission will be specified in the instructions for that tutorial.

Mid-Term Topic Proposal (5%), due on February 4th at 11:59pm

The mid-term paper requires students to find and assess a popular media or news article of your choice that discusses a topic covered in weeks 2-6. Common topics include:

- Early Hominin Material Culture or Behaviour
- Neanderthal Material Culture or Behaviour
- Upper Paleolithic Art
- Early Migrations to Australia
- Peopling of the Americas
- Hunter-Gatherer Lifeways or Gender Roles

As part of your topic proposal, you must submit:

- A full APA style citation for your popular media/news article.
- A link to the popular media/news article you have selected.
- A short summary of your article (~100-200 words)

Your topic proposal is to be submitted to avenue to learn as either a Microsoft word (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf) format. You **must submit this topic proposal** to have your mid-term paper graded.

Mid-term Exam (25%), February 15th

The mid-term exam will be administered in class. It will be comprised of multiple choice, matching, and short answer sections.

Mid-Term Paper (20%), due March 4th 11:59pm

This mid-term paper requires students to find a popular media or news article that discusses a topic covered in weeks 2-6.

You must evaluate the popular media/news article you selected during the proposal process. Any topic changes **must** be approved.

In an essay of 1250-1500 words, you must assess the following:

- What are the implications of the find/discovery/interpretation discussed?
- How well did the article present the archaeological theory and methods used?
- How well did article present alternative perspectives/ evaluate any relevant debates?

To evaluate your popular media article, you must **consult 2-5 peer reviewed** papers on the topic. Often, a news article will be based on a published peer-reviewed paper, please consult this paper as one of your sources. All citations must be presented in APA format.

Your paper is to be submitted to avenue to learn as either a Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf) file.

Final Paper Annotated Bibliography (10%), due March 18th 11:59pm

Prior to writing your final paper you will submit an annotated bibliography of 5 peer-reviewed sources related to your selected topic. Your final paper will be an evaluation of a major debate in world archaeology. Topic options, along with short excerpts describing the debate will be posted to Avenue to Learn.

Your 5 annotations should each consist of the following:

- A full citation (in APA style) for that source
- A ~100 word summary of that source

In addition to your annotations, **please submit a thesis statement** conveying your position of the debate you have selected.

Final Paper (30%), due April 12th 11:59pm

The final paper will be an evaluation of a major debate in world archaeology. Topic options, along with short excerpts describing each debate option will be posted to Avenue to Learn.

In an essay of 2000-2500 words, you must:

- Summarize the debate, outlining the different perspectives
- Argue for one side or perspective of the debate
- Describe any key sites/materials/discoveries that have influenced the trajectory of the debate
- Evaluate the theoretical and methodological approaches that have been instrumental in shaping the debates' trajectory
- Discuss the relevance of this debate to larger archaeological research questions

You must **consult a minimum of 7 peer reviewed** papers on your topic. All citations must be presented in **APA format**. Your assignment must also be submitted as a **MS Word or PDF file**.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (January 10th-16th)

January 11th – Introduction to Archaeological Methods

Readings: Chapter 2: Probing the Past

Topic: Archaeological Dating and Stratigraphy

Notes: This week will be delivered as a synchronous online lecture with a zoom link posted to Avenue to Learn

Week 2 (January 17th- 23rd)

January 18th – Hominin Evolution: Migration and Toolkits

Readings: Chapter 4: The Human Lineage

Tutorial Topic: Lithic Manufacturing: The Making of Stone Tools

Notes: Week 1 Tutorial Activity Due January 17th at 11:59pm

Week 3 (January 24th-30th)

January 25th – What Makes Us Human?: Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens

Readings: Chapter 5: The First Humans

Tutorial Topic: aDNA and Archaeology

Notes: Week 2 Tutorial Reflection Due January 24th at 11:59pm

Week 4 (January 31st-February 6th)

February 1st – Creativity and Communication: Art in the Upper Paleolithic

Readings: Chapter 6: Expanding Geographic Horizons

Tutorial Topic: Chemical Analysis in Archaeology

Notes: Mid-Term Paper Proposal Due February 4th at 11:59pm

Week 3 Tutorial Reflection Due January 31st at 11:59pm

Week 5 (February 7th-February 13th)

February 8th – Peopling of the New World: Australia to the Americas

Readings: Chapter 7: Expanding Geographic Horizons

Tutorial Topic: Environmental Modelling in Archaeology

Notes: Week 4 Tutorial Activity Due February 8th at 11:59pm

Week 6 (February 14th-February 20th)

