

ANT304: INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Fall 2013

Lecture: MW 10:00AM- 11:00AM SZB104

Instructor: Enrique Rodríguez

Instructor's office: SAC 4.144

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00

Email: see email rules below

Teaching Assistants, Lab Supervisors: Monica Nicolaides, Sophia Laparidou, William Gbelkpor

Unique numbers and Lab schedules:

****You must show up only to the lab that corresponds to the unique number you chose when registering. If you wish to change lab hours you must do so by registering for the appropriate lab. No exceptions.****

31210	M 11:00AM- 12:00PM	SAC 4.174	Nicolaides
31215	W 11:00AM- 12:00PM	SAC 4.174	Nicolaides
31220	W 4:00PM- 5:00PM	SAC 4.174	Gbelkpor
31225	M 1:00PM- 2:00PM	SAC 4.174	Laparidou
31230	W 1:00PM- 2:00PM	SAC 4.174	Gbelkpor
31235	M 4:00PM- 5:00PM	SAC 4.174	Laparidou

Archaeology is a subfield of anthropology that studies the human past through its material remains. Archaeologists have studied a variety of aspects of the past, including the relationship between humans and the ecosystem, politics, changes in technology and production, gender, race, sexuality, health, capitalism, and more. To study the past, archaeologists use a variety of lines of evidence, including landscapes, ceramics, lithics, human remains, chemical data, faunal remains, botanical remains, written documents, and others. In this course we will discuss the many faces of archaeology and the varied methods and theoretical approaches that archaeologists have used to study the past.

Throughout the semester, we will study some of the basic developments of archaeological method and theory in the last century. At the same time, we will study sites, archaeological cultures, and case-studies that will aid in illustrating the different theoretical perspectives and methodological advances discussed in class. Thus, the course will not only serve as an introduction to human prehistory, but it will also be a critical evaluation of how methods and techniques have helped us shape our views on human prehistory. We will also discuss ethics, the politics of the past, and careers in archaeology.

Goals of the course:

1. To provide students with an introduction to the development of archaeological methods and theory.
2. To examine major topics in human prehistory, including technological change, agriculture, social inequality, imperialism and colonization, and others.
3. To provide students with an introduction to some of the basic techniques of archaeological laboratory work and inference.

Students with disabilities: Any student with disabilities should talk to me as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements that will make for a better learning experience and that will allow the student to show his or her abilities fully. Students with disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 to ensure that reasonable accommodations are provided for them.

Other classroom rules:

NO laptop computers, iPads, newspapers, or calculators in class. Please turn off your cell phones. Texting is not allowed in class.

Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University rules.

Grading: Successful completion of this course will require learning from readings, lectures, in-class exercises, and films. Topics covered in the readings and in the classroom will, at times, be different. Students are expected to read before class and to participate in discussion and labs.

Labs: There will be one hour of laboratory work per week. Students are required to attend the lab session that matches their unique number. If a student wishes to change lab sessions, they must change their registration. Students may NOT make up for missed labs. NO EXCUSES. Students will be able to drop their lowest two lab grades (including missed labs). We will discuss lab assignments in detail in class. Students must protect lab equipment and teaching collections and use them according to the rules that we will specify during the lab orientation. Labs are required to pass the class. *Any student who misses more than four labs, regardless of performance in the rest of the class, will automatically receive an F in the class.*

Exams: There will be two exams during the semester, and one final exam. Under normal circumstances, there will be no make-up exams. Talk to me as early as possible if you know you will not make it to an exam. If you miss an exam, please bring documentation of the reason why you missed it, and we can talk about scheduling an exam for you.

Students may discuss with me their exam grade individually. Once we have discussed the grade, I might agree to re-grade the exam. Re-grading does not guarantee a better grade. In fact, your grade might suffer during a re-grading if I find errors that I did not find on my first grading. Therefore, students are advised to make sure they have

specific reasons why their grade should improve before showing up to discuss your grade.

The final exam will take place during finals week. NO EXCEPTIONS. It is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2:00-5:00 pm. I will confirm or correct this date and time in class, in case there are any changes to the finals schedule.

Final Grades will be calculated as follows

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|----------------|-----|
| 1. Exam 1: | 15% |
| 2. Exam 2: | 20% |
| 3. Final exam: | 25% |
| 4. Labs: | 40% |

Email rules:

Please read these rules carefully before emailing.

