

ARKY451 - INTRODUCTION TO METHOD AND THEORY

Instructor: Dr. Peter Dawson

Office: ES 820

Phone: 220-4855

Time: Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:00 to 11:50

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.

Marking Scheme

Mid-Term Exam: 25% (Oct. 18, 2013).

Final Exam: 30% (Take home).

Bibliography: 15% (Nov. 8, 2013).

Research Paper: 30% (Dec 6, 2013).

* 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

While students must complete all assignments and exams, a passing grade on any particular component of the course is not essential if the student is to pass the course as a whole.

Topics To Be Covered:

***Please note: Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis by the instructor, and will be from the course text, as well as journal articles and book chapters. Student will be responsible for obtaining electronic copies of assigned journal articles. The instructor will make alternate arrangements when these readings are not available electronically.**

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.

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

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

Week 3: The Beginnings of Scientific Archaeology.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Week 11: Current Theoretical Issues: Part 1

- a. Adaptive Cycles and Creative Destruction
- b. Societal Collapse.
- c. Creeping Normalcy
- d. Why Societies Collapse?
- a. Visual Representation of Archaeological Data.
- b. Who 'Owns' the Past?
- c. Post-Colonial Archaeology

Week 12: Current Theoretical Issues: Part 2

- a. Visual Representation of Archaeological Data.
- b. Who 'Owns' the Past?
- c. Landscape Archaeology
- d. Gender/the archaeology of childhood.
- e. World Heritage as Risk.

Week 13: Course wrap up.

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: suvpaca@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>