

Department of Anthropology

ANTH 3309G-001

**Hunting and Gathering Societies**

Course Outline

Fall 2016

**Class time:** Mondays 12:30 AM-1:30 PM, Wednesdays 11:30-1:30 PM

**Room location:** Talbot College 201

**Instructor:** Chris Ellis

**Office:** SSC 3409

**Phone:** ext. 85081

**Email:** cjellis@uwo.ca

**Office Hours:** Mondays 2:00-3:30 PM; Wednesday 2:00-3:00 PM

**Prerequisite:** *Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.*

**Anti-requisite:** *None*

**COURSE CONTENT:**

This course provides an overview of the anthropology of Ahunting and gathering@ or Aforaging@ peoples; that is, societies that **did not** practice agriculture and relied instead on a mix of collecting, hunting (sometimes scavenging) and fishing. The course uses both archaeological and ethnographic/ethnological perspectives on these peoples and allows us to address many important issues including the causes of hunter-gatherer subsistence and societal variability and the usefulness of modern forager studies for understanding past human societies.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- comprehend the diversity of hunting and gathering societies of the past and present and have a detailed knowledge of the constructs that anthropologists have developed to organize and explain that diversity
- appreciate the central role that the study of hunter-gatherers has played in the development of virtually every major anthropological theory as well as theories in other Social Science disciplines
- have developed a greater appreciation of the past achievements and rich histories of hunting and gathering peoples
- comprehend a diversity of perspectives on what is “human nature” and the seminal role that hunter gatherers have played and continue to play in developing and testing those formulations
- understand where the theoretical, methodological and substantive gaps and major points of contention are in our knowledge/explanations of hunter-gatherers
- recognize how various different sub-disciplines of anthropology can together contribute to a more robust understanding of hunter-gatherer life

**COURSE MARKS:**

Grades will be based on: a) a “book report” on a hunter-gatherer ethnography due in class October 12 (10%); b) a mid-term exam to be held in class on October 26 (25%); c) a library research paper (due in class on November 23; 40%); and d) a final exam to be scheduled by the registrar sometime in the final exam period from December 10-21/16 (25%). The final exam will only cover material after the mid-term (e.g. from October 31/16 to the end of the course). Generally, the exams will consist of a) short, written answer, definitional-type questions and b) longer written essay questions. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

**REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:**

Readings for this course will be taken from three sources: 1) a published edited volume listed below compiled by John Gowdy and available through the bookstore; 2) academic journals available generally through the library system by online access as downloadable pdfs (noted as *available on-line through the library system* on the course outline/schedule below); and 3) other online sources not generally available through the library or other sources that can be accessed through the course page on Owl Sakai (noted as *available through Owl Sakai* on the course outline/schedule below). The required edited volume available in the bookstore is:

Gowdy, John (editor, 1998). Limited Wants Unlimited Means: A Reader on Hunter-Gatherer Economics and the Environment. Island Press, Washington D.C.

**OTHER IMPORTANT WORKS:**

There are a large number of important works on hunting and gathering peoples that you may wish to consult for reference and to track down ideas or literature for course papers or ethnographies that can be used for book reports. They include:

Allen, Mark and Terry Jones (editors, 2015). Violence and Warfare Among Hunter-Gatherers. Left Coast Press, Walnut, California.

Barnard, Allan (editor, 2004). Hunter-Gatherers in History, Archaeology and Anthropology. Berg, Oxford.

Bettinger, Robert L. and Raven Garvey (2015). Hunter-Gatherers: Archaeological and Evolutionary Theory. Springer, New York.

Bicchieri, Marco G. (editor, 1972): Hunters and Gatherers Today. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, N.Y.

Binford, Lewis R. (2001). Constructing Frames of Reference: An Analytical Method for Archaeological Theory Building Using Hunter-Gatherer and Environmental Data Sets. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Burch, Jr., Ernest S. and Linda J. Ellanna (editors, 1994). Key Issues in Hunter-Gatherer Research. Berg, Oxford.

