

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY****ANTHROPOLOGY 2229G, Section 001****Principles of Archaeology**

Meeting Times: Mondays 12:30 - 1:30 PM, Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 PM, SSC 2257

Instructor: Chris Ellis

email: cjellis@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30 PM; Tuesdays 2:00-3:30 PM

Office: SSC 3409

Phone: 661-2111, ext. 85081

Teaching Assistant:

Matt Beaudoin

email: mbeaudoi6@uwo.ca

Office: SSC 3407

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30 PM

Teaching Assistant:

John Moody

email: jmoody5@uwo.ca

Office: SSC 3436

Office Hours: Fridays 9:00-11:00 AM

COURSE CONTENT:

This course provides an overview of archaeology as practised by anthropologists. The main aim of the course is to provide the student with a basic appreciation of how anthropological archaeologists are able to go from the material remains of past peoples to statements about conditions and events in the human past and how archaeology is uniquely poised to answer certain questions of interest to all anthropologists. Therefore, the focus of the course will be on the nature of archaeology as a discipline, archaeological/anthropological theories, and general analytical methods rather than on field techniques or discoveries resulting from archaeological research except insofar as they illustrate theory and method.

COURSE MARKS:

Grades will be based on: a) a mid-term exam to be held in class on February 15, 2012 (25%); b) a final exam to be scheduled in the final exam period from April 14-30, 2012 (25%); and c) two written course take home projects (25% each x 2=50%). The final exam will only cover material after the mid-term (e.g. from February 20 to the end of the course). Generally, the exams will consist of matching questions, short definitional-type questions, and longer essay questions.

COURSE PROJECTS:

Students are required to carry out two written take-home "projects" or problems. For these projects, the student will be given a set of hypothetical archaeological data and asked to use these data to make inferences about the prehistory of an imaginary area or site and write a report on those areas or sites. The first project will be handed out in class

on February 13, 2012 and is due in class on March 5, 2012. This project will be concerned with how one goes about arranging archaeological sites in time or essentially, constructing chronologies and will test the students knowledge of various archaeological dating methods such as stratigraphy, seriation, use of dated historic period artifacts, typology and radiocarbon dating. The second project will be given out in class on March 19, 2012 and is due to the instructor by April 11, 2012. This project will be concerned with making inferences about the cultural systems and lifestyles of past peoples represented by the hypothetical data set.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:

The required readings for the course are will be primarily from one required text:

Archaeology: Down to Earth, Fourth Edition by Robert L. Kelly and David Hurst Kelly & Thomas, 2011, Belmont, California: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Copies of this text are available in the book store (at an outrageous price unfortunately) and certain chapters from the text are assigned as required readings for each major topic covered in the course (see course outline below). In addition to the text readings, a small number of other required seminal readings available on line as pdfs through the library system. One can download pdf copies online by accessing that journal through JSTOR or directly by the journal title (such as American Antiquity) via the university library web page. These articles are listed in the course outline below and the dates for which they should be read. I note that several of these articles are in the journal American Antiquity and one can download pdf copies online by accessing that journal through JSTOR via the university library web page.

OTHER AVAILABLE BOOKS/JOURNALS:

There are some additional texts or journals which the student may find of use and interest. These include:

A History of Archaeological Thought, by Bruce G. Trigger, 1989, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (also a second edition in 2006).

Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory, Volumes 1-11, edited by Michael B. Schiffer, 1978-1987, Academic Press, New York.

American Antiquity, 1935-present. (Journal)

Archaeological Theory Today, edited by Ian Hodder, 2001, Polity Books, Cambridge, UK

Archaeology: The Widening Debate, edited by B. Cunliffe, W. Davies & C. Renfrew, 2002. Oxford: The British Academy.

Antiquity, 1927-present. (Journal)

Annual Review of Anthropology, Volumes 1-40, 1972-2011. Although covering more than archaeology, there are often good summary reviews of archaeological issues in this source.

Archaeological Method and Theory, Volumes 1-5, 1988-1993, edited by Michael B. Schiffer, Tucson, University of Arizona Press.

Archaeological Theory: An Introduction, by Matthew Johnson, 1999, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Archaeology: Discovering Our Past, Second Edition, by Robert Sharer and Wendy Ashmore, 1993, Mountain View California: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Archaeology: The Science of Once and Future Things, by Brian Hayden, 1993, New York: W.H. Freeman and Company.

Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice, by Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn, 1991, New York: Thames and Hudson.

In Pursuit of the Past: Decoding the Archaeological Record, by Lewis Binford, 1983, New York: Thames and Hudson.

Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, 1982-present. (Journal)

Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory, 1994-present. (Journal).

World Archaeology, 1969-present. (Journal)

COURSE OUTLINE:

Days

Topics and Readings

January 9-11	Anthropological Archaeology: Its Scope and Goals. Reading: Kelly & Thomas (2011)*: pages xvii-xxvi, 16-20, 224-243.
January 16-18	A Short History of Archaeological Inquiry. Readings: 1) Kelly & Thomas (2011): pages 1-15; 2) Lewis R. Binford (1962): Archaeology as Anthropology. <u>American Antiquity</u> 28:217-225; 3) Bruce G. Trigger (1980): Archaeology and the Image of the American Indian. <u>American Antiquity</u> 45:662-676.
January 23-25	Theoretical Orientations. Readings: 1) Kelly & Thomas (2011): pages 20-33; 2) Michelle Hegmon (2003): Setting Theoretical Egos Aside: Issues and Theory in North American Archaeology. <u>American Antiquity</u> 68:213-243.

January 30-February 1	The Archaeological Record. Readings: 1) Kelly & Thomas (2011): pages 34-73, 112-129; 2) Michael B. Schiffer (1972): Archaeological Context and Systemic Context. <u>American Antiquity</u> 37:156-165.
February 6-13	Arranging the Archaeological Record in Time and Space. Readings: Kelly & Thomas (2011): pages 74-111.
February 15	Mid-Term Exam.
February 20-24	Conference week: no classes!!
February 27-March 7	Past Lifeways I: Subsistence, Economy & Technology (How did people relate to their environments or how did they get their groceries?). Reading: Kelly & Thomas (2011): pages 130-166.
March 12-21	Past Lifeways II: Social Systems and Settlement Patterns (How did people relate to each other prior to facebook?). Reading: Kelly & Thomas (2011): pages 167-186.
March 26- April 4	Past Lifeways III: Ideologies/Meanings (How did people relate to their cosmos or what were they thinking?). Readings: 1) Kelly & Thomas (2011): pages 187-204; 2) Lars Fogelin (2007): The Archaeology of Religious Ritual. <u>Annual Review of Anthropology</u> 36:55-71.
April 9-11	Summary and Conclusions

*Kelly & Thomas (2011) refers to required readings in course text book; all other readings are from the journal American Antiquity or the Annual Review of Anthropology and are available online through the library system as downloadable pdfs.