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:


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.


Berreman, G.D.


Jordan, P. and V. Cummings.

**September 18th:**

2. Ethnographic Analogy and Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers

*Wobst, M.*


Lane, P.L.


*Fienup-Riordan, A.*


**September 25th**

3. Hunter-Gatherers as Optimal Foragers

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


**October 2nd:**

4. Hunter-Gatherers as Optimal Foragers:

   Understanding the Models – Diet Breadth

Take home assignment. Due October 9th

**October 9th-16th:**

5. Hunter-Gatherers, Mobility, and Intersite Variability

*Binford, L.R.*

*Binford, L.R.

Binford, L.R.

Habu, J.

**October 23rd**

6. Hunter-Gatherers and Internal Site Structure

*Yellen, J.E.

*Gargett, R. and B. Hayden

Whitridge, P.

**October 30th-November 6th:**

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

Saunders, J.J.

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

*Stiner, M.J.
1990 The use of mortality patterns in archaeological studies of hominid predatory

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

Bunn, H.T.  

**November 13th-November 20th**

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

*Testart, A.*  

*Johnson, G.*  

Ames, K.M.  

Rowley-Conwy, P.  

**November 27th**

9. **Hunter-Gatherers in the 21st Century**

Wenzel, G.

*Jordan, P. and V. Cummings

Please Note:

1. "McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

"L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)."

2. "In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded." (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

"Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue)."

Also:

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