

Archaeology of the Arctic

ARKY 423 Fall 2020 Syllabus

● WEB Based: Asynchronous/Hybrid Format
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Dr. Matthew Walls
matthew.walls@ucalgary.ca



Section	Days	Time	Format
Lecture	Asynchronous	Released by schedule	D2L – Video/Interactive content + notes & readings
Optional Tutorial/Discussion	Wednesdays	11:00 – 11:50	Zoom (tutorial will also be recorded)
Office Hours	Wednesdays	12:00 – 13:00	Zoom

Course Objectives: This course provides a comprehensive overview of the archaeology of the North American Arctic and Northeastern Siberia. We will examine important cultural developments, key debates at the forefront of current research and considerations that make arctic archaeology unique within the wider discipline. The course will begin with an outline of arctic environments, and an ethnographic snapshot of the contemporary array of dynamic Indigenous cultures. Special attention will be directed at the unique technologies and practices that are central to traditional subsistence. In the second part of the course, students will engage with the primary literature to build a strong working knowledge of human occupation in the arctic leading up to the development of Inuit culture, the colonial period, and the present. We will also address a range of topics that have specific methodological considerations in arctic archaeology including recent aDNA advances, dating practices, organic preservation, and others. The final section will focus on contemporary challenges for archaeology in the context of physical and political environments that are rapidly changing. We will discuss the relevance of arctic archaeology to social dimension of global climate change, and local impacts of global warming on arctic archaeological sites. Throughout the course we will explore developments in the relationship between archaeology and Inuit communities through case studies in Nunavut and Greenland. This course will be of importance to students with an interest in the arctic, long term relationships between peoples and their environments, and community archaeology.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Develop a comprehensive knowledge of the deep history of human-environment relationships in the arctic including cultural developments and key debates the forefront of current research
- 2) Demonstrate the relevance of archaeology in ongoing environmental and political effects of climate change in the arctic

3) Understand the history of community relationships with academic research and the extent to which this structures knowledge production in arctic archaeology

Prerequisites: Arky 201 or Arky 205 or Arky 303*

NOTE: The Fall 2020 online version of this course is adapted to be more open for non-majors or students without a prior background in archaeology. If you would like to take the class, but do not have these prerequisites, contact the instructor as it may be possible to take the class.

Format: The course will follow an asynchronous/optional hybrid format. Each week, there will be two recorded lectures which will be available through D2L, according to the schedule attached below. Each lecture will be paired with complementary readings/web-based interactive material, and I will post a PDF of essential notes. Testable material in this course will include any material covered in the lectures or readings, and I will use the essential notes to highlight sections that are particularly relevant.

There will be a weekly tutorial/discussion session that will run on Wednesdays from 11:00-11:50. In these sessions, I will clarify topics, address questions posted in the D2L discussion board, answer student questions, or clarify covered material. The tutorial session is strictly optional and attendance will not be tracked. You may also utilize office hours or book an appointment for direct communication and help from the instructor.

A lecture and readings schedule, along with course updates, will be available through Desire2Learn (D2L). To make sense of content, students are strongly advised to do the assigned readings prior to watching the lecture.

Course Readings: There is no course textbook but there will be required readings and articles. All assigned readings are either available through digital access via the University of Calgary Library, or will be made available through D2L. Student are expected to retrieve and do the posted readings *before* the lecture, and part of the course mark will consist of an annotated bibliography of these readings, as described below.

Required Learning Technologies: In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer/adequate software and malware
- A current and updates web browser
- Webcam (built in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone
- Broadband internet connection

Course Requirements/Marks:

Quiz (Arctic places and peoples)	15% (Sept. 16)
Midterm Exam #1	30% (Oct. 16)
Midterm Exam #2	30% (Nov. 23)
Annotated Bibliography	15% (Cumulative)

Final Quiz/Assignment

10% (Dec. 9)

Quiz*: The quiz will include details of the geographical and ethnographic overview of the arctic. Questions will include identifying features on a map and several short responses.

Exams*: Exam questions will be drawn from the lecture, course readings and from films/interactive media in class. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams will be non-cumulative and administered via D2L. Before each scheduled exam, a review sheet will be posted to D2L.

Annotated Bibliography: Students must produce a half-page, single spaced, annotation for at least 15 of the assigned readings. Each annotation will be worth 1% (up to 15% of the total course mark). To receive full marks, each annotation must include a brief summary of the article's argument, its evidence, and broader implications. The annotated bibliography is cumulative and will be handed in at the end of the semester. Students are strongly advised to work on the bibliography in coordination with the progression of lectures.

Final Assignment/Quiz*: This will consist of short written responses (no more than one page each) on topics addressed in the final section of the course, where we will look at the impact of global warming and changing political environments on archaeological practice in the arctic. Rubrics and specification will be introduced in class.

*Online Quiz/Exam policy: Quizzes and exams are designed to be completed in 50 minutes (the original timeslot for this course), but students can use an additional 50% of that time (75 minutes in total) to allow for any technical issues that arise. If students experience technical issues at any point during the exam, please contact the instructor and a solution will be found. Students will be able to sit the quiz or exam on their own time within a 24-hour period. During the 24-hour exam period, a special zoom office hours will be held from 10:00 – 10:50 to address any issues, and the instructor will check and reply to email messages hourly between 10:50 – 17:00.

