

ARKY451 - INTRODUCTION TO METHOD AND THEORY

Instructor: Dr. Peter Dawson

Office: ES 820

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Time: Wed: 13:00 to 15:50

Location: ES 859

Office Hours: Mondays, 13:00-15:30 (or by appointment)

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Course Description

This course is intended to introduce students to the history of method and theory in archaeology. Beginning with early ideas about the antiquity of human beings and their place in the natural world, we will trace the development of contemporary methods and theory in archaeology. 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 development of archaeological theory.

Required Texts:

Trigger, Bruce.

1989 A History of Archaeological Thought. Cambridge University Press, London.

Hodder, Ian.

1999. Archaeological Theory Today. Polity Press/Blackwell Publishers, Oxford.

Marking Scheme

Mid-Term Exam: 25% (Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2008).

Final Exam: 30% (Scheduled).

Bibliography: 15% (Wednesday Nov. 18, 2008).

Research Paper: 30% (LAST DAY OF CLASSES, 2008).

* 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

Topics To Be Covered:

Week 1: Early Approaches to Science and Archaeology.

- a. Ancient Greece and Rome.
- b. The Middle Ages.
- c. The Renaissance.
- d. The Scientific Revolution.
- e. The Enlightenment.

Read:

- A. Chapter 1 in Trigger: The Relevance of Archaeological Theory.
- B. Chapter 2 in Trigger: Classical Archaeology and Antiquarianism.

Week 2: Early Evolutionary views of Nature and Human Societies.

- a. Geology.
- b. Biology.
- c. Human societies.

Read:

Ruse, M

2005 The Darwinian Revolution, as seen in 1979 and as seen Twenty-Five Years Later in 2004. *Journal Of The History Of Biology* 38 (1): 3-17 MAR 2005.

Week 3: The Beginnings of Scientific Archaeology.

- a. Stratigraphy.
- b. Relative Dating.
- c. Early Attempts at Chronology Building.
- d. Archaeology in North America.

Read:

Chapter 3 in Trigger: The Beginnings of Scientific Archaeology.
Chapter 4 in Trigger: The Imperial Synthesis.

Week 4 and 5: Culture-Historical Archaeology.

- a. The Reaction against Classical Evolution.
- b. Diffusionism.
- c. Anthropogeography.
- d. Historical Particularism.
- e. The Direct Historical Approach.
- f. The Development of Systems of Classification.

Read:

Chapter 5 in Trigger: Culture-Historical Archaeology.

Week 6 and 7: Structural Functionalism.

- a. Structural functionalism in British Social Anthropology.
- b. Structural-functional approaches in Archaeology.
- c. Marxist Theory.
- d. Conjunctive Archaeology.
- e. Ecological and Settlement Archaeology.
- f. Cultural Materialism.

Read:

A. Chapter 7 in Trigger: Functionalism in Western Archaeology.

Week 8 and 9: Neo-Evolutionism and the New Archaeology.

- a. Cultural Ecology.
- b. Neo-Evolutionism
- c. Systems Theory.
- d. Evolutionary Ecology.
- e. Behavioral Archaeology.
- f. The Scientific Method and Levels of Archaeological Theory.

Read:

A. Chapter 8 in Trigger: Neo-Evolutionism and the New Archaeology.

B. Redman, Charles L.

1991. In defense of the seventies the adolescence of New Archaeology. *American Anthropologist* 93: 295-307.

C. Leonard, R

2002. Evolutionary Archaeology. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, Ed. Ian Hodder.

Blackwell Publishers:Oxford. Pp. 65-97.

2003.

D. Lamotta, V.M and Schiffer, M.B

2002. Behavioral Archaeology: Towards a New Synthesis. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, Ed. Ian Hodder. Blackwell Publishers:Oxford. Pp. 14-64

Week 10: The Rise of Post-Processual Archaeology.

- a. Criticisms of the New Archaeology.
- b. Critical Theory.
- c. Gender Attribution.
- d. Agency Theory and Practice Theory.
- e. Landscape Archaeology.

Read:

A) Earle, T., and R. Preucel

1987. Processual archaeology and the radical critique. *Current Anthropology* 28: 501-538.

B) Barrett, J Agency, The Duality of Structure, and the Problem of the Archaeological Record. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, Ed. Ian Hodder. Blackwell Publishers:Oxford. Pp. 141-164.

C) Thomas, J Archaeologies of Place and Landscape. In *Archaeological Theory Today*. Ed. Ian Hodder. Blackwell Publishers:Oxford. Pp.165-186.

Week 11: Resilience Theory and Archaeology

- a. Adaptive Cycles and Creative Destruction
- b. Thresholds of Resilience.
- c. “Remember” and Revolt” Phases.
- d. Archaeological Applications of Resilience Theory.

Read:

A) Holling, C.S, L Gunderson, and D Ludwig

2002b In Quest of a Theory of Adaptive Change. In *Panarchy: Understanding Transformations In Human And Natural Systems*. L. Gunderson and C.S. Holling, eds. Washington, Covelo, London: Island Press.

B) Redman, C

2005 Resilience Theory in Archaeology. *American Anthropologist* 107(1):70-77.

C) Redman, C, and A Kinzig

2003 Resilience of Past Landscapes: Resilience Theory, Society, and the Long Duree. *Conservation Ecology* 7(1).

Week 12: The Construction of Archaeological Knowledge

- a. Visual Representation of Archaeological Data.
- b. Who 'Owns' the Past?
- c. Post-Colonial Archaeology

Read:

A) Moser, Stephanie

2002. Archaeological Representation: The Visual Conventions for Structuring Knowledge About the Past. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, Ed. Ian Hodder. Blackwell Publishers:Oxford. Pp. 262-281.

B) Levy, RM., Dawson, P., and C. Arnold

2004 Reconstructing Traditional Inuit House Forms Using Three-Dimensional Interactive Computer Modeling. *Visual Studies* 19(1):26-35.

C) Gosden, Chris

2002 Postcolonial archaeology: Issues of Culture, Identity, and Knowledge. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, Ed. Ian Hodder. Blackwell Publishers:Oxford. Pp. 241-260.

Week 13: Course Wrap Up and Review.