This course begins with an overview of the methods and techniques that archaeologists use to determine the facts on which archaeological interpretation is based. These include basic excavation and dating techniques, climatic and environmental reconstructions, and even the use of DNA and stable isotopes to deduce genetic relationships, migration routes, and paleodiet. The second half of the course discusses how these techniques have been used to develop an overview of world prehistory that begins with hominin evolution, follows the expansion of humankind across the Old and New World, and discusses the rise of complex societies in North America.

Grades will be based on:
1) an in-class mid-term exam (30%);
2) an in-class final exam (30%);
3) a written 3 to 4 page film review on an archaeological film of your choice from the collections on file at the Fine Arts Library (Doty Fine Arts Building 3.200), shown in class, or of your choice after consultation with Prof. Denbow or your TA (15%);
4) the answers to your lab exercises, which are to be turned in to your TA on the week following their discussion in the weekly lab. Questions should be directed to your TA (20%);
5) your attendance record in labs and lectures (5%).

Exams will be multiple-choice and will cover materials from your class lectures, labs, films and readings. Exact dates for the midterm exam will be announced in class one week in advance, though it is usually just after Spring Break.

The date for the final exam is set by the Registrar’s office and will be available sometime after mid-semester. I have no control over this date and time and cannot change it to suit your schedule.

Lab sections meet in the Student Activity Center (SAC 4.174) classroom in the Anthropology Department. During your weekly labs, your TAs will be able to answer any questions you
might have, discuss lectures, go over lab materials and exams, and show films. While students are encouraged to work with or discuss the labs and class with other students, your answers to the lab questions should be your own, and in your own words. Answers copied word for word by different students or that follow wording closely enough to constitute plagiarism will be dealt with harshly. Answers to the lab questions should also be turned in on time or you will face a late penalty.

The film reviews should be typewritten, double-spaced, and include a discussion of the topics covered by the film and your assessment of how well the film succeeds (or not) in presenting the information in a factual and interesting fashion. They should be turned in to your TA during your weekly lab in the week of April 2-6.

Lecture classes meet on M and W in BEL 328, which is inside the football stadium building accessed from San Jacinto Street.

My office is also on that floor in SAC and you are welcome to stop in during office hours or at any other time that you my door open (which is almost always when I am on campus).

**Attendance:**
I will be automating the attendance record for the lecture classes on MW using the Arkaive app. The app is free to students and is available for iphone and android (just go to Arkaive.com to sign in). The enrollment code for ANT 304 is **0T29**. 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 20-minute check beginning 5 minutes before class and ending at 2:15PM. After that window, the system will not allow you to check in. For helpful YouTube instructional videos on the Arkaive app and how to check-in, click [here](https://Arkaive.com). For additional information, visit [https://Arkaive.com](https://Arkaive.com).

**Textbook:**

Chris Scarre  *The Human Past: World Prehistory & the Development of Human Societies.* London: Thames & Hudson. 3rd edition. You can buy the book in the Coop bookstore, or order it 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 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/. 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 or topics not in your book (or update them), and use or update materials not directly covered in the readings or labs. 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 see me after class or during office hours. I have not put fixed dates for the exams on the schedule below because I prefer to work at a class speed on subjects to be covered. However, the date for the mid-term exam will be announced in class at least a week before it is to be given. The date for the final exam during finals week is set by the registrar and will be available later in the semester.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability. In addition, please let me know in advance if you will need exam accommodations for the mid-term, such as extra time.

**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.

If you are curious about your instructor, I have put copies of several recent papers of mine that you can look thru. These will give you an idea of the types of archaeological work I do in Africa. The most readable of these for beginning students may be Denbow et al. 2008 “Finding Bosutswe” and Denbow 2015, “The glass beads of Kaitshaa.” Denbow 2017, “Interactions between Foragers, Herders and Farmers,” illustrates how archaeology, linguistics and genetics are increasingly used to investigate questions of identity and trade in the Kalahari past. I don’t expect you remember details of these but, if you are curious, look them over as an example of how (one) archaeologist works and writes. Finally, a different aspect of my work is included in a recent blog that accompanied an exhibit on the Kongo Kingdom at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. You can copy and paste this URL to see it: https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2015/kongo/blog/posts/loango-archaeological-project [The videos in the blog still work, but some of the other 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

**Principles of Archaeology**

**Topic 1**

Readings: Chris Scarre: Preface and Chapter 1, pp. 19-43
- 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: The Pilikwe Potters*

**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**

Chris Scarre, Chapter 2: *African Origins, pp. 44-83* (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**

Chris Scarre, Chapter 3: *Hominin Dispersals in the Old World, pp. 84-123* (Richard Klein)

**Modern Humans**
Chris Scarre, Chapter 4: The Rise of Modern Humans, pp. 124-173 (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
Chris Scarre, Chapter 5: The World Transformed: From Foragers and Farmers to States and Empires, pp. 174-199 (Chris Scarre)
Week 12: Lab 9: Ancient Egypt: sex, gender and demography

**Topic 3 North America**

Chris Scarre, Chapter 9: Origins of Food Producing Economies in the Americas, pp. 306-349 (David Bowman, Gayle Fritz, Patty Jo Watson)
Week 13: film: Peopling of the Americas

Chris Scarre, Chapter 18: Complex Societies of North America; 5,000 BC-1550 AD, pp. 678-715 (George Milner and W.H. Wills)
Week 14: Film: Cahokia: America's lost city

The Final Exam will be set according to the registrar’s schedule for exams, which is announced toward the end of the semester.