**METHOD AND TECHNIQUE IN ARCHAEOLOGY (ANTH 2137)**

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**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!*

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Obtain an understanding of fundamental methods (and their theoretical underpinnings) in archaeology including: artifact analysis, absolute and relative dating, environmental archaeology, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, diet and subsistence
- Develop academic research and writing skills through a written assignment.
- Obtain hands-on experience in archaeology through artifact analysis, and an archaeological fieldtrip.

**Required text**:

Renfrew, C. & Bahn, P. Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice. New York: Thames & Hudson. Amazon price: $158.75 (Dec. 17/24). You may purchase the previous addition.

**Grading**:

**1.** Participation ("hands-on" sessions): **5%**

**2.** Written assignment: **30%** (about 10-12 pp. double spaced, not including references and title page)

- Write a scholarly paper using peer-reviewed sources on any topic covered in this class or your textbook provided it focuses on an archaeological method (broadly defined). Please check with me to see if your topic is suitable.
- Style guide: APA. No abstract or keywords are required. See: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html
- I encourage you to talk to me about your term paper idea so I can provide some guidance, although this isn't required.
- Grading will employ a rubric that will be posted on D2L.
- I am willing to read a rough draft of your paper as long as you provide me with a copy at least 1 week before the deadline. My comments on your rough draft will be general in nature.

**3.** Midterm exam: **30%**

**4.** Final exam (April): **35%**

**Grade Distributions**:

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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 should be submitted online, using D2L under the "Assignments" tab.
- **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.
- **Artificial intelligence policy**: I see generative AI tools as both useful and problematic in the context of academic work. As a result, there are some ways in which AI may be used by students in this course, and other uses that are prohibited.
    - Allowable uses of AI: help with brainstorming topics for the term paper; as a 'study buddy' when preparing for the tests in this course. Note: the information used to train AI models may be flawed, incomplete, or biased.
    - Prohibited uses of AI: you are not allowed to use genAI tools such as ChatGPT, Bard, etc. to generate content for the written assignment. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity ("Use of Unauthorized Materials"). You are also not allowed to use AI tools to perform basic research activities such as finding sources, summarizing information contained within academic sources, critiquing sources, generating research ideas and interpretations, and similar activities.
- 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.

- I will use rubrics when grading assignments. Rubrics will be posted well in advance of the due date.

| 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<br>The concept of culture<br>Archaeological data (artifact, assemblage, site, settlement patterns, etc.) | Ch. 2 |
| 4 | Chronometric dating:<br>Relative dating (stratigraphy, seriation)<br>Absolute dating (e.g., K-Ar; radiocarbon; U series) | Ch. 4 |
| **Feb 17-21** | **Study break (classes cancelled)** | |
| **Feb. 25 (Tues)** | **Midterm exam** | |
| 5 | Finding and assessing archaeological sites:<br>Archaeological survey; remote sensing<br>Site assessment<br>Archaeological excavation:<br>Importance of multidisciplinary teams<br>Types of excavation<br>Process of excavation | Ch. 3 |
| 6 | Artifact typology and classification<br>Lithic technology and analysis | Ch. 8 |
| **HANDS-ON 1** | **Lithic artifacts** | |
| 7 | Ceramic technology and analysis<br>Other types of artifacts | Ch. 8 |
| **HANDS-ON 2** | **Pottery** | |
| 8 | Reconstructing subsistence & diet:<br>Zooarchaeology<br>Archaeobotany | Ch. 7 |
| 9 | Environmental change and human adaptation<br>Mechanisms and scales of climate change<br>Methods | Ch. 6 |
| 10 | Ethnoarchaeology<br>Social organization/ social archaeology | Ch. 5 & 9 |
| **March 25** | **Written assignment due** | |
| **TBA** | **Final exam** | |