

PRELIMINARY BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

ANTHROPOLOGY 3308G-001 Archaeology: Theory and Practice *Winter 2025*

Version date: Nov 21, 2024

NOTE: This is a draft outline pending confirmation of pottery workshop.

Instructor: Neal Ferris

Office hours: after class, or by appointment in my office, or at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology, or online

Email: nferris@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Antirequisite(s): none

Prerequisite(s): Anthropology 2229F/G and registration in Year 3 or 4 in any Anthropology Module

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to -
- 2) Advance their skills at reading, summarizing and critically evaluating archaeological literature and ideas;
- 3) Be familiar with the range of key conceptual framings – and limitations - to shaping archaeological knowing;
- 4) Understand how archaeological practice allows us to interpret material culture, places and landscapes, time, and socially lived lives through those human lived experiences of materiality;
- 5) Understand how differing conceptual constructs shape the questions we ask and interpretations we draw from the archaeological record;

- 6) Apply our insights into the process of archaeological meaning making to critically evaluate how we represent the past beyond archaeology;
- 7) Evaluate the personal and disciplinary limits of archaeological knowledge as a distinct ontology, one that lives alongside other ways of knowing peoples' heritage in the present.

Course Materials: readings from or used as part of in class projects. All available online or will be provided for

-Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium Introducing Current Perspectives. Oliver Harris and Craig Cipolla. Routledge. 2017

-Archaeological Theory in Dialogue Situating Relationality, Ontology, Posthumanism, and Indigenous Paradigms. Rachel Crellin, Craig Cipolla, Lindsay Montgomery, Oliver Harris and Sophie Moore. Routledge. 2021

You may find the following manuscript helpful... or really annoying... I haven't decided yet for myself! But it is relatively easy to read. So, I offer it here.

-An Unauthorized Companion to American Archaeological Theory. Lars Fogelin 2019. [Free to download.](#)

-Engaging Archaeology: 25 Case Studies in Research, Stephen Silliman (editor). Wiley Blackwell 2018 (available online from Western libraries)

-Strung Out on Archaeology An Introduction to Archaeological Research. Laurie Wilkie. Left Coast Press 2014 (not available online; relevant excerpts will be provided).

Evaluation:

This course is designed to be an open discussion, seminar format, requiring you to keep up with readings, participate and lead in discussions, and provide reflections and commentaries on in-class discussions. In most classes where you will be

discussing readings, you will break out into groups at the start of class, and take the first half hour to prepare for class discussions.

You will be evaluated based on your engagement in discussions, projects, written assignments, and participation.

In-Class Participation (Ongoing, 10%):

Reflections on In-Class Assigned Readings & Discussion (Ongoing, best 4 of 5 x 5% = 20%):

In Class - Mardi Gras Epistemologies (January, 10% + 5% = 15%):

In-Class Discussion of "Case Studies" (Ongoing, best 3 of 4 (2% + 3%) = 15%):

PROJECT 1 ON POTTERY MAKING AND MATERIALITY – CLAY WORKSHOP REFLECTION (20%):

PROJECT 2 ON REPRESENTING ARCHAEOLOGY BEYOND ARCHAEOLOGY – MUSEUM OF ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP (20%):

Field Trip Costs

Clayworx costs **TBD**

Museum of Ontario Archaeology **costs \$25**

Students will need to arrange their own transportation to get to Clayworx and the Museum.