

**- THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEANDERTHALS AND OTHER EARLY HUMANS –
ANTHROPOLOGY 4KK3, 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

Seminar: Monday, 2.30am - 5.20pm – **KTH B104**

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 engages with current debates in Palaeolithic archaeology. Starting with recent discoveries in Africa, our main focus is Early – Late Pleistocene Eurasia and Neanderthal - early modern human populations. While a weekly short intro lecture provides you with contextual details, most of our learning occurs in presentation and debate format, with the science and politics of taxonomy/what makes us human a key recurrent theme. The specific issues we engage with include:

- Representing the Palaeolithic: the science and politics of how we see our early ancestors
- What's in a name? The science and politics in defining new hominin species
- The catalysts for human evolution through time
- 'Then and us': What distinguishes modern humans from our past contemporaries and ancestors?
- The origins and significance of symbolic behaviour
- The implications of new ancient DNA capabilities
- Neanderthal / early modern human relations
- Interpreting symbolic behaviour / Palaeolithic art

- WEEK 1** Mon. 9th Jan. – Introduction to the course: aims, scope, requirements
- WEEK 2** Mon. 16th Jan. – 'Man the mighty hunter': Representing Early Prehistory
- WEEK 3** Mon. 23rd Jan. – What makes a new species? Lumpers & splitters in hominin studies
- WEEK 4** Mon. 30th Jan. – Fire / meat and the radiation of *Homo erectus* beyond Africa
- WEEK 5** Mon. 6th Feb. – Flores & Crete: The birth of human seafaring?
- WEEK 6** Mon. 13th Feb. – The Neanderthals: origin and behavioural complexity
- WEEK 7** **MID-TERM RECESS**
- WEEK 8** Mon. 27th Feb. – Neanderthal diet: Meat, medicine and cannibalism(?)
- WEEK 9** Mon. 1st March. – Sex strikes, serpents and the origins of symbolic culture
- WEEK 10** Mon. 6th March. – Modelling *Homo sapiens*' dispersal routes and their chronology
- WEEK 11** Mon. 13th March – Neanderthal / early modern human interaction

WEEK 12 Mon. 20th March – Denisovans, Flores, and the new Andaman Islander genetic data
Submit long-paper proposal

WEEK 13 Mon. 27th March – Current debates in Palaeolithic rock art

WEEK 14 Mon. 3rd April – Draft presentations of final papers

WEEK 15 EXAM WEEK - **final paper due 4pm Friday April 14th**

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.

Some of these seminars will be organised in group fashion, with team-members assigned specific roles: director / researchers / script-writers / graphic designers / actor-presenters – and as such will provide you with an array of **transferrable skills**.

Long-paper proposal – a long-paper proposal is to be submitted in class on **Monday 20th 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 by **4pm Friday April 14th**; 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)