1. Email if you have a medical emergency that will prevent you from making it to an exam.
2. Email if I ask you to email me.
3. Do not email to continue class discussion; please use office hours. Also, if you have a question about the material, please bring it up in class. Other students might benefit from it.
4. Do not use email to turn in assignments, to send attachments, or to ask about the exam. Please see me in office hours and bring your exam.
5. Email if your email does not break any of the rules listed above:
chanfle@austin.utexas.edu

Readings

The following book is available at the COOP:

Renfrew, Colin, and Paul Bahn 2007 Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods, and Practice. Thames & Hudson.

In addition, there is a course packet, available at Abel's copies. Both are required.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (August 28): Introduction: What is archaeology?

Lab: No lab this week.

Readings: Archaeology Essentials, Introduction

Week 2 (Sept 4): Sites and survey.

NO CLASS ON MONDAY (Labor day)

Topics: Introduction to site formation processes, survey techniques, and basic artifact categories.

Lab: No lab this week, due to Monday holiday.

Readings: Archaeology Essentials, Chapters 2 and 3.

Week 3 (Sept. 9-11): Archaeological excavation.

Topics: Overview of field techniques, stratigraphy, seriation, and absolute dating.

Lab 1: Introduction to the lab, and hypothesis testing assignment.

Readings: Archaeology Essentials, Chapter 4.

Week 4 (Sept. 16-18): Earthlings.

Topics: Human beings and the earliest artifacts.

Lab 2: Archaeological survey.

Readings:

Archaeology Essentials, Chapter 7.

Course Packet: Dolni Vestonice, and The Cave of Lascaux.

Week 5 (Sept. 23-25): Colonizing the world.

Topics: Foragers in the past and today, faunal analysis.

Lab 3: Field methods in archaeology.

Readings:

Archaeology Essentials, Chapter 6.

Course Packet: Monte Verde

Week 6 (Sept. 30-Oct.2): Climate change.

*****EXAM 1 Monday September 30*****

Topics: Special Lecture on Climate Change

Lab 4: The African Burial Ground.

Readings: focus on the exam.

Week 7 (Oct. 7-9): Farming and food production

Topics: the origins of farming, Mesoamerica, North America

Lab 5: Stratigraphy and seriation.

Readings:

Course Packet: The Human Past, Chapter 5, pp. 177-193, and Chapter 9, pp. 313-330.

Week 8 (Oct. 14-16): Social/evolutionary typologies

Topics: the “rise” of social inequality, archaeological indicators of social inequality. Moundbuilders in North America.

Lab 6: Ceramics and archaeological inference.

Readings:

Archaeology Essentials, Chapter 5.

Course Packet: The Human Past, Chapter 10, pp. 370-386.

Week 9 (Oct. 21-23): Scales of analysis

Topics: monuments and households, comparative analysis of contexts.

Lab 7: Lithics.

Readings:

Archaeology Essentials, Chapter 9.

Week 10 (Oct. 28-30): Explanation in archaeology: Processualism

Topics: Archaeological theory: the scientific method, biological/ecological models, Marxism.

Lab 8: Culture and society in the past.

Readings:

Archaeology Essentials, Chapters 1 and 10.

Week 11 (Nov. 4-6): The Andes

*****EXAM 2 Monday Nov 4*****

Topics: the legacy of the New Archaeology today, empires.

Lab 9: African Burial Ground, part 2.

Readings: Focus on the exam.

Week 12 (Nov. 11-13): Explanation in archaeology: Post-processual archaeology

Topics: questioning objectivity in archaeology; archaeologies of gender, sexuality, race; landscape archaeology.

Lab 10: Gender in space.

Readings:

Course Packet:

Johnson, Matthew Archaeological Theory, Chapters 7 and 8.

Week 13 (Nov. 18-20): Ethics and professionalization

Topics: the politics of the past, ethics in archaeology

Lab 11: Archaeological project design.

Readings:

Archaeology Essentials, Chapter 11.

Course Packet: Images of the Past, Chapter 12.

Course Packet: Beaudry, Mary Ethical Issues in Historical Archaeology.

Week 14 (Nov. 25-27): Professionalization

Topics: cultural resource management, graduate school.

Lab: No lab this week. Thanksgiving.

Readings: Focus on the tofurkey. Delicious and nutritious.

Week 15 (Dec. 2-4): Historical Archaeology

Topics: Marxism and critiques of capitalism, archaeological and historical data.

Lab 12: Final review.

Readings:

Course packet:

McGuire, Randall. Marxism and Capitalism in Historical Archaeology.

Brandon, Jamie C. A North American Perspective on Race and Class in Historical Archaeology.

***** Final exam will take place on Wednesday December 11 from 2:00 to 5:00.*****