February 15th – Mid-Term Exam; Hunter-Gatherer Lifeways

Readings: Sterling (2014)

Tutorial Topic: No Posted Tutorial

McMaster University, Department of Anthropology, ANTHROP 2WA3
Notes: Week 5 Tutorial Reflection Due February 14th at 11:59pm
Mid-Term Exam in Class February 15th from 7pm-8pm

Week 7 (February 21st- February 27th)
MID-TERM RECESS (No Classes)

Week 8 (February 28th- March 6th)

March 1st – Agricultural Revolutions: The Fertile Crescent and Beyond

Readings: Chapter 8: After the Ice

Tutorial Topic: Paleoethnobotany and Foodways

Notes: Mid-Term Paper Due March 4th at 11:59pm

Week 9 (March 7th- March 13th)

March 8th – Landscapes of the Neolithic

Readings: Chapter 9: The Roots of Complexity

Tutorial Topic: Building Stonehenge: Experimental Archaeology

Notes: Week 8 Tutorial Activity Due March 7th at 11:59pm

Week 10 (March 14th- March 20th)

March 15th – Ancient Egypt

Readings: Chapter 10: An Explosion of Complexity Excerpt: Pgs 374-385; Wynn (2008)

Tutorial Topic: Funerary Rites

Notes: Week 9 Tutorial Reflection Due March 14th at 11:59pm

Final Paper Annotated Bibliography due March 18th at 11:59pm

Week 11 (March 21st- March 27th)

Date – Central America: Cities and States

Readings: Chapter 12: An Explosion of Complexity

Tutorial Topic: Why do Societies Collapse?

Notes: Week 10 Tutorial Reflection Due March 21st at 11:59pm

Week 12 (March 28th- April 3rd)

Date – North America: Trade and Exchange

Readings: Chapter 14: An Explosion of Complexity

Tutorial Topic: Ceramic Analysis and Manufacturing

Notes: Week 11 Tutorial Activity Due March 28th at 11:59pm

Week 13 (April 4th- April 10th)

Date – Archaeology of Colonialism

Readings: TBD

Tutorial Topic: None

Notes: Week 12 Tutorial Reflection Due April 4th at 11:59pm

Week 14 (April 11th- April 17th)

April 12th – Archaeology and Heritage

Readings: TBD

Notes: Final Paper due April 12th at 11:59pm

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted to the appropriate folders on Avenue to Learn as either a word (.doc; .docx) or PDF (.pdf) file.

Assignments will be automatically checked for plagiarism on Turnitin, please see the section on Turnitin for more information.

Communication Policies

As the course instructor, I aim to be available to students to answer any questions or concerns. I will check my email regularly and respond to emails within **2 business days**. I will be answering emails between 8am and 5pm, with the exception of lecture days where I will be monitoring my email until 10pm.

To ensure your email reaches me, please follow the suggestions below:

- Email my McMaster email account, fletchba@mcmaster.ca (please use Outlook and not the Avenue to Learn email system as I will not be checking that inbox regularly)
- Please send your email from your McMaster email account
- Please include the course code (ANTHROP 2WA3) in the subject line

I am also happy to meet either in person or over zoom to address concern. My listed office hours will be held in person. For appointments via Zoom or appointments outside of my listed office hours, please contact me with **3 preferred 30-minute timeslots**. I will do my best to accommodate one of these requests or work to find an agreeable alternate time.

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+

MARK	GRADE
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

Assignments will be penalized at a rate of 1% of the **course grade** per calendar day late to a maximum of 50% of the assignment's value (ex. an assignment worth 20% will not be accepted more than 10 days after the deadline).

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the case of lecture absences, a slide deck with limited notes will be posted on Avenue to Learn. Students are also encouraged to follow up with the course instructor to review any missed material. Zoom appointments will be available for those who are ill or in quarantine.

MSAF forms should be submitted for any missed work due to illness valued at less than 25% of the course grade. For work valued at 25% or more (Midterm Exam, Final Paper), please contact the instructor directly for any accommodations. Depending on the circumstances, documentation may be required.

As the course instructor, I am committed to supporting students and facilitating accommodations. I aim to be accessible and am happy to discuss any accommodations or arrangements that will facilitate student success. Please email me at fletchba@mcmaster.ca if you have any questions, concerns, or requests.

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, 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 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.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

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.

ADVISORY STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, 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.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

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.

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 to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): 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”: <https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=9020#requests-for-relief-for-missed-academic-term-work>

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.

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.

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.