

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology**  
**ARKY615 – Topics In Archaeological Method and Theory**

Dr. Peter Dawson

Office: ES 620

Class: Wednesday: 2 to 4:45pm

Email: [pcdawson@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pcdawson@ucalgary.ca)

Office hours. I will be available via email anytime. You can also schedule a Zoom meeting with me at a time that is mutually convenient.

Class Location: **\*Online until at least Jan. 31, 2022\***. Zoom links to class can be found on D2L. If in person, we will be meeting in ES822

### **Course Description**

This seminar course is designed to provide graduate students in archaeology with a firm foundation in the history and development of theory and method in archaeological research. An important objective of this course is to examine how events in society, the personal histories of individual scholars, and theoretical developments in other disciplines helped to shape the advancement of archaeological theory. Students will be expected to attend all classes fully prepared to discuss topics which will be assigned on a weekly basis. In addition, students will be required to do the following: a) submit a biographical and historic overview of a chosen archaeological theorist; b) lead class discussions on selected topics in archaeological theory; c) provide a detailed annotated bibliography and research paper on a particular theoretical and/or methodological approach.

### **Course Readings**

- All readings are required.
- A list of readings is provided in the schedule at the end of this document.
- Additional readings may be added throughout the semester.

### **Required Technology**

- Access to a laptop or desktop computer and internet connection.
- Access to MS Office 360 (MSWord).

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Acquire an understanding of the history of archaeological theory and how social and political factors have influenced its development.
- Develop the ability to critically evaluate theoretical arguments from various points of view.
- Understand how archaeological theory can inform your master's and PhD thesis research projects.
- Be able to teach archaeological theory at an undergraduate level.

## Student Evaluation

- a. Biographic Overview – (Due Feb. 9 - 20%)
- b. Student Participation – (25%)
- c. Annotated Bibliography - (Due March 9 -15%)
- d. Research Paper – (Due last day of classes - 40%)

### GRADING SCHEME:

Each item of course work will be weighted as above and a final mark out of 100 calculated. This will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A+	95 – 100%	B	75 – 79.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
B+	80– 84.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	F	< 50%

You must pass each assignment in order to receive a passing grade in the class.

**Reappraisal of Graded Term Work:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

**Reappraisal of Final Grade:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

### MISSED EXAMS OR ASSESSMENTS

Student who are unable to complete an assignment by the specified deadline should consult with myself as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements can be made. Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation to support a missed assignment or prolonged absence from class. Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus, please see [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

### Assignments.

**Paper 1. Biographic Overview (Profile of an Archaeologist).** Describe the contributions of one of the following: what did the person research, dig, investigate, write? What were the person's philosophical and theoretical viewpoints? Did this archaeologist's work and approaches change through time? What did others write

about this person? What did YOU find most important about his person's work, relative to your own research and career goals? Remember that at different times during the course, you may be asked to adopt the perspective of the archaeologist you profile in class discussion. 10-12 pages.

Lewis Binford James B. Griffin Ian Hodder David Clark Patty Jo Watson  
Kent Flannery V.Gordon Childe Colin Renfrew Gordon Willey Kathleen Kenyon  
Christopher Tilley Michael Schiffer, Randall McGuire, Christopher Hawkes  
Grahame Clark Robert Dunnell, Glyn Daniel, Mortimer Wheeler, Gertrude Bell,  
Franz Boas, or someone of your own choosing.

Canadian Archaeologists you might want to consider: David Boyle; Harlan I. Smith, William J. Wintemberg; Diamond Jenness; Charles Borden.

**Leading a Class Discussion.** You will be required to lead at least one class discussion on a topic in archaeological method and theory. You will be responsible for selecting 5-7 articles that provide a solid overview of that topic. You will place copies of each article on my Mac server for other students to access. Instructions to follow in class. **\*Each student leading a discussion is responsible for assigning one additional reading each week. This reading has to be a current article – either related to the topic that week, or in an area of interest to the student. The last 30 minutes of each class will be devoted to discussing that article.**

**Annotated Bibliography.** You will be required to submit an annotated bibliography for your research paper. The bibliography should contain a minimum of 20 references. Each reference will be accompanied by a short description of the major points made in the article.

**Paper 2.** Research Paper. Choose a topic in archaeological method and theory and write a research paper in which you outline its basic tenets, major proponents, important case studies, and major criticisms leveled against it. I am interested in hearing your own thoughts on the topic you choose, as well as those of other archaeologists. 20-30 pages.

## **ADDITIONAL CONTENT OF THE COURSE OUTLINE**

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

“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. 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 information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Further support on academic integrity is available at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students’ assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) 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:**

Please visit the Registrar’s website at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk

## Course Schedule and Reading List

### Week 1: Course Orientation

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### Week 2: "The Past is a Foreign Country": Putting Theory into Context.

