

Anthropology 3X03 - Zooarchaeology

Instructor: Aubrey Cannon E-mail: cannona@mcmaster.ca
Office: Chester New Hall Rm. 508 Office hours: Monday 3:00-4:00, or by appointment.
Classes: Tuesday 12:30-2:20, Thursday 12:30-1:20, KTH B122.

The course is about the archaeological analysis and interpretation of animal bones. The focus will be on the practical aspects of identifying different classes of animal bone and on the issues involved in moving from the recovery and identification of faunal specimens to the interpretation of their implications for subsistence practices, environmental conditions, and broader patterns of culture and history.

TEXT:

O'Connor, Terry

2000 *The Archaeology of Animal Bones*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE VALUES:

Fauna Identification Project	- 20 %
Fauna Identification Examination	- 15 %
Individual Research Project/Research Paper	- 20%
Critical Analysis and Evaluation of Case Study	- 45 %

Fauna Identification Project: Students will identify faunal specimens from archaeological assemblages. The work will be done in groups, but each student will be responsible for a set number of identifications, and each must submit a report listing, summarizing and interpreting the contexts of the entire assemblage(s) examined by their group.

Fauna Identification Examination: A short in-class examination will test familiarity with and ability to identify a series of comparative and archaeological faunal specimens.

Individual Research Project/Research Paper: Each student must choose a specific practical lab project or comparative research project from the available options. Practical projects may include sorting and analysis of archaeologically recovered faunal material, preparation and labeling of a comparative faunal specimen, or a specific lab analysis application. Research papers will involve a comparative analysis and evaluation of 2-3 journal articles that focus on specific topics in zooarchaeology, such as taphonomy, recovery effects, quantification, osteometric analysis, or seasonality determination.

Case Study Evaluation: The major project of the course will consist of the summary analysis and evaluation of a published monograph-length analysis and interpretation of archaeologically recovered faunal remains. There are many report series available in the library, and MA and PhD theses that focus on the analysis and interpretation of faunal material are available online. Each student must submit their chosen report for approval, to ensure it is of adequate scope for this assignment. The purpose of the assignment is to apply everything learned in the course to assess the nature, limitations, and relative effectiveness of the application of zooarchaeological research methods in a particular case study. The length of the paper will depend on the nature of the report and the detail of its summary and analysis, but 10-15 pages should be adequate in most cases, and papers must not exceed 20 typewritten double-spaced pages. The paper will be due one week following the end of classes.

Penalty deductions of 1 % of the COURSE grade per day late apply to all late and missed assignments unless an MSAF is submitted.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

- Sept. 6-8:** Introduction: the identification, analysis, and interpretation of faunal specimens in archaeology.
- Sept. 13-15:** The bases of variability in animal bones. Reading: O'Connor (2000) Ch. 1-2.
- Sept. 20-22:** Taphonomy and recovery. Reading: O'Connor (2000) Ch. 3-4.
- Sept. 27-29:** Identification. Reading: O'Connor (2000) Ch. 5.
- Oct. 4-6:** Quantification. Reading: O'Connor (2000) Ch. 6-7.
- Oct. 11-13:** Mid-term recess.
- Oct. 18-20:** Age, seasonality, and pathologies. Reading: O'Connor (2000) Ch. 8-9.
- Oct. 25-27:** Measurement. Reading: O'Connor (2000) Ch. 10.
- Nov. 1-3:** Interpretation: environment and the lives of hunter-fisher-gatherers.
Reading: O'Connor (2000) Ch. 11-12.
- Nov. 8-10:** Interpretation: management, domestication, and distribution.
Reading: O'Connor (2000) Ch. 13-15.
- Nov. 15-17:** Emerging directions: biomolecular and biochemical approaches.
- Nov. 22-24:** Emerging directions: synthesis.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 1:** Review: issues in contemporary zooarchaeology.
- Dec. 6-8:** Overview: elements of critical analysis.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process.

Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;

3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015.

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AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

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REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

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ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.