Policy for Late Work/Missed exams or quizzes: If you know you will miss an important date, or need an extension for written work, get in touch with me prior to the relevant date. In the event of extraordinary circumstances, such as illness, students will have access to extensions. Please refer to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq> for frequently asked questions.

Email Policy: PLEASE include the word ARKY 423 in the title of any email messages. Please keep messages as concise as possible, and I will try to respond within 2 working days. If you are unable to attend the scheduled office hours, but would still like to speak with me, we can schedule an appointment.

Grading Scheme: We will be following the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's standard scheme.

95–100	A+	75–79.9	B	59–62.9	C-
90–94.9	A	71–74.9	B-	55–58.9	D+

85–89.9	A-	67–70.9	C+	50–54.9	D
80–84.9	B+	63–66.9	C	<50	F

Course Schedule: The readings list, key dates, and lecture schedule will be posted and regularly updated on D2L. The schedule and readings attached to this document are tentative and will be updated.

Arctic Archaeology Tentative Schedule: Winter 2019

Date/Lecture	Topic	Readings * Note, these are subject to change via in-class announcements
PART I		
Sept 9	Introduction and Ethnographic Overview I	
Sept 11	Ethnographic overview II: Traditional Technologies and Practices	
Sept 14	Arctic Landscapes and Ecology	
PART 2		
Sept 16	Quiz (People and Places) + Late Pleistocene	Potter et al. (2011) Erlandson & Braje (2011)
Sept 21	The Development of Arctic Maritime Lifeways + Aleutians 9000BP - Present	Knecht & Davis (2008) Davis & Knecht (2010)
Sept 23	The Denbigh Flint Complex & Arctic Small Tool Tradition	Odess (2003) Tremayne (2011)
Sept 28	Choris/Norton/Ipiutak Cultures	Mason (2016) Dumond (2000)
Sept 30	Pre-Dorset/Independence I	Friesen (2015) Milne & Donnelly (2004) Odgaard (2003)
Oct 7	Saqqaq Culture and Organic Preservation at the Qeqertasussuk Site	Grønnow (2012a) Grønnow (2012b)
Oct 9	The Development of Dorset Culture	Friesen (2016) Ryan (2016) Wells & Renouf (2014)
Oct 14	Late Dorset	***Price & Arneborg (2018) Appelt et al. (2016)
Oct 16	EXAM #1	
Oct 19	Norse Greenland	

Oct 21	Special Presentation on Thule-Inuit Houses	McCullough 1989 (available on D2L)
Oct 26	Old Bering Sea/Punuk/Birnirk Culture	Harrit 2004 Mason 1998
Oct 28	Western Thule Origins + Thule Migration + Debates from Radiocarbon dates to aDNA + terminological issues	Friesen & Arnold 2008 Park 2016 Zimmerman et al. 2000
Nov 2	Norse Greenland	Frei et al. (2015) Madsen (2014) * ONLY CHAPTERS 2 & 4
Nov 4	Thule to local Inuit transitions across the Eastern Arctic + Early Colonial Period	Hardenberg 2010 Whitridge 2002 Dawson 2016
Nov 16	Colonial interaction and impacts through time	Cabak and Loring 2000 Whitridge 2015 Hodgetts 2013
Nov 18	GUEST Lecture	
Nov 23	EXAM #2	
PART 3		
Nov 25	Climate Change Related Threats to Arctic Sites + Arctic archaeology and the Anthropocene	Hollesen et al. 2018 Harmsen et al. 2018 Roy et al. 2015
Nov 30	Community Archaeology & Inuit Heritage	Dawson & Levy 2016 Lyons 2014
Dec 2	New Technologies and Arctic Archaeology – From Drones to Magnetometers	Haukaas & Hodgetts 2016 Landry et al. 2016
Dec 7	Final Quiz/Project released	
Dec 9	Bibliographies due	

*The complete readings list and bibliographic details will be available and updated through D2L

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES: Non-course-specific related information can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>
Note: information here includes • Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points • Wellness and Mental

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor includes copyright protected works under the Copyright Act and all forms of electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, laboratories, tutorials, presentations, performances, electronic (computer) information, the duplication of course material, and to the translation of recordings or transcriptions of any of these materials to another form by electronic or mechanical means by students is not permitted, except.

- As a formal accommodation as assessed by the Student Accessibility Services and only for individual private study and only at the discretion of the instructor.
- With the permission of the instructor, students without a formal accommodation may audio record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered. Any audio recording by students is permitted only for the purposes of private study by the individual student. Students may not distribute, email or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person.
- For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed.
- Any use other than that described above (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person, constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations etc.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing July also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Arts Faculty’s policy on intellectual honesty available at: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/plagarismcheating>

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event that we need to evacuate the classroom due to an emergency, please note that the primary assembly point shall be Food Court in the Professional Faculties (PF) Bldg. FYI: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/home/evacuation-assembly-points/assembly-points> .

USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.