#### *Background Readings:*

Trigger, Bruce 1989. *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge University Press.  
Chapter 1 - 5

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### Week 3: Culture History and Processual Archaeology

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Background Readings:*

Trigger Chapter 6-7

#### *Readings for Discussion:*

Hawkes, Christopher

1954 *Archaeological Theory and Method: Some Suggestions from the Old World*. *American Anthropologist* N.S. 56(2):155-168.

Binford, Lewis R.

1962 *Archaeology as Anthropology*. *American Antiquity* 28:217-225.

1980 Willow smoke and dog's tails: hunter-gatherer settlement systems and archaeological site formation. *American Antiquity* 45:4-20. (Reprinted in and P&H pp. 39-60.)

Flannery, Kent

1972 The Cultural Evolution of Civilization. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics*. Vol. 3 (1972), pp. 399-426.

1973 *Archaeology with a Capital "S."* In *Research and Theory in Current Archaeology*, edited by C. Redman, pp. 47-53. John Wiley and Sons, New York.

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### Week 4: Postprocessual Critiques and Responses

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Background Readings:*

Trigger Chapter 8

#### *Readings for Discussion:*

Hodder, Ian

1982 *Theoretical Archaeology: A Reactionary View*. In *Symbolic and Structural Archaeology*, edited by I. Hodder, pp. 1-16. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Binford, Lewis R.

1982 Objectivity--Explanation--Archaeology--1981. In *Theory and Explanation in Archaeology*. Edited by C. Renfrew, M. Rowlands, and B. Segraves, pp. 125-138. Academic Press, New York.

Redman, Charles

1991 In Defense of the Seventies: The Adolescence of New Archaeology. *American Anthropologist* 93:295-307.

Preucel, Robert

1995 The Postprocessual Condition. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 3:147-175.

Hodder, Ian

1992 The Domestication of Europe. In *Theory and Practice in Archaeology*, pp. 241-253. Routledge, London.

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### **Week 5: Practice and Agency**

*Readings:*

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

Gardner, Andrew

2008 Agency. In *Handbook of Archaeological Theories*, edited by R. Bentley, H. Maschner, and C. Chippendale, pp. 95-108. Altamira Press, Lanham, MD.

Dobres, Marcia-Anne and John E. Robb

2000 Agency in Archaeology: Paradigm or Platitude? In *Agency in Archaeology*, edited by Marcia-Anne Dobres and John E. Robb. London, Routledge.

Pauketat, Timothy

2001 Practice and History in Archaeology: An Emerging Paradigm. *Anthropological Theory* 1(1):73-97. (Reprinted in P&M, pp. 137-155)

Smith, Adam T.

2001 The Limitations of Doxa. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 1(2):155-171.

Silliman, Stephen

2001 Agency, Practical Politics and the Archaeology of Culture Contact. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 1(2). pp. 190-209.

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### **Week 6: Identity and Personhood**

*Readings:*

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

Harris, Oliver J. T., and Craig Cipolla.

2017 *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium: Introducing Current Perspectives*, Routledge. Chapter 4

Brück, J.

2009 Women, Death and Social Change in the British Bronze Age. *Norwegian Archaeological Review* 42:1– 23.

Joyce, R. A.  
2000. Girling the Girl and Boying the Boy: The Production of Adulthood in Ancient Mesoamerica. *World Archaeology* 31:473– 83.

Shennan, S. J.  
1975 The Social Organization at Branč. *Antiquity* 39:279– 88.

Cross, Morag.  
2007 Accessing the Inaccessible: Disability and Archaeology. In: *The Archaeology of Identities: A Reader*, edited by Timothy Insoll, Routledge, 2007.

Voss, Barbara.  
2007 Feminisms queer the archaeological sexualities theories, and study of past. In *The Archaeology of Identities: A Reader*, edited by Timothy Insoll, Routledge, 2007.

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### **Week 7: Object Agency and Biography**

#### *Readings:*

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

Harris, Oliver J. T., and Craig Cipolla.  
2017 *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium: Introducing Current Perspectives*, Routledge. Chapter 5

Gosden, C  
2013 Technologies of Routine and Enchantment. In *Distributed Objects: Meaning and Mattering after Alfred Gell*, edited by Liana Chua, and Mark Elliott, Berghahn Books, Incorporated.

Gosden, C.  
2005 What Do Objects Want? *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 12: 193– 211

Gosden, C., and Y. Marshall.  
1999 The Cultural Biography of Objects. *World Archaeology* 31:169– 78.

