

Advanced Topics in Hunter-Gatherer Studies

ARKY 625 Winter 2022 Syllabus
ES 822 Thursdays 15:30-18:45
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Dr. Matthew Walls
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Office Hours: Thursdays 14:30-15:30 ES 814by appointment

Overview & Learning Objectives: The study of hunter-gatherer communities is central to anthropological understandings of human origins, diversity, and environmental relationships. This seminar addresses advanced theoretical topics in hunter-gatherer anthropology, including the concepts, debates, and persistent challenges that characterize the field, the impact of hunter-gatherer research on Indigenous peoples, and frontiers in contemporary research. The course begins with a critical history of hunter-gatherer studies, tracing the emergence of the subject in early evolutionary theory to the present. In the second part of the course, we will focus on trends in recent literature, including calls to reconcile adaptational and humanistic perspectives, efforts to identify creativity and resilience in ecological management, materiality and technological perception, the interaction of hunter-gatherers and early agriculturalists, and the future possibilities that new methods afford hunter-gatherer archaeologists. Throughout the course, we will consider recent interdisciplinary perspectives on the Anthropocene, post-humanism, complex dynamic ecologies, epigenetics, and the opportunities these offer for the future of “hunter-gatherer studies” *if* the field shouldn’t be discarded or fundamentally restructured. Throughout this course, students will discover a vibrant field with a complicated history and many exciting pathways for future development.

Course Format: The course will follow a seminar format with discussion directed at topics raised in the assigned questions/readings. In addition to the weekly discussions, some sessions will include presentations on active research and ethnographic films.

Course Text: This course does not have an assigned text, and will be based primarily on readings available through the university library and the archaeology reading room. However, several recent edited volumes that students of hunter-gatherer archaeology might consider adding to their libraries include:

Cummings, V., Jordan, P., & Zvelebil, M. (Eds.). (2014). *The Oxford handbook of the archaeology and anthropology of hunter-gatherers*. Oxford University Press.

Sassaman, K. E., & Holly, D. H. (Eds.). (2011). *Hunter-gatherer archaeology as historical process* (Vol. 7). University of Arizona Press.

Cannon, A. (2014). *Structured Worlds: The archaeology of hunter-gatherer thought and action*. Routledge.

Evaluation:

Seminar Participation	20%
Readings Summaries	25%
Monograph Review	15%
Paper Abstract	5%
Paper	35%

Required Readings: The seminar will be based on 8-10 weekly readings, with a number of exceptions outlined in the readings schedule. The success of seminars depends on informed engagement, and it is the responsibility of students to ensure that they are prepared for class, have understood the readings, and are ready to discuss them. Assigned articles are easily accessible through the eJournals available on the library's website.

Seminar Participation: Participation will count for 20% of the final mark and will be evaluated in two categories. Each student will be assigned topics to do a short 5-10 minute introductory presentation that will outline core themes and pose discussion questions. These presentations will comprise 10/20 of the participation mark and students are expected to improve throughout the semester. The remaining 10/20 will be based on engagement in the seminar – which necessarily involves attendance. Students should endeavour to participate in a way that allows for and encourages participation from other students. Marks will be determined based on attendance, preparedness, discussion, and trajectory of improvement.

Reading Critiques: Students must submit a short 2-5 page critique of the readings assigned for each week, which will be due at the end of each discussion. The critiques will be added up and averaged to comprise 25% of the course mark. The critiques should succinctly identify core themes that cross-cut the readings, and should include 5 questions that the student feels are important to address in the seminar. In some cases, the critiques will have to address specific questions assigned the week before. Critiques are to be submitted via D2L prior to class, and should be printed and brought to class or readily available digitally.

Monograph Review: Each student will chose a recent (2019 +) monograph to review that pertains to hunter-gatherer anthropology. Students are encouraged to use this assignment as an opportunity to study a geographical area or time period outside their current sphere of knowledge. Monographs must be chosen and approved by the instructor by February 2, and students are encouraged to ask for advice if struggling to find an appropriate volume. The review should summarize and evaluate the volume's contributions in 5-8 pages, and each student will be scheduled to give a 5-10 minute presentation on their review to the class. The monograph review is worth 15% (10 for the review and 5 for the presentation).

Paper Abstract: Students must hand in an abstract of their intended final papers by Feb. 15 (and are welcome to submit earlier). The abstract is worth 5%, and must be 600 words or less.

Final Paper: The final paper is worth 35% of the course mark. Papers topics will be discussed in class and office hours. Throughout the course, we will be discussing strategies for writing research papers; a more detailed handout will be provided, outlining themes, questions and format requirements. Students should use the paper as an opportunity to advance a thesis chapter, if

hunter-gatherer studies intersects with program of research. Specific topics and geographical focus are open, but all papers must be approved beforehand through the submission of the paper abstract (above). Papers will be due on April 12 by 4:30 pm.

Late Policy: Students should ensure that they hand assigned work in before the deadlines outlined above. Late work will receive a 20% penalty for the first day, and an additional 5% for each day after. If students know that they have a conflict, or if there are exceptional circumstances that interfere with completing an assignment on time they should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. Such exceptional circumstances should adhere to the “Supporting Documentation” section outline below under Supplemental Information. See also Reappraisal of Graded Term Work:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Grading Scheme: We will be following the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology’s standard scheme. Each item of course work will be weighted as above and a final mark out of 100 calculated. Incomplete work will be assigned a zero, but you do not need to pass each course component to achieve a passing grade in the course as a whole. This will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A+	95 – 100%	B	75 – 79.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
B+	80– 84.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	F	< 50%

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.

Email Policy: INCLUDE the word ARKY 625 in the title of any email messages. Please keep messages as concise as possible, and I will try to respond within 2 workings days. If you are unable to attend the scheduled office hours, but would still like to see me in person, we can schedule an appointment.

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html. Students should also familiarize themselves with University policies regarding non-academic misconduct: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, AND STUDENT MISCONDUCT

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus, please see ucalgary.ca/registrar.

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the

copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES:

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk