

ARKY451 - INTRODUCTION TO METHOD AND THEORY

Instructor: Dr. Peter Dawson

Office: ES 820

Phone: 220-4855

Time: Wed: 14:00 to 16:50

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. Students will have the opportunity to participate and contribute to various topics via a blog I will be setting up. The blog provides a means of discussing topics of interest which I will be setting up throughout the year. Topics might include ethics, biographic overviews of archaeologists, and recent articles dealing with 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 1: 25% (Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011).

Midterm Exam II: 25% (Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011).

Final Exam: 40% (Scheduled)

Blog: 10%

* 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.
- C. Introduction: A Review of Contemporary Theoretical Debates in Archaeology. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, Ed. Ian Hodder. Blackwell Publishers:Oxford.

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.

- Early Attempts at Chronology Building.
- c. 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.

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: Complexity, Resilience, and Collapse

- a. Adaptive Cycles and Creative Destruction
- b. Societal Collapse.
- c. Creeping Normalcy
- d. Why Societies Collapse?

Read:

- A) Redman, C
2005 Resilience Theory in Archaeology. *American Anthropologist* 107(1):70-77.
- B) Murphy, R.
2001 Nature's Temporalities and the Manufacture of Vulnerability: A study of a sudden disaster with implications for creeping ones. *Time and Society* 10:329-348

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) Dawson, P., Levy, R.M., Lyons, N.

2011 "Breaking the Fourth Wall": 3D Virtual Worlds as Tools for Knowledge Repatriation in Archaeology. *Journal of Social Archaeology*.

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.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT OF THE COURSE OUTLINE

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Academic Accommodation Policy

The purpose of academic accommodation is to provide students with documented disabilities equal opportunity to master the essentials of a post-secondary education. Students with disabilities at the University of Calgary have met all admission requirements but may have done so with the use of accommodations. Similarly, they are expected to meet all academic and non-academic requirements. Adaptive technology and other academic accommodations do not relieve students of their responsibility to develop the essential skills and abilities expected of all students. Please refer to the following web link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/71>

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403)220-8237.

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

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.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

- 1) Presenting another student's work as your own
- 2) Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk Information

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

Student Union Vice President – Academic
Phone: (403) 220-3911
Email: suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representative
Phone: (403) 220-3913
Email: socilscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office
<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/students-rights.html>