Harrison, R.  
2006. An Artefact of Colonial Desire? Kimberley Points and the Technologies of Enchantment. *Current Anthropology* 47:63– 88.

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### **Week 8: Contemporary Issues and Debates**

#### *Readings:*

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

Fogelin, Lars  
2007 Inference to the Best Explanation: A Common and Effective Form of Archaeological Reasoning. *American Antiquity* 72(4):603-626.

Dawdy, Shannon Lee  
2009 Millennial Archaeology: Locating the Discipline in the Age of Insecurity. *Archaeological Dialogues* 16(2):131-142.

Atalay, Sonya

2006 Indigenous Archaeology as Decolonizing Practice. *American Indian Quarterly* 30(3&4):280-310.

McGhee, Robert

2008 Aboriginalism and the Problems of Indigenous Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 73(4):579-598.

Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Chip et al.

2010 The Premise and Promise of Indigenous Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 75(2):228-238.

Tarlow, S

2012 The Archaeology of Emotion and Affect. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41:169– 85.

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### **Week 9: Multi-Species Archaeology**

*Readings:*

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

Harris, Oliver J. T., and Craig Cipolla.

2017 *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium: Introducing Current Perspectives*, Routledge. Chapter 9.

Haraway, D

2008 *When Species Meet*. London: University of Minnesota Press.

Harris, Oliver J. T., and Craig Cipolla.

2017 *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium: Introducing Current Perspectives*, Routledge, 2017.

Russell, N.

2011 *Social Zooarchaeology: Humans and Animals in Prehistory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Russell, N., and K. J. McGowan. 2003. Dance of the Cranes: Crane Symbolism at Çatalhöyük and Beyond. *Antiquity* 77:445– 55.

Overton, N., and Y. Hamilakis.

2013 A Manifesto for a Social Zooarchaeology: Swans and Other Beings in the Mesolithic. *Archaeological Dialogues* 20:111– 36.

Hastorf, C. A., and S. Johannessen

1993 Pre-Hispanic Political Change and the Role of Maize in the Central Andes of Peru. *American Anthropologist* 95:115– 38.

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### **Week 10: Actor-Network Theory and the New Materialism**

*Readings:*

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

Harris, Oliver J. T., and Craig Cipolla.

2017 *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium: Introducing Current Perspectives*, Routledge. Chapter 8.

Hodder, Ian, and Gavin Lucas.

2017 The Symmetries and Asymmetries of Human-thing Relations. A Dialogue." *Archaeological Dialogues* 24.2 (2017): 119-37.

Shanks, M. 2007. Symmetrical Archaeology. *World Archaeology* 39:589– 96.

Nativ, Assaf.

2014 Anthropocentricity and the Archaeological Record: Towards a Sociology of Things." *Norwegian Archaeological Review* 47.2 (2014): 180-95. Web.

Yaneva, A., and Paul Graves-Brown, Rodney Harrison Angela Piccini.

2013 Actor-network-theory approach to the archaeology of contemporary architecture." *In: Paul Graves-Brown, Rodney Harrison and Angela Piccini, Editor(s)*. Oxford UP, Oxford, 2013.

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## **Week 11: Tangible and Intangible Heritage**

Discussant: \_\_\_\_\_

Champion, E

2015 Experiential realism and digital place-making. *Metaverse Creativity*. 5 (1): pp. 51-66.

Dawson, P., A. Farrokhi, A. Rowe, F. Baradaran, and D. Lichti,

2018 Digital preservation, social history, and the Quon Sang Lung Laundry building: a case study from Fort Macleod, Alberta, Canada," *Applied. Geomatics*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 361–375, 2018.

Stone, P

2013 Dark tourism scholarship: a critical review. *International Journal of Culture Tourism and Hospitality Research*. vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 307–318.

Gerardi, M., J. Cukor, J. Difede, A. Rizzo, and B. O. Rothbaum, "Virtual reality exposure therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder and other anxiety disorders.," *Current Psychiatry Reports.*, vol. 12, no. 4, pp. 298–305, 2010.

E. C. Casella and K. Fennelly,

2016 "Ghosts of Sorrow, Sin and Crime: Dark Tourism and Convict Heritage in Van Diemen's Land, Australia, *International Journal of Historical Archaeology.*, vol. 20, no. 3, pp. 506–520, 2016.

Onciul, Bryony

2014 Revitalising Blackfoot Heritage and Addressing Residential School Trauma. In *Displaced Heritage. Responses to Disaster, Trauma and Loss*, edited by Ian Convery, et al., Boydell & Brewer, Incorporated, 2014.

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## **Week 12**

### **Paper Presentations.**