

ANTHROPOLOGY 450

ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY, FALL 2017

Class: Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00-12:20, Liberal Arts 342

Instructor: Doug MacDonald, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Montana

Office Hours: Corbin Hall 148, 10-11, T, W, Th; email: douglas.macdonald@umontana.edu

Course Description & Learning Outcomes

In ANTY 450—Archaeological Theory—students will learn the history and major traditions of American archaeological theory, especially those useful in interpreting prehistoric archaeological sites, including: 1) culture history; 2) processual theory; 3) behavioral theory; 4) evolutionary theory; 5) post-processual theory; and 6) processual-plus theory. A prerequisite is Anth 250, Intro to Archaeology. Students will learn how to use theory to interpret archaeological data and how to evaluate theoretical arguments of their peers and in readings. Archaeological problem solving will be a major focus of class activities, which will include four major class sections: **Section 1: Lecture** (Weeks 1-4); **Section 2: Debate** (Weeks 5-8); **Section 3: Solving Research Problems** (Weeks 9-13); and **Section 4: Student Presentations** (Weeks 14-16). Anth 450 is an Upper Division writing course and will require students to effectively present their archaeological interpretations orally, visually, and in writing. Information literacy is expected of students, meaning that you will need to know how to use the library and online data sources to conduct research.

Course Requirements

The main objective of students is the preparation of a **±20-page term paper and presentation (225 points total)** and an associated visual presentation at the end of the semester. In the paper, each student will address a major archaeological issue, such as “The Anasazi in the American Southwest” or “Bison Hunting in the Great Plains”. Students will use one or more theoretical perspectives from class (or another from outside class) to interpret the archaeological issue. A term paper guide is available on moodle. Each student will submit a draft term paper (due November 16; 50 points) and a final paper (due December 18; 100 points). The visual presentations (25 points) for papers will be presented by students the final two weeks of class prior to finals week.

Prior to submission of the final paper, a variety of other writing assignments are due over the course of the semester. Students will write **three 5-page papers (50 points each; 150 points total)**, which relate topically to the final paper. In Essay 1 (due Sept. 14), each student will write a 5-page culture history of the region and time period in which they’ve chosen for their final paper. Essay 2 (due October 3) will approach the term paper topic from either an evolutionary, processual and/or a behavioral theory position, while essay 3 (due October 26) will approach it from a post-processual perspective.

In Section 2 of the course (Weeks 5-8), students will also participate in four group debates. Students will be assigned randomly to debate teams; each 2-person team will be evaluated based on their participation and preparation of their 1-page debate statement to be submitted and read prior to each debate. **Each debate is worth 25 points (100 total points).**

To summarize the grade requirements, there are three 5-page essays (worth a total of 150 points), a draft term paper (50 points), a final term paper (150 points), the debates (100 points), and the class presentation (25 points). Finally, **randomly-taken attendance is worth 25 points**. The total points available in the class are 500, with grading based on a standard percentage of 100 (e.g., 450 points is 90% and is an A-).

We will use Moodle during this course for submission of all student assignments, for the gradebook, for weekly assignments and announcements, as well as for posting of readings for download.

Required Books & Readings

- 1) *Archaeological Theory* (AT), ~\$40 at bookstore (used and new copies available)
- 2) MOODLE readings; articles will be posted from major archaeology journals, including *American Antiquity*

WEEKLY SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE

Week 1: Thursday, August 31

Topics: Class Overview—Archaeology and the Role of Theory

Readings: 1) AT: Preface & Chapter 1

Week 2: September 5-7 (Final Paper Topics Due Thursday, September 7—5 points)

Topics: Culture History & Processual theory

Readings: 1) Moodle: Binford’s *Archaeology as Anthropology* article
2) AT: Chapter 2

Week 3: September 12-14 (Essay 1 due on Moodle Thursday, Sept. 14)

Topics: Behavioral Theory and Evolutionary Theory

Readings: 1) Moodle: Schiffer and Dunnell articles

Week 4: September 19

Topics: Post-Processual theory and Processual-Plus theory

Readings: 1) AT: Chapters 6-7; 2) Moodle: Hegmon article

NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 21 (PROFESSOR MACDONALD OUT FOR ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE)

Week 5: September 26-September 28

Archaeological Debate 1: How relevant are processual and behavioral theories in modern archaeology?

Readings: 1) Moodle: Kelly article

Week 6: October 3-October 5 (Essay 2 due Tuesday, October 3)

Archaeological Debate 2: Behavioral Theory versus Evolutionary Theory

Readings: 1) Moodle: Schiffer and O'Brien articles

Week 7: October 10-12

Archaeological Debate 3: Ancient Remains and Modern Native Americans

Readings: 1) Moodle: Read Kennewick Man and Anzick Site articles

2) watch video clips on human remains sites

Week 8: October 17-19

Archaeological Debate 4: What is the relevance of the study of prehistoric archaeology to modern life?

Readings: Moodle: read four future of archaeology articles

Week 9: October 24-26 (Essay 3 Due on Moodle Oct. 26)

Research Problems: Rock Art Studies

Readings: Moodle: Keyser and Ross/Davidson rock art articles

Week 10: October 31-November 2

Research Problems: Technological Organization

Readings: Moodle: Nelson and Schiffer articles

Week 11: November 7-9

Research Problems: Monumental Architecture in Prehistory

Readings: Moodle: read Carneiro, Casas Grandes, and Marquardt articles

Week 12: November 14-16

DRAFT PAPERS (50 points) ARE DUE THURSDAY, NOV. 16

Research Problems: Sedentism, Complexity, and Violence

Readings: Read Dean, Odell, Richerson and Lekson articles

Week 13: November 21-23 (Thanksgiving week)

NO CLASS THIS WEEK

Week 14: Nov. 28-30

Topics: Student Paper presentations (two presentations per day)

Each student will prepare a 15-20 minute powerpoint presentation on their paper topic with Q/A follow up

Week 15: December 5-7

Topics: Student Paper presentations (two presentations per day)

Each student will prepare a 15-20 minute powerpoint presentation on their paper topic with Q/A follow up

Week 16: December 12

Tuesday: Student Paper presentations (two presentations per day)

Each student will prepare a 15-20 minute powerpoint presentation on their paper topic with Q/A follow up

Final Papers (150 points) are due on Moodle by 11:55 PM, Monday, December 18

SUMMARY & SCHEDULE OF ANTY 450 ASSIGNMENTS

| <i><u>ASSIGNMENT</u></i> | <i><u>POINTS</u></i> | <i><u>DUE DATE</u></i> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Final Term Paper topic due | 5 | September 7 |
| Essay 1 due | 50 | September 14 |
| Debate 1 Statement | 25 | September 28 |
| Essay 2 due | 50 | October 3 |
| Debate 2 Statement | 25 | October 3 |
| Debate 3 Statement | 25 | October 12 |
| Debate 4 Statement | 25 | October 19 |
| Essay 3 due | 50 | October 26 |
| Draft Term Papers due | 50 | November 16 |
| Student Presentations | 25 | November 28, 30; Dec. 5, 7, & 12 |
| Final Papers Due | 150 | December 18 |
| <u>Attendance</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>Random attendance</u> |
| Total Points | 500 | |