

ANTHROPOLOGY 3308G  
ARCHAEOLOGY: THEORY AND PRACTICE  
BRIEF COURSE SUMMARY - WINTER 2018

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Office: SSC 3433

Class time: Tuesdays 9:30-12:30, Classroom: SSC-2257

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COURSE AIM

This course examines contemporary theoretical frameworks in archaeology and explores how they allow different interpretations of archaeological data and how they shape and are shaped by current issues, the development of new methods, and archaeological practice around the globe.

The course will be an opportunity for students to expand their understanding of how material culture comes into being, how it can be studied, and what it can tell us about societies over time. The course will be structured around major current intellectual trends in archaeology, including systemic archaeology, landscape archaeology, cognitive archaeology, interpretive archaeologies, gender archaeology, digital archaeology, and evolutionary thought and archaeology, offering students an opportunity to explore key concepts such as *chaîne opératoire*, network theory, temporality, daily practice, agency, identity, violence, ritual practice, memory, and heritage.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in this course will hone their skills at:

- Reading, summarizing and critically evaluating archaeological literature.
- Appreciate the history, key arguments and applications of different theoretical approaches in archaeology.
- Critically reflect upon the personal and disciplinary limits of knowledge and develop an appreciation for uncertainty and ambiguity within interpretation and analysis.
- Understanding of how anthropologists are currently thinking about material culture, materiality, object agency, architecture, landscape, and the co-entanglement of humans and things.

TEXTBOOK

To be determined

METHOD OF EVALUATION

1. Research Paper 1 (20%)
2. Poster 1 (10%)
3. Research Paper 2 (30%)
4. Poster 2 (15%)
5. Class Participation (25%)