

**ARCHAEOLOGIES OF IDENTITY: SYLLABUS**  
***ANTHROPOLOGY 710, Term 1, 2016-17***

**Instructor:** Tristan Carter (CNH 507)

**Instructor email:** [stringy@mcmaster.ca](mailto:stringy@mcmaster.ca)

**Class Times & Location:** Tuesdays, 11.30am – 2.20 pm, CNH 307

**Office Hours:** Mondays 5-6pm and by appointment

Date of submission of mid-term short paper – **4.30pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

Date of submission of end of term long papers – **4.30pm Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**Background and Course Aims**

This course critically considers the theme of ‘identity’ in archaeology. It starts with an examination of the practitioners themselves, reflecting upon how issues of class, gender and race have influenced the production of archaeological knowledge.

We then turn to the various social identities that scholars claim to be able to view in the archaeological record, i.e. through material culture and practice, rather than focusing on human remains alone. These include the archaeologies of the individual, together with a variety of other axes of identity: age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity etc., examining both why we should be interested in eliciting such information and the methods that – allegedly – allow us to do so.

Finally we revisit some of the issues surrounding the definition of larger social groups, starting with a review of culture history before considering the impact of various newer approaches and methods (practice theory, isotopic and genetic analyses etc) in the return to an archaeology that moves beyond both processes and the individual to discussing communities and ‘peoples’.

**Keywords:** identity, archaeological practitioners, sexuality, age, gender, class, culture history, social groups, the individual, communities of practice, isotopic / genetic identities.

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Due Dates
1	September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction	
2	September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Archaeological identities #1	
3	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Archaeological identities #2	
4	September 27 <sup>th</sup>	The individual in prehistory	
5	October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Agents, identity and things	
6	October 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MID-TERM RECESS</b>	
7	October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Gender	
8	October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sexuality	
9	November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Children	<i>Short paper</i>
10	November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ethnicity and kinship	
11	November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Biological identities #1 (genetics)	
12	November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Biological identities #1 (isotopes)	
13	November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Communities of practice	
14	December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Final paper presentations	
15	December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Exam week / No class	<i>Final paper</i>

**Course Requirements** - Successful completion of the course is based upon the following:

Class participation	-	40%
Short paper	-	20%
Long paper	-	40%

*Class participation* – annotated bibliography; engagement in / initiation of discussion, presentation(s).

*Short paper*: a 5 page paper (double spaced, Times New Roman 12, 1” margins) plus full bibliographic references on: ***The identity of the archaeologist is irrelevant to the production of knowledge. Discuss.***  
Due – 4.30pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

*Long paper*: a 10 to 15 page paper on a subject to be decided by student (with my approval). Due – 4.30pm Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Long paper topics must be approved. The paper should have a clear structure, argument and conclusion, and should make adequate reference to academic sources. These long papers are graded on:

Content (70%):

- Comprehensiveness of research material (20%)
- Relevance of research material (20%)
- Analysis of subject (10%)
- Coherence and structure of discussion (10%)
- Effectiveness of logic and argument (thesis) (10%)

Presentation (30%):

- Structure of paper (10%)
- Effectiveness of prose (10%)
- Technical aspects (spelling, grammar, etc.) (10%)

### Readings

Insoll, T. (ed.) (2007), *The Archaeology of Identities: A Reader*. Routledge, London [available as an e-book via McMaster library]

All other readings will be detailed / made accessible at least a week ahead of time.

### 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 f or Missed Academic Term Work](http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_f_or_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, <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 on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her

**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)