

ARKY201 - INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Peter Dawson

Office: ES 820

Phone: 220-4855

Time: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9:00am to 9:50

Location: EDC 179

Office Hours: Mondays, 3:00-5:00 pm, or by appointment)

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic analytical methods and theoretical constructs used in contemporary archaeological research. Special emphasis will be placed on comparing how archaeology has developed as a discipline in Canada versus the United States. The first half of the course deals with methods of data collection and analysis. Students will gain a working knowledge of site location techniques, methods for establishing local and regional chronologies, as well as analytical methods used in the analysis of archaeological remains. The second half of the course explores the relationship between archaeological data and theory in our reconstructions of the life ways of past cultures. The history and development of theory in archaeological interpretation is examined, with specific reference to middle range research and the post-modern critique of contemporary archaeological practice. In the labs, you will gain hands on experience in the recovery, recording, classification and interpretation of archaeological information.

Field Trip

A Saturday Field Trip is planned to Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (Date TBA). All are expected to attend. You can either pack a lunch or buy lunch there. Hiking boots or comfortable walking shoes should be worn. Make sure you dress for the weather!

Evaluation Methods

- 1) The lecture portion of the class is evaluated through two midterm examinations and a scheduled final exam. Exam formats will vary, and may consist of some combination of matching questions, multiple choice, definitions, and/or short answer.
- 2) The lab portion of the class is evaluated through four, short answer quizzes (5%) and a final project. The final project consists of a simulated archaeological excavation in the lab (5%) and then a written report interpreting those results (15%).

Required Text:

Thomas, David Hurst, Robert L. Kelly, and Peter C. Dawson
2008 Archaeology (First Canadian Edition). Nelson Education.

Marking Scheme

Exam I: 15% (Oct. 13th)
Exam II: 20% (Nov. 17)
Final Exam: 25% (Scheduled)
Lab Grade: 40% (Determined by your TA).

* Students should familiarize themselves with the University of Calgary's policies of plagiarism and academic misconduct, outlined in the University Calendar.

* Students with special needs should identify themselves to the instructor during the first week of class.

* Late papers and class assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day. Any medical or family reasons cited for extensions or late papers will have to be supported by appropriate documents.

Grade Scale:

95% = A+
90% = A
87% = A-
84% = B+
80% = B
77% = B-
72% = C+
65% = C
60% = C-
55% = D+
50% = D
Below = F