

ARKY 395 L01 - (FALL 2009) - ARCHAEOLOGY OF TROPICAL AFRICA (F2009ARKY395L01) > STAFF INFORMATION



## Staff Information



### Staff Information

Julio Mercader

Ph D

Canada Research Chair

Assistant Professor

Department of Archaeology, ES 836

403 220 4856

Fax. 403 282 9567

e-mail:

[mercader@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mercader@ucalgary.ca)

OFFICE HRS: Open door policy; ES 811



### Teaching Assistants

Dyan Laskin Grossman

Office: ES 832

Office hours: Tuesdays 1-3 (check the lab, ES 811 as well) or by email

Email: [d.laskingrossman@ucalgary.ca](mailto:d.laskingrossman@ucalgary.ca)

395



## Course Information

### Description



This course provides an introduction to the African Stone Age. We will pursue a multidisciplinary understanding of major cultural developments through archaeological data, but also through other disciplines including biogeography and geoarchaeology. The emphasis is on detailed factual knowledge, and the course has been designed to provide you with an understanding of major chronological events and the cultural processes that characterize the Paleolithic era on the continent.

### Course Outline



Topics to be covered through the term include:

- African Geography and Ecology
- Biological and Cultural Diversity
- Actualistic techniques in the study of the African Stone Age
- African Hunter-gatherers
- Geoarchaeology and Geochronometry
- Paleoethnobotany
- Boundaries between Primatology, Archaeology, and Human Evolution
- Chimpanzee Archaeology
- Primitive Hominins
- The emergence of the genus Homo
- Oldowan Cultures
- The Acheulian
- Origins of Modern Humans
- Modern Behavior and the African Middle Stone Age
- The Later Stone Age
- Rock Art
- The Origins of Farming

### Time, Venue



We meet twice a week (T, Th), 11:00-12:15 pm

Venue: EDC 287

### FAQ



#### F.A.Q.

- 1) Will my professor curve grades for this class? No
- 2) Is the grade scale for this class changeable? No
- 3) Can I skip class and expect my professor to send me his own notes? No
- 4) Will my professor post his Power Point presentations on-line? Yes .

Are all PP presentations for this class posted on BB from day one? No; some are, and

Malinowski thought of tribes as social systems with well defined boundaries. This conception of tribe was later to be challenged by one of his students, who observed that:

The ethnographer has often only managed to discern that existence of "a tribe" because he took it as axiomatic that this kind of cultural entity must exist (Leach 1954: 291).

3. To paraphrase the work of another means to present the same train of thought and evidence, but rephrased into your own words. Whenever you do this, you must include a note or reference to the source. A common mistake is to break up an author's words, and rearrange them slightly, passing them off as your own. This is wrong, even if you include a note or reference to the source. To do this for more than a few words is to commit plagiarism.

Below are three passages. The first is an excerpt from E.A. Leach, *Political Systems of Highland Burma*. The second is an improper paraphrase of the passage that would be considered plagiarism. The third is a proper paraphrase.

1. It is largely an academic fiction to suppose that in a "normal" ethnographic situation one ordinarily finds distinct "tribes" distributed on the map in orderly fashion with clear-cut boundaries between them. I agree of course that ethnographic monographs frequently suggest that this is the case, but are the facts proved? My own view is that the ethnographer has often only managed to discern the existence of "a tribe" because he took it as axiomatic that this kind of cultural entity must exist. Many such tribes are, in a sense, ethnographic fictions (Leach 1954: 290-1). (source)

2. It is an academic misconception to think that in a typical ethnographic situation tribes with clear-cut boundaries can be found distributed in an orderly fashion on the map. Ethnographic monographs often imply that this is so, but what are the facts? The ethnographer is often able to find a "tribe" only because she takes it for granted that this kind of group must exist. Many tribes are figments of the anthropologist's imagination. (plagiarism)

3. Ethnographic monographs often suggest that it is normally the case that there exist in the real world contiguous tribes with clearly discernible boundaries: however, it is Leach's view that such units are found only because the ethnographer has taken their existence for granted (Leach 1954: 290-1). (proper paraphrase)



## Assignments



### TEXTBOOK, ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING

NO textbook is required for this class. There are NO required assignments for this class.

Should you like to **improve your grade**, there are things you can volunteer for:

- 1) Hands-on project in the Tropical Archaeology Laboratory, ES 811
- 2) Annotated bibliography: a summary of 10 articles
- 3) Paper: 10 pages

Any of these will earn you one step up in the grade rank

#### Credit Percentages:

Mid-term 1, October 6: 30%

Mid-term 2, November 17: 60%

Mid-term 3, December 1: 10%

**NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WITHOUT PERTINENT MEDICAL EXCUSE AND DOCUMENTATION**

#### Grade scale (non-changeable),

96-100: A

90-95: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-73: C-

61-69: D+

51-60: D

1-50: F