

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
ANTH 3012 WAO Archaeological Theory

Winter 2021

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1-2:30 pm  
ZOOM

Instructor: Dr Timothy Kaiser

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office: ~~OA 3008~~

Virtual Office Hours: TuTh 10-11 am, or by  
appointment

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Course Website: MyCourseLink (D2L)



Figurines from the Neolithic necropolis at Cernavodă, Romania.  
Hamangia Culture, early 5<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE. Fired clay. H: 11.5 cm.  
National Museum of History, Romania.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An overview of the goals, theories, and analytical approaches of archaeology as they have developed over time, with special emphasis on the last half-century. The course explores how archaeologists go from the material remains of past peoples to statements about what those people did and thought, and why things happened as they did. What we find out about the past depends on the questions we ask. What those questions consist of, in turn, is based upon how we think about the past — in other words, upon archaeological theory. Various theoretical frameworks for archaeological interpretation will be evaluated with regard to their utility, their ability to explain observable phenomena, and aspects of the past they may overlook.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

It is expected that students will leave the course with

- a thorough understanding of the theoretical foundations of archaeology,
- a greater understanding of the dynamic nature of archaeological thought,
- an appreciation of how and why archaeological thought has developed,
- a familiarity with the impact of different theoretical approaches on our understanding of the past,
- an awareness of issues facing archaeology today, and
- an ability to critically evaluate different ways of looking at the past.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Matthew Johnson (2019) *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Wiley Blackwell.  
Other materials on line.

## EVALUATION

- Term Project annotated bibliography 10%
- Term Project 40%
- Participation – reading responses 20%
- Participation – oral contributions 10%
- Final Exam 20%

### Term Project:

The term project consists of an investigation of the contours of a theoretical approach taken by archaeologists in the last 75 years. What did this approach treat as important questions? Why did it take hold? Where did your chosen approach seek relevant data? What research exemplifies this theoretical approach? Beginning with an annotated bibliography (due xxx) your investigation will be culminated by either (a) a 15-page essay or (b) a recorded podcast of similar length. Instructions to follow.

### Participation:

Students are expected to be engaged with the subject matter. Aspects that will be considered for grading include (1) oral participation [how often you show up, how often you speak up, and how often your contribution(s) advance(s) the conversation (10%)] and (2) written participation [weekly responses to a question or two about the readings submitted in a timely fashion (10 x 2% = 20%)].

### Final Examination:

The final examination will consist of essay questions covering the entire semester.

### Important Dates:

**Winter Study Break:** Monday, February 15 – Friday, February 19, 2021. No classes.

**Final Day to Drop This Course:** Friday, March 12, 2021

**Exam Period:** Monday, April 16, 2021 - Sunday, April 25, 2021 (10 days)

## Schedule

Week	Date		Topic	Reading
<b>1</b>	<b>Jan 12</b>	1	intro	
	<b>Jan 15</b>	2	The limits of common sense	<i>Archaeological Theory</i> , Ch 1 Renfrew and Bahn (2016: Ch 1) D2L
<b>2</b>	<b>Jan 19</b>	3	The New Archaeology	Ch 2
	<b>Jan 21</b>	4		Renfrew megaliths
<b>3</b>	<b>Jan 26</b>	5	Archaeology as science	Ch 3
	<b>Jan 28</b>	6		Clarke 1973
<b>4</b>	<b>Feb 2</b>	7	Middle range theory	<a href="#">Ch 4</a>
	<b>Feb 5</b>	8		Binford 1980
<b>5</b>	<b>Feb 9</b>	9	Culture, process, change	Ch 5
	<b>Feb 11</b>	10		TBA
	<b>Feb 15-19</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Feb 23</b>	11	Cognition, ideology	Ch 6
	<b>Feb 25</b>	12		TBA
<b>7</b>	<b>Mar 2</b>	13	Postprocessual archaeologies	Ch 7
	<b>Mar 4</b>	14		TBA
<b>8</b>	<b>Mar 9</b>	15	Archaeological perspectives on gender and identity	Ch 8
	<b>Mar 11</b>	16		TBA
<b>9</b>	<b>Mar 16</b>	17	Cultural evolution	Ch 9
	<b>Mar 18</b>	18		TBA
<b>10</b>	<b>Mar 23</b>	19	Darwinian evolution	Ch 10
	<b>Mar 25</b>	20		TBA
<b>11</b>	<b>Mar 30</b>	21	Archaeology and history	Ch 11
	<b>Apr 1</b>	22		TBA
<b>12</b>	<b>Apr 8</b>	23	Politics and culture	Ch 12
	<b>Apr 10</b>	24		Barclay & Brophy 2020
	<b>TBA</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>		

## COURSE POLICIES

- It is your responsibility to attend classes and to do the readings. Regular absences may seriously affect your grade in this course.
- Any important announcements, including changes in due dates, will be announced in-class and posted on MyCourseLink (D2L).
- To aid your review, recorded lectures and other course material will be posted on MyCourseLink (Desire2Learn) at regular intervals.
- Any course work not submitted on time **will be subject to a 5% deduction per day of unexcused lateness.**

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should view the Student Code of Conduct- Academic Integrity - for a full description of academic offences, procedures when Academic Integrity breaches are suspected and sanctions for breaches of Academic Integrity.

The student code of conduct (academic) can be found at:

[https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/policies\\_procedures/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Academic%20Integrity\\_0.pdf](https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/policies_procedures/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Academic%20Integrity_0.pdf)

## STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

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All relevant information about the course is on the MyCourseLink D2L course site. All assignments must be submitted through the D2L course site. The materials posted on the course D2L site, including any visual and audio recordings, are copyrighted and owned by Dr Tim Kaiser. It is prohibited to record or copy by any means, in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, in the absence of express written permission from Dr Tim

Kaiser any of the materials provided or published in any form during or from the course. As an example, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings of lectures, or taking pictures of lecture material.

That said, in ANTH 3012 WAO Archaeological Theory, in the context of remote instruction and participation, video and audio recordings of class activities will be made to ensure students' and instructors' easy and comprehensive access to those activities. The recordings are confidential and are intended only for the use of the course students and instructors. They may otherwise not be used or disclosed. During recording, to protect others' privacy, each student should ensure that no one else is present in the location where they are being recorded without that non-student's consent. The recordings are made under the authority of sections 3 and 14 of *The Lakehead University Act, 1965*. Questions about the collection of the images and sounds in the recordings may be directed to Dr Todd Randall, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies.

*We respectfully acknowledge that Lakehead University campuses are located on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples. Lakehead University acknowledges the history that many nations hold in the areas around our campuses, and is committed to a relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples based on the principles of mutual trust, respect, reciprocity, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.*