

ARCHAEOLOGY 610
METHOD AND THEORY IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Fall/Winter 1999-2000

Instructor: Nicholas David (Fall); Gerald Oetelaar (Winter)

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Meetings: 3:00-5:50 PM Mondays in ES 822

Course Description:

A graduate seminar on the theory and methodology of archaeology. While our perspective will be historical, we will emphasize those aspects of theory and methodology that are most relevant today. Topics treated will range widely, from philosophical issues to the nature and definition of archaeological entities, aspects of research design, theories of cultural dynamics, and a variety of methodological, technical and substantive questions (e.g., settlement archaeology, chronometrics, development of complex societies). Topics that are the subject matter of other graduate courses will be considered, if at all, briefly and from a strictly theoretical perspective.

In the first part of the first semester we will rapidly review the history of archaeological theory. From that time on students will have considerable freedom to choose topics for discussion and paper writing. However, we will deal as a class both with the concerns of culture historical and processual archaeology, and with contemporary and post-processual archaeology.

In the first week of classes, students will receive an extensive bibliography and a listing (non-exhaustive) of topics with some suggested readings. These are also be available on the Web at

URL = <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~ndavid>.

Course Requirements and Praxis:

1. Twice a semester (depending upon student numbers) on a rotational basis you will be responsible for **leading class discussions**. This will entail

- a) preparing a **reading list** and an **annotated bibliography** (about ten "article equivalents") on an approved topic, and
- b) *at least one week in advance of class discussion*, distributing the reading list to the class with about five key article equivalents marked as required reading, and about the same number recommended,
- c) making the readings available in the Department's reading room, and finally
- d) leading the discussion on the topic during the seminar.

2. You are expected to read **all the required and a selection of the recommended texts** assigned each week and to participate **actively** in discussion.

3. In addition to reading, each week that you are not leading the seminar, you will prepare and submit a list of critical questions, **one** for each paper read, that you consider deserve discussion in a theory-oriented seminar.

4. Each semester, in consultation with the instructor, you will select a research topic and prepare a paper that, in its final (typewritten/computer printed) form, is due on the first day of the exam period or two weeks after its presentation, whichever is later. These papers will be graduate level research efforts, written in a style and format suitable for publication in a professional journal. You will **precirculate** a draft or extended abstract of your paper no later than the Friday morning before you present a **conference paper version** of it in class.

5. You will act as **first discussant** following another student's paper presentation.

Grading:

- Selection of readings; annotated bibliographies 20%
- Presentation of your chosen seminar topics 10%
- Presentation of research papers 10%
- Research papers 40%
- Seminar participation, all other aspects 20%

Grading scheme (%):

A 100-90/A- 89-85/B+ 84-80/B 79-75/ B- 74-70/
C+ 69-65/ C 64-60/C- 59-57/D+ 56-54/D 53-50/F <50

Refer to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar [p. 14] for further information on grading.

Notes on grading (see Course information [p. 39] of the current University Calendar):

- Writing, including presentation, spelling, grammar, and clarity of expression, and the grading thereof are factors in the evaluation of student work. [That sentence receives a D+.]
- No particular course component is required to be passed in order to pass the course as a whole.
- Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (e.g., with the loss of a grade [A- to B+] for each day late).

Basic books

Hodder, Ian 1986. *Reading the past*. Cambridge: CUP.

Kelley, Jane & Hanen, Marsha 1988. *Archaeology and the methodology of science*. Albuquerque: U. New Mexico P.

Gibbon, Guy 1989. *Explanation in archaeology*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Gosden, C. 1999. *Anthropology and archaeology: a changing relationship*. London: Routledge.

Trigger, Bruce 1989. *A history of archaeological thought*. Cambridge: CUP.

Preucel, Robert & Hodder, Ian 1996. *Contemporary archaeology in theory: a reader*. Oxford: Blackwell