Codding, Brian F. and Karen L. Kramer (editors, 2016). Why Forage?: Hunters and Gatherers in the Twenty-First Century. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Cummings, Vicki, Peter Jordan, Marek Zvelebil (editors, 2014). The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-Gatherers. Oxford University Press, Oxford, England.

Dahlberg, Frances (editor, 1981). Woman the Gatherer. Yale University Press, New Haven.

Damas, David (editor, 1965). Contributions to Anthropology: Band Societies. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 228.

Fitzhugh, Ben and Junko Habu (editors, 2002). Beyond Foraging and Collecting: Evolutionary Change in Hunter-Gatherer Settlement Systems. Springer, New York.

Grier, Colin, Jangsuk Kim and Junzo Uchiyama (editors, 2006). Beyond Affluent Foragers: Rethinking Hunter-Gatherer Complexity (Proceedings of the 9th Icaz Conference). Oxbow, Oxford.

Howell, Nancy (2010). Life Histories of the Dobe! Kung: Food, Fatness, and Well-Being Over the Life-Span. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Ingold, Tim, David Riches and James Woodburn (editors, 1987/88). Hunters and Gatherers, Vols. 1 (History, Evolution and Social Change) & 2 (Property, Power and Ideology). Berg, New York.

Jochim, Michael (1976). Hunter-Gatherer Subsistence and Settlement: A Predictive Model. Academic Press, New York.

Jochim, Michael A. (1998). A Hunter-Gatherer Landscape: Southwest Germany in the Late Paleolithic and Mesolithic. Springer, New York.

Jones, Nicholas Blurton (2016). Demography and Evolutionary Ecology of Hadza Hunter-Gatherers. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.

Kelly, Robert L. (1995). The Foraging Spectrum: Diversity in Hunter-Gatherer Lifeways. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D. C. (also newer edition of this work is available)

Lee, Richard B. and Irven DeVore (editors, 1968). Man the Hunter. Aldine Press, Chicago.

Lee, Richard B. and Richard Daly (editors, 1999). The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Hunters and Gatherers. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Marlowe, Frank W. (2010). The Hadza: Hunter-Gatherers of Tanzania. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Morrison, Kathleen D. and Laura L. Junker (editors, 2003). Forager-Traders in South and Southeast Asia: Long-Term Histories. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Painter-Brick, Catherine, Robert H. Layton and Peter Rowley-Conwy (editors, 2001). Hunter-Gatherers: An Interdisciplinary Perspective. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Prentiss, William C. and Ian Kuijt (editors, 2004). Complex Hunter-Gatherers. Evolution and Organization of Prehistoric Communities on the Plateau of Northwestern North America. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake.

Price, T. Douglas and James A. Brown (editors, 1985). Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers: The Emergence of Cultural Complexity. Academic Press, San Diego.

Sassaman, Kenneth E. and Donald Holly Jr. (2011). Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology as Historical Process. The University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Schire, Carmel (editor, 1984). Past and Present in Hunter-Gatherer Studies. Academic Press, San Diego.

Schweitzer, Peter P., Megan Biesele, Robert K. Hitchcock (editors, 2000). Hunters and Gatherers in the Modern World: Conflict, Resistance, and Self-Determination. Berghahn Books, Oxford.

Sercombe, Peter and Bernhard Sellato (editors, 2007). Beyond the Green Myth: Hunter-Gatherers of Borneo in the Twenty-First Century. Nias Press, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Smiley, F. E., Carla M. Sinopoli, H. E. Jackson, W. H. Wills and S. A. Gregg (editors, 1980). The Archaeological Correlates of Hunter-Gatherer Societies: Studies from the Ethnographic Record. Michigan Discussions in Anthropology, Volume 5(1-2), Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Whallon, Robert, William A. Lovis and Robert K. Hitchcock (2011). Information and Its Role in Hunter-Gatherer Bands. Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press, Ideas, Debates and Perspectives 5. University of California, Los Angeles.

