

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF HUNTER-GATHERERS  
ANTH 419**

**FALL TERM 2020-2021**

Professor James M. Savelle  
Leacock 813, Tel. 398-7163  
Office Hours: Friday 11:30-13:30

Class Meetings: Friday 08:30-11:30  
Online - Zoom

Course Objectives:

This course will examine a) the nature of traditional hunter-gatherer societies, and b) recent approaches to the archaeology of hunter-gatherers. Rather than provide a comprehensive overview, selected representative studies will be examined in detail, with emphasis on those studies that relate to subsistence, settlement, site formation processes, and social structure.

Course Format:

Note that as this is the first time this course is being taught online I anticipate various snags, in particular using zoom, as we proceed. Each week we will deal with specific questions based on the assigned readings for that week, with the questions being sent to you beforehand. Each student will be expected to have completed all required readings prior to each class, and be prepared to discuss these in class. Required readings are listed below. Copies of required readings, apart from the Cummings et al (2014) text, will be available on myCourses. Cummings et al (2014) can be purchased via Amazon.ca, or accessed through the library as an eBook.

Texts:

*The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-Gatherers*. Edited by V. Cummings, P. Jordan and M. Zvelebil. 2014. Oxford University Press.

Evaluation:

Evaluation for the course will be based on the following:

- a) Class participation – 20%
- b) Term paper – 40%
- c) Class assignment – 10%
- d) Reading summaries – 30%

a) The class participation mark will be based on preparation (i.e. the assigned materials were actually read) and performance (i.e. quality of discussion). In addition, I will ask individuals at random during the beginning of each seminar questions that will indicate whether that student has done the required readings for that week. Failure to indicate the readings have been done will result in a reduction of the participation mark (keep in mind your participation mark starts at '0' – it is up to the individual student to build upon that; i.e. you do not receive participation marks simply for showing up for class). Also, any individual who misses a class without written authorization from an appropriate authority will lose 3 marks from his/her final mark for each class missed.

b) The term paper topics are open, but must be consistent with the overall themes of the course. The paper should deal in depth with a specific topic (e.g. early peopling of the New World, megafauna extinctions, applications of optimal foraging theory, etc.). Please discuss your topic with me beforehand. Papers should be 20-25 pages in length, excluding references, and typed.

c) The class assignment will consist of an exercise based on the optimal foraging readings, and must be submitted the following class with all results plus calculations (in this instance the assignment can be hand-written).

d) Reading summaries will consist of a short (1-2 page) summary of each of or more of the weekly readings (marked with an \*), to be submitted on the day the readings are discussed.

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

### September 4th: Organizational Meeting

### September 11th

#### **1. The Nature of 'Traditional' Hunter-Gatherer Societies: Anthropological Approaches**

\*Lee, R.B.

1968 What hunters do for a living, or how to make out on scarce resources. In *Man the Hunter*, edited. By R.B. Lee and I. Devore. Aline Publishing Company, NY. Pp. 30-48.

Berreman, G.D.

1999 The Tasaday controversy. In *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Hunter-Gatherers*, edited by R.B. Lee and R. Daly. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Pp. 457-464.

Jordan, P. and V. Cummings.

2014. Analytical frames of reference in hunter-gatherer research. In Cummings et al. Pp. 33-42.

**September 18th:**

**2. Ethnographic Analogy and Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers**

\*Wobst, M.

1978. The archaeo-ethnology of hunter-gatherers, or, the tyranny of the ethnographic record in archaeology. *American Antiquity* 43(2):303-309.

Lane, P.L.

2014. Hunter-Gatherer-Fishers, ethnoarchaeology and analogical reasoning. In Cummings et al. 2014. Pp.104-150.

\*Fienup-Riordan, A.

1990. Yup'ik warfare and the myth of the peaceful Eskimo. In *Eskimo Essays*, edited by A. Fienup-Riordan. Rutgers, New Brunswick. Pp.146-166.

**September 25<sup>th</sup>**

**3. Hunter-Gatherers as Optimal Foragers**

\*Bettinger, R.L., Garvey, R. and Tushingham, S.

2015 Hunter-gatherers as optimal foragers. In *Hunter-Gatherers: Archaeological and Evolutionary Theory*. Plenum Press, N.Y. pp. 91-138.

