

FUNDAMENTALS OF ARCHAEOLOGY (ANTH 2137)

Instructor: Dr. M. Boyd

Office: BB-2001-F

Phone: (807) 343-8279

E-mail: matthew.boyd@lakeheadu.ca

Office hours: TBA



Course description:

This course will introduce you to the practice and application of modern archaeology, focusing on archaeological methods. Topics include: chronometric dating; methods of archaeological survey and excavation; analysis of pottery and stone tools; environmental archaeology (archaeobotany, geoarchaeology and zooarchaeology); and settlement patterns and spatial analysis. *Class participation is encouraged!*

Required text:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, P. 2016. Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice. New York: Thames & Hudson. 7th Edition.

Grading:

1. Written assignment: **30%** (about 10 pp. double spaced, not including references/figures)

- Write a scholarly paper using peer-reviewed sources on any topic covered in this class or your textbook.
- Please follow a standard style guide for the social sciences such as MLA when formatting your paper (http://www.tru.ca/library/pdf/socscistyle_ol_2005.pdf).

2. Midterm exam: **30%**

3. Final exam (December): **40%**

Grade Distributions:

A+	90-100%	B	70-79%	D	50-59%	F	0-39%
A	80-89%	C	60-69%	E	40-49%		

- Students are responsible for ensuring that they are properly registered in this class.
- See the LU Calendar for information on academic integrity, examinations, grade appeals, and other important regulations of which you should be aware.
- Late term papers and other assignments will be deducted **10% per day** from the final grade for that assignment.
- The written assignment may be submitted during class time, or to the Anthropology office between 8:30 and 4:30 PM on the due date. Submissions after 4:30 PM on the due date will be considered late.

Topic	Contents	Readings
1	Introduction to course; What is archaeology?	Introduction
2	A short history of archaeology	Ch. 1
3	The nature of the archaeological record The concept of culture Archaeological data (artifact, assemblage, site, settlement patterns, etc.)	Ch. 2
4	Chronometric dating: Relative dating (stratigraphy, seriation) Absolute dating (potassium-argon; radiocarbon; TL ESR; dendrochronology, etc.)	Ch. 4
5	<u>Finding and assessing archaeological sites:</u> Archaeological survey; remote sensing Site assessment <u>Archaeological excavation:</u> Importance of multidisciplinary teams Types of excavation Process of excavation	Ch. 3
Oct. 8-12	Study break	
Oct. 4	Midterm exam (75 min.)	
7	Artifact typology and classification Lithic technology and analysis	Ch. 8
8	Ceramic technology and analysis Other types of artifacts	Ch. 8
9	<u>Reconstructing subsistence & diet:</u> Zooarchaeology Archaeobotany Some methods used in physical anthropology	Ch. 7
10	Environmental change and human adaptation Mechanisms and scales of climate change Some proxies	Ch. 6
11	Ethnoarchaeology Social organization/ social archaeology	Ch. 5 & 9
Nov. 29	Written assignment due	
	Final exam (TBA)	