

## **ARCHAEOLOGY 451**

### **INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD AND THEORY**

**Fall 2019**

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**Office Hours:** TR 8:00-9:30; 11:00-11:45 or by appointment  
**Lectures:** TR12:30 - 1:45  
**Room:** ES 859  
**Prerequisite** Archaeology 201 and 60 units

#### **Course Objectives:**

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to some of the major theoretical trends in North American Archaeology over the past two centuries. Although the roots of European archaeology are often associated with history and/or the natural sciences, those of American archaeology tend to be tied to ethnology. As a result, archaeology in the Americas is generally taught in departments of anthropology. To a great extent, these different historical trajectories reflect the nature of the data. That is, European archaeologists study the lifestyles of their ancestors while American scholars attempt to reconstruct the lifestyles of Native populations whose cultures differ radically from their own. Despite these differences, there is, in fact, a substantial degree of congruence between developments in European and American archaeology, particularly during the early years. Thus, beginning with early ideas about the antiquity of human beings and their place in the natural world, we will trace the historical development of contemporary methods and theory in archaeology. Further, these developments often reflect changes in the social contexts and personal experiences of individual scholars. Thus, we will examine how events in society and theoretical developments in other disciplines relate to the changes in theoretical paradigms adopted by archaeologists.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students will be expected to:

- 1) Outline the basic historical sequence of theoretical frameworks used in archaeology
- 2) Describe the changes in research methods associated with the shifts in theoretical frameworks
- 3) Understand how theory influences the nature of evidence
- 4) Apply theoretical principles in the interpretation of archaeological data

#### **Required Texts:**

Harris, Oliver J. T., and Craig Cipolla 2017 *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium : Introducing Current Perspectives*. Routledge. ProQuest Ebook Central,  
<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4865820>.

**Additional books you may consult on the topics discussed in class:**

- Bintliff, John, and Mark Pearce (Editors) 2011 *The Death of Archaeological Theory?* Oxbow Books, UK
- Gibbon, Guy 1989, *Explanation in Archaeology*, Basil Blackwell Ltd, Oxford.
- Hodder, Ian 2001 *Archaeological Theory Today*. Polity Press, Cambridge, UK.
- Johnson, Matthew 2010 *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction*. Blackwell Publishers, Malden, Mass.
- Jones, Andrew 2002 *Archaeological Theory and Scientific Practice*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Lyman, R. Lee, Michael J. O'Brien, and Robert C. Dunnell 1998 *The Rise and Fall of Culture History*. Plenum Press.
- Preucel, Robert, and Ian Hodder 1996 *Contemporary Archaeology in Theory: A Reader*. Blackwell Publishers, Oxford.
- Trigger, B. 2006 *A History of Archaeological Thought*. 2nd edition. University of Cambridge Press, Cambridge.
- Willey, Gordon R., and Philip Phillips 1958 *Method and Theory in American Archaeology*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Willey, Gordon R., and Jeremy A. Sabloff 1980 *A History of American Archaeology*, Second Edition, Thames and Hudson Ltd., London.

**Evaluation methods:**

On September 5, 2019, students negotiated the nature and weighting of components used to evaluate their performance in the class. The only compulsory component in the course evaluation is class participation and this assessment is based on attendance and active participation through questions, comments and discussions. Class participation will account for 30% of the final grade.

For the second component, students were given the option of preparing four short (2-pages, single spaced) written assignments or two longer (4-pages, single spaced) critiques on specific topics. The 2-page papers short papers are to be based on the readings and lecture material relating to particular theoretical approaches. Students will be given very specific issues to address in these 2-page summaries. The 4-page critiques will be based on specific published works dealing with specific theoretical approaches as these were applied in archaeology. This component of the course will be worth 40% of the final grade with 10% assigned to each of the 2-page discussion and 20% assigned to each critique.

The third component of the course worth 10% of the final grade includes the choice of a mid-term exam or a fifth 2-page paper. The midterm exam will include a match the columns, some multiple choice questions and short answer questions.

The fourth component of the course is a term paper worth 20% of the final grade. This research paper will deal with one of the theoretical perspectives presented in either edition of *Archaeological Theory Today*. The paper must include a summary of the theoretical framework proposed by the author, a discussion of the historical roots for the theory, and a critique of the perspective presented in the paper.

**Marking scheme:**

The components to be graded and their respective weight were negotiated with students on the first day of class.

Students need not obtain a passing grade in each component of the course to receive a passing

grade. Late papers and class assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day. Students are encouraged to anticipate a failure to complete required components for the course and to make alternative arrangements with the instructor of record.

**Grade Scale:**

**A+:-** 95-100; **A:-** 90-95; **A-:-** 85-90; **B+:-** 80-85; **B:-** 75-80; **B-:-** 70-75; **C+:-** 65-70; **C:-** 60-65; **C-:-** 55-60; **D+:-** 50-55; **D:-** 45-50; **F:-** <45

**Academic misconduct and its consequences**

The University expects Students to conduct Academic Activities with integrity and intellectual honesty and to recognize the importance of pursuing and transmitting knowledge ethically.

“Academic Misconduct” includes such things as Cheating, Falsification; Plagiarism, Unauthorized Assistance and failure to comply with exam regulations or an Instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments.

Academic Misconduct is a serious form of intellectual dishonesty with significant consequences. Students who participate in, or encourage the commission of, Academic Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action which could include Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion from the University. For more information see the Student Academic Misconduct Policy

(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>)

**Information on instructor intellectual property**

Lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor includes copyright protected works under the Copyright Act and all forms of electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, laboratories, tutorials, presentations, performances, electronic (computer) information, the duplication of course material, and to the translation of recordings or transcriptions of any of these materials to another form by electronic or mechanical means by students is not permitted, except.

- As a formal accommodation as assessed by the Student Accessibility Services and only for individual private study and only at the discretion of the instructor.
- With the permission of the instructor, students without a formal accommodation may audio record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered. Any audio recording by students is permitted only for the purposes of private study by the individual student. Students may not distribute, email or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person.
- For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed.
- Any use other than that described above (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person, constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations etc.

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology keeps exams and any term work not picked up for a minimum of one year after which it is destroyed. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

## **Academic Accommodations**

Note: It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies ([ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy)). Students requesting an Accommodation on the basis of Disability are required to register with Student Accommodation Services (SAS) by submitting a Request for Accommodation in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). SAS will issue a Letter of Accommodation which must be presented to either designated contact person within the Department or the appropriate Instructors within 10 days of the beginning of term. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

## **Copyright Legislation**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

## **Support and Resources**

A link to required information that is not course-specific related information found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.