Winterhalder, Bruce and Eric Alden Smith (1981). Hunter-Gatherer Foraging Strategies, Ethnographic and Archeological Analyses. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

### **BOOK REPORT:**

A good knowledge of the ethnographic descriptions of hunting and gathering peoples is essential to understanding the nature of these societies. In order to encourage you to become involved in reading such works, and also familiarize yourself in more detail with one particular society, all students will be required to track down a *general* book length (e.g. at least 125 pages) ethnography (e.g. a broad description of a particular hunting and gathering society or a group of some closely related hunter-gatherer societies from the same geographic area). **Remember the society featured in the ethnography must not rely by definition on agriculture!** I find I have to remind students of this fact because many want to do ethnographies of agriculturalists! Based on a reading of this ethnography the student will write a summary report, not to exceed six (excluding the title page), double-spaced, typed

pages that briefly summarizes the nature of the subject society under the following headings: 1) Location and Environment; 2) Subsistence Practices and Settlement Patterns (e.g. important resources, mobility and land use strategies, population density, group/band/settlement size); 3) Social Organization (which, broadly, can include kinship, marriage, leadership, dispute resolution, exchange systems, sexual division of labour, etc.); 4) Belief Systems including religion, ritual and world view; and 5) Impact of Contact with outsiders or neighbouring groups. The degree of attention to each of these categories will vary with the source used or selected by the student. If the ethnography you use does not consider one or more of these subjects then say so in your report. The report is due in class on October 12/16. The particular books chosen must be approved by the course instructor (either in person or by email) **by October 5/16** (if not sooner!) and *every student must focus on a different book* so I will maintain a record of approved books/ethnographies. In sum, do not it until the last minute to try and choose an ethnography as someone may have already done so! Course readings as well as certain items on the reference list above, such as the Lee and Daly (1999) *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Hunters and Gatherers*, which is in the library reference section and cannot be taken out on loan, are excellent sources to use to track down a suitable ethnography.

### **COURSE PAPER:**

All students are required to submit a paper dealing with some aspect/problem of hunting and gathering societies. All paper topics must be approved by the instructor and in person. Please come and visit me in my office hours or by appointment at other times. Papers should be at least 12-15 pages in length (typed, double-spaced) and are due in class on **November 23, 2016**. Again, having a topic approved as soon as possible will make your life easier as certain topics such as those related to women's roles in hunting and gathering societies are popular! I require as per department policies that you also send me an electronic copy of your paper and I will acknowledge receipt via return email. These papers should be in the format for writing papers in Anthropology. This format can be obtained by consulting any recent issue of the journals *American Anthropologist* or *American Antiquity* in the library.

With reference to course papers I am forced to note: "*Plagiarism and Scholastic Offences*: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy (see link below).

### **IMPORTANT STUFF (Accessibility, Plagiarism, Medical Accommodation):**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

[http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course\\_information/academic\\_policies.html](http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html)

## COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE:

<u>Days</u>	<u>Topics and Required Readings*</u>
September 12-14	<p><b>Introduction: The Importance of Hunter-Gatherer Studies; What is Debated: The Primary Questions.</b></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Foreward (Richard B. Lee). In Gowdy text pages ix-xii.</li> <li>2) Back to the Future, Forward to the Past (John Gowdy). In Gowdy text, pages xv-xxxi.</li> </ol>
September 19-28	<p><b>A History of Intellectual Thought About Hunter-Gatherers: Research to 1968</b></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Alan Barnard (1999). <i>Available through Owl Sakai.</i></li> <li>2) Richard B. Lee (1969, originally 1966). <i>Available through Owl Sakai.</i></li> <li>3) Richard B. Lee and Irven DeVore (1968). <i>Available through Owl Sakai.</i></li> <li>4) The Original Affluent Society (M. Sahlins). In Gowdy text pages 5-41.</li> <li>5) Julian Steward (1955). <i>Available through Owl Sakai.</i></li> <li>6) Future Primitive (John Zerzan). In Gowdy text, pages 255-280.</li> </ol>
October 3-5	<p><b>Are Modern Hunter-Gatherers Representative of those that Existed in the Past? Can Modern Hunter-Gatherers be Used to Develop and Evaluate General Models or Models of Hunter-Gatherers in the Past?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Beyond the Original Affluent Society...(Nurit Bird-David). In Gowdy text pages 111-137.</li> <li>2) The Future of Hunter-Gatherer Research (Ernest Burch). In Gowdy text pages 201-217.</li> <li>3) Thomas N. Headland and Lawrence A. Reid (1989). Hunter-Gatherers and Their Neighbors from Prehistory to the Present. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 30: 43-66. <b>(available on-line via library system).</b></li> <li>4) Claire Porter and Frank Marlowe (2007). How Marginal are Forager Habitats? <i>Journal of Archaeological Science</i> 34(1):59-68. <b>(available on-line via library system).</b></li> <li>5) Art, Science or Politics? The Crisis in Hunter Gatherer Studies (Richard B. Lee). In Gowdy text pages 165-200.</li> <li>6) Edwin Wilmsen (1983). <i>Available through Owl Sakai.</i></li> <li>7) Egalitarian Societies (James Woodburn). In Gowdy pages 87-110.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note: Ethnographies must be approved by October 5/16.</b></p>

- October 10                                 **No Class: Thanksgiving!**
- October 12-24                             **Subsistence Practices of Hunter-Gatherers I**  
1) Susan Kent (1989). *Available through Owl Sakai.*  
2) What Hunters do For a Living...@ (Richard B. Lee). In Gowdy text pages 43-63.  
3) So Varied in Detail B So Similar in Outline (Tim Flannery). In Gowdy text pages 237-254.  
**Note: Ethnography Book Reports due in class October 12/15.**
- October 26                                 **Mid-Term Exam (in classroom)**
- October 31- November 2                 **Subsistence Practices of Hunter-Gatherers II**  
1) Bruce Winterhalder (1981). *Available through Owl Sakai.*
- November 7-16                             **Hunter-Gatherer Mobility**  
1) Lewis Binford (1982). Willow Smoke and Dog's Tails: Hunter-Gatherer Settlement Systems and Archaeological Site Formation. American Antiquity 45:4-20. (**available on-line via library system**).  
2) Robert L. Kelly (1983). Hunter-Gatherer Mobility Strategies. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 39:277-306. (**available on-line via library system**).  
3) The Transformation of the Kalahari !Kung (John Yellen). In Gowdy text pages 223-235.
- November 21-30                             **Men, Women, Sharing and Land Use**  
1) Elizabeth Cashdan (1983). Territoriality Among Human Foragers: Ecological Models and an Application to Four Bushman Groups. *Current Anthropology* 24:47-66. (**available on-line via library system**).  
2) Women=s Status in...Eleanor Leacock. In Gowdy text pages 139-164.  
3) Sharing, Talking and Giving...(Lorna Marshall). In Gowdy text pages 65-85.  
4) Alain Testart (1982). The Significance of Food Storage Among Hunter-Gatherers: Residence Patterns, Population Densities, and Social Inequalities. *Current Anthropology* 23:523-537. (**available on-line via library system**).  
**\*Note: Course papers due in class November 23/16.**
- December 5-7                               **Egalitarian and Non-Egalitarian Hunter-Gatherers**  
1) Brian Hayden (2001). *Available through Owl Sakai.*  
2) T. Douglas Price (1995). *Available through Owl Sakai.*
- December 10-21                             **Final Exam Period: Exam scheduled in this period by Registrar**