Introduction to Archaeology
Ant 304
Spring 2017

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This course provides an overview of world prehistory beginning with hominin evolution and continuing through the rise of complex societies in North and Mesoamerica. It begins with an introduction to archaeological methods and techniques. In the second half of the semester, the focus will shift to the development of humankind and its spread in the Old and New Worlds.

Grades will be based on one in-class mid-term exam (30%); an in-class final exam (30%); a written 3-4 page film review on an archaeological film of your choice from the collections at the Fine Arts Library (Doty Fine Arts Building 3.200), those shown in class, or one of your choice after consultation with Prof. Denbow or your TA (15%); answers to your lab exercises (20%); and attendance in labs and lecture(5%). Exams will be multiple-choice and will cover materials from your readings, class lectures, labs, and films. Dates for the exams will be announced in class one week in advance. The double-spaced typed film reviews should be turned in during your lab to your TA in the week of April 3-7.

Classes will meet on M and W in BEL 328, which is inside the stadium building and accessed from San Jacinto Street. Lab sections will meet in the Student Activity Center (SAC 4.174). During your weekly lab sessions, your TAs will be able to answer any questions you might have, discuss lectures, go over lab materials and exams, and show films. My office is also on that floor.

Attendance:
I will be automating the attendance record using the Arkaive app. The app is free to students and is available for iphone and android. The enrollment code for ANT 304 is 2WD5. Be sure to check-in at the beginning of each lecture (your TA will take attendance manually in your lab). For the lecture, I have set the system to allow a 15-minute check in grace period beginning 5 minutes before class and ending at 1:10PM. After that window, the system will not allow you to check in. At the end of class, no check out is required. For helpful YouTube instructional videos on the Arkaive app and how to check-in, click here. For additional information, visit https://Arkaive.com.
Textbook:

London: Thames & Hudson.
You can buy the book in the Coop bookstore, or order the book online. It will not be necessary for the first 3 weeks or so when we will be discussing archaeological methods and techniques.

Your textbook has a web site with study guides and sample questions at: [http://college.thamesandhudsonusa.com/web/humanpast/](http://college.thamesandhudsonusa.com/web/humanpast/). Here you will find chapter reviews, quizzes, and other information helpful while studying. A few questions on each exam will be drawn from these online quizzes, so it will pay to have a look at them.

Lab exercises:

Virtual lab exercises related your class topics are found at: [http://www.utexas.edu/courses/denbow/index.htm](http://www.utexas.edu/courses/denbow/index.htm). I have included references to these in the syllabus. They should be read in advance before lab sections so that you will be able to ask questions. I have also put some supplemental materials for some of these labs in the Course Documents folder for the class on Canvas. Answers to lab exercises on the web will be due the Friday after they are discussed in the lab section.

Some shorter films to supplement class lectures and labs will be shown in lab. Some of these films can be accessed at: [http://www.archaeologychannel.org/](http://www.archaeologychannel.org/). You can use either a Mac or PC to access these streaming videos, but you will need to have Windows Media Player or RealPlayer installed; they do not have any QuickTime versions. The site has a link for a free download of these programs if you do not already have one of them.

Other Information:

Class attendance is important because I will often show film excerpts; discuss examples and topics; or use or update materials not directly covered in the readings. I encourage you to ask questions during the lecture by raising your hand; I will try to answer questions as they arise. If your questions require longer answers, I will ask you to come and see me during office hours, or ask you to defer your question for your TA during your lab section. I have not put fixed dates to the schedule below because I prefer to work at a class speed on subjects to be covered. The date for the mid-term exam, however, will be announced in class at least a week before it is to be given. This will generally be just after spring break. The date for the final exam during finals week is set by the registrar and will be available later in the semester.

Global Cultures Flag

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a
substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

In the Course Documents section of Canvas you will find copies of several recent papers of mine. If you look these over, they will get an idea of the types of archaeological work I am involved in – principally in Africa. The most readable of these for beginning students may be Denbow et al. 2008 and Denbow 2015-glass beads. All the articles are written from a variety of perspectives and touch on issues of heritage management and preservation, ethno-archaeology, analysis of environment and subsistence, and detailed analyses of metals and ceramics and some of the ways that social and cultural information can be gleaned from technical analysis of artifacts. I don’t expect you remember details of these but, if you are curious, to look them over as examples of how (one) practicing archaeologist works and writes. Examples from some of this material will be included in lectures. If you are interested, I also have a recent blog to accompany an exhibit on Kongo artifacts for the Metropolitan Museum in New York at:

http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2015/kongo/blog/posts/loango-archaeological-project

[The videos in the blog still work, but some of links are now less specific and you may have to type in the search box that appears words such as “kongo Oliphant” or “kongo raffia” to see examples.]

Course Schedule

**Topic 1**

**Principles of Archaeology**

**Readings: Scarre: Preface and Chapter 1**

Week 1: *film: Pompeii: Buried alive*

Week 2: Lab 2: (survey methods)

*Film clips: radar imaging; electrical resistivity; proton magnetometer*

**How do you know where to dig? What did they eat?**

Class lectures

Week 3: Lab 4: (Sampling strategies)

Week 4: Lab 3 (Excavation Analysis)

*Film clips: fine excavation-beads; fine excavation-plaster wall; coarse excavation-shovel scraping; soil deposition & stratigraphy*

**How old is it?**

Class lectures

Week 5: Lab 1 (Seriation, stratigraphy, absolute dating)

*Film: Ethno-archaeology and pot making*

**What did they eat? How was their health?**

Class lectures

Week 6: Lab 7 (Palynology)

Week 7: Lab 8 (Caddoan archeology and dental anthropology)

*Film: Inagina: last house of Iron*
Topic 2  The Evolution of Humanity

Early hominids
African Origins
Chapter 2: African Origins. (Nick Toth & Kathy Schick)
  Week 8: *Film on Homo naledi discovery*
  Week 9: Labs 5 and 6: Human origins & lithic technology (just read over Lab 5).

Mid-Term Exam

Pre-modern humans
Chapter 3: Hominin Dispersals in the Old World. (Richard Klein)

Modern Humans
Chapter 4: The Rise of Modern Humans (Paul Pettitt)
  Week 10: film: Journey of Man, 1st section

Symbolism and Rock Art
Class lectures
  *Film: /Num Tchai*
  Week 11: Film: Seminole Canyon

The Origins of Food Production
Chapter 5: The World Transformed: From Foragers and Farmers to States and Empires (Chris Scarre)
  Week 12: Lab 9: Ancient Egypt: sex, gender and demography

Topic 3  North America and Mesoamerica

Chapter 9: Origins of Food Producing Economies in the Americas (David Bowman, Gayle Fritz, Patty Jo Watson)
  Week 13: film: Peopling of the Americas

Chapter 18: Complex Societies of North America; 5,000 BC- 1550 AD
(George Milner and W.H. Wills)
  Week 14: Film: Cahokia: America's lost city

Chapter 16: Mesoamerican civilization; 5,000 BC- 1550 AD (David Webster and Susan Evans)
  Week 15: Films: The fall of the Maya & City of the gods
The Final Exam will be set according to the registrar’s schedule for exams, which is announced toward the end of the semester.