**October 2nd:**

**4. Hunter-Gatherers as Optimal Foragers:**

**Understanding the Models – Diet Breadth**

Take home assignment. Due October 9th

**October 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>:**

**5. Hunter-Gatherers, Mobility, and Intersite Variability**

\*Binford, L.R.

1980 Willow smoke and dogs' tails: hunter-gatherer settlement systems and archaeological site formation. *American Antiquity* 45:4-20.

\*Binford, L.R.

1982 The archaeology of place. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 1:5-31.

Binford, L.R.

1983 Long-term land-use patterning: some implications for archaeology. In *Working at Archaeology*, edited by L.R. Binford. Academic Press, New York. Pp. 379-386.

Habu, J.

1996. Jomon sedentism and intersite variability: collectors of the early Jomon Moroiso Phase in Japan. *Arctic Anthropology* 32(2): 38-49.

### October 23rd

## **6. Hunter-Gatherers and Internal Site Structure**

\*Yellen, J.E.

1977 Intracamp patterning: an overview: In *Archaeological Approaches to the Present*. Academic Press, New York, Pp. 85-131.

\*Gargett, R. and B. Hayden

1991 Site structure, kinship, and sharing in Aboriginal Australia: implications for archaeology. In *The Interpretation of Archaeological Spatial Patterning*, edited by E. Kroll and T. Price. Plenum Press, New York, Pp. 11-32.

Whitridge, P.

2002 Social and ritual determinants of whale bone transport at a Classic Thule winter site in the Canadian Arctic. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 12:65-75.

### October 30th-November 6th:

## **7. Approaches to the Archaeology of Hunter-Gatherer Hunting and Scavenging**

Saunders, J.J.

1980 A model for Man-mammoth relationships in Late Pleistocene North America. *Canadian Journal of Anthropology* 1:87-98.

\*O'Connell, J., K. Hawkes and N. Blurton Jones

1988 Hadza hunting, butchering, and bone transport and their archaeological implications. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 44(2): 113-161.

\*Stiner, M.J.

1990 The use of mortality patterns in archaeological studies of hominid predatory

patterns. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 9(4):305-351.

Savelle, J.M. and A.P. McCartney

1994 Thule Inuit bowhead whaling: a biometrical analysis. In *Threads of Arctic Prehistory: Papers in Honour of William E. Taylor, Jr.*, edited by D. Morrison and J.-L. Pilon. *Canadian Museum of Civilization, Mercury Series, Archaeological Survey of Canada, Paper* 149:281-310.

Bunn, H.T.

2001 Hunting, power scavenging and butchering by Hadza foragers and by Plio-Pleistocene *Homo*. In *Meat-eating and Human Evolution*, edited C.B. Stanford and H.T. Bunn. Oxford University Press.

### November 13th-November20th

## **8. The Archaeology of Complex Hunter-Gatherers**

\*Testart, A.

1982 The significance of food storage among hunter-gatherers: residence patterns, population densities, and social inequalities. *Current Anthropology* 23(5):523-537.

\*Johnson, G.

1982 Organizational structure and scalar stress. In *Theory and Explanation in Archaeology*, edited by C. Renfrew, J. Rowlands and B. Segraves. Academic Press, New York. Pp.389-421.

Ames, K.M.

1985 Hierarchies, stress, and logistical strategies among hunter-gatherers in Northwestern North America. In *Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers: The Emergence of Cultural Complexity*, edited by T.D. Price and J.A. Brown. Academic Press. Pp.155-180.

Rowley-Conwy, P.

2001 Time, change and the archaeology of hunter-gatherers: how original is the 'original affluent society.' In *Hunter-Gatherers: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*, edited by C. Panter-Brick, R.H. Layton and P. Rowley-Conwy. Pp.39-72.

### November 27th

## **9. Hunter-Gatherers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Wenzel, G.

2017. In *Hunter-Gatherers in a Changing World*, edited by V. Reyes-Garcia and A. Pyhala.

\*Jordan, P. and V. Cummings

2014. New approaches in the study of hunter-gatherers. In Cummings et al. 2014. Pp. 1093-1109.

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