

Introduction to Archaeology

ANTH 13

Code 40024

Tues/Thurs 10:30-11:45 am
Final Exam December 12, 9:45-12:00am

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This course is intended as an introduction to the science of archaeology and explores the theoretical foundations of archaeological research. Basic application of various field methodologies will be addressed to familiarize students with the nature of archaeological data, how data is collected and interpreted, and what it can and can not reveal about the past. Techniques and procedures fundamental to inquiry in archaeology are stressed, as are legal and ethical considerations of archaeological practice. We will investigate advances in interactive web-based archaeology. We will use case studies, simulations, hands-on problem based inquiry, videos, selected readings and discussion to develop a practical repertoire of methods for the recovery and interpretation of the archaeological record. .

The course has been constructed around Units having specific content emphasis. These are designed to form core themes for scaffolding learning objectives. Students should anticipate and schedule six hours weekly for readings and related assignments in support of the learning objectives. Careers and avenues for future studies will be explored.

Texts:

Archaeology: Down to Earth. 2007, Third edition. David Hurst Thomas and Robert Kelly Thompson-Wadsworth, Australia.

Readings on Reserve.

Pdf articles on select topics.

Updates from *American Archaeology*

Assignments and various announcements will be available for download from My Faculty Webpage.

http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty_and_staff/faculty_detail.jsp?id=1576

You can access the page through the quick links search on the SJSU home page. Additional course material will be accessible via FTP address specific to this class and should be regularly checked. We will use this address for sharing class work and for specific assignments. Please note, this does not link through the department website.

Objectives

- Broad understanding critical issues in archaeological theory, and problems surrounding collection of evidence.
- Knowledge of specific methods and techniques of field archaeology.
- General knowledge of theoretical frameworks in the field of archaeology.
- Knowledge of remote sensing technology and GIS procedures and applications in varied contexts.
- Basic understanding of site formation processes, and how these generate the archaeological record.
- Analysis of artifact categories and typology in context of material culture theory.

- Students will engage in archaeological problem simulations related to actual research situations.

Outcomes:

- Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing behavioral/environmental evidence as applied in archaeology.
- Students will develop research skills and methods of inquiry using documentary sources.
- Students will learn basic field skills relevant to production of archaeological documentation.
- Students will understand how archaeology works within the arena of Anthropology.
- Students will develop a knowledge base of NAGPRA and CEQA, Federal 106 compliance and other relevant regulations affecting archaeological research.
- Students will have the opportunity to manipulate actual research data for interpretation.

Theme	Readings	Highlight	Assessments
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Unit 1: The Science of Archaeology

Week One August 26, 28

What is Archaeology?	Thomas and Kelly (T&K)		
What is not?	Chapter 1		
Who is an archaeologist?	Article: Sebastian		

Week Two September 2,4

Culture Concepts	T&K Chapter 2		
Theories of culture	Article: LeBlanc		
Scientific approach			
Ethics			

Week Three September 9, 11

Science of fieldwork	T&K Chapter 3		
Remote sensing	Articles: Durrenberger; Scarre		
Invasive and non-invasive methods			

Week Four September 16, 18

Down and dirty	T&K Chapter 4		Simulation 1
Principles of study			Stratigraphy

Unit 2: Research

Week Five September 23, 25

Dating	T&K Chapter 5		
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Week Six September 30, October 2

Classification	T&K Chapter 6		
Systematics			
Settlement patterns			
Statistics			

Week Seven October 7, 9

Taphonomy	T&K Chapter 7		Simulation 2
Site formation processes			Artifacts

Unit 3: Interpretation

Week Eight October 14, 16

Zooarchaeology	T&K Chapter 8		
Palynology			
Paleo ecology			
Environmental archaeology			

Week Nine October 21, 23
Bioarchaeology
Interpreting social complexity I

T&K Chapter 9, 10

Mid Term Exam

Week Ten October 28, 30
Interpreting social complexity II

Articles: Kohler; Reber

Week Eleven November 4, 6
Interpreting social complexity III

T&K Chapter 11

Week Twelve November 11, 13
Historical Archaeology

Note: No class on 11th (Veterans day/Campus closed)
T&K Chapter 12

Week Thirteen November 18, 20
Maritime Archaeology
Simulation 3

Selected articles

Symbols /status

Week Fourteen November 24, 26
Maritime Archaeology

Note: No class 26th (Thanksgiving)
Selected articles

Unit 4: Preservation Law

Week Fifteen December 2,4
Heritage management issues

T&K Chapter 13
Articles: O'Hehir; Jaarsma; Brunwasser

Week Sixteen December 9
Forensics

Finals Week

Final scheduled for December 12, 9:45-12:00 Final Exam

Policies:

- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments to discuss topics of interest.
- The instructor will make every reasonable effort to provide timely and constructive feedback to students concerning performance throughout the semester.
- The instructor will be available through regular office hours, through email, and by appointment.
- Students should expect to actively participate individually, through group work, class discussions, and in Q&A sessions.
- **No assignments will be accepted by email.**
- Missed exams may be made-up only if a student provides appropriate documentation for legitimate cause for missing scheduled exam dates (funeral, medical emergency, family crisis; *per university policy*). *Absolutely no make-up will be given for reasons of course overloads, or personal time. Make-up exams will be by scheduled appointment in my office and will include oral discussion section.* Late research projects will not be accepted. Late assignments will be given a grace period of one class cycle (the next class) and a reduced score of 10%. Late assignments will not be accepted beyond the grace period. Assignments will not be accepted during finals week.
- Exam dates will not be altered. *If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam date please make arrangements in advance (at least two weeks). The sooner the better.*
- *You may not leave the room during an exam.* The instructor will interpret this as a completed exam and it will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class or to introduce new elements.
- To receive a grade for this course you must complete and submit at least half of the assignments.

- Extra credit assignments will not be provided for missing any regular assignments. **Academic integrity and ethics will be upheld at all times.** Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated.
- **All lectures are copyrighted.** The use of recording equipment of any kind; tape, film, or digital, is forbidden without written consent from the instructor. This is not usually a problem. Students must agree not to use lectures in unauthorized formats or non-educational purposes.
- All written projects should conform to the citation standards of American Antiquity. Examples are provided for use on my faculty webpage.
- Students are expected to attend class. Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. Attendance does not count toward scoring your grade, but will impact your learning. Attendance will be monitored informally.
- Please turn off your cell phones as a courtesy and in respect for fellow students and the instructor.
- **No food or drinks are allowed in the lab.**
- You will be asked to sign a statement that you have read and understand all policies and course criteria.

Assessments:

There will be three simulations of archaeological procedures and problems. You will also complete three summary papers that concisely synthesize critical issues or practices based on the three simulations and incorporating relevant readings from the course. Five surprise quizzes are intended to keep students current with readings. There will be a midterm and a final exam. The final is comprehensive, covering all course material, but with emphasis on essays. Additionally, you will work in pairs to complete and present a research project on a topic selected by the instructor. You are encouraged to meet with me often in the progress of your research. The team will make an oral presentation of about 12 minutes. These varied and integrated assessments are intended to provide several avenues for demonstrating mastery of course content and competence with relevant issues based on students' personal strengths and interests. Guidelines and rubrics for each assignment will be distributed before each assignment.

Simulations and synthesis 25 x 3 (75 pts)
 Library/web based project 50 pts
 Surprise quizzes 5 x 5 pts (25 pts)
 Midterm Exam 100 pts
 Final Exam 125 pts
 Participation 25pts (based on in-class activities and class discussion)
 Total: 400 pts

Grades will be based on score percentages. 94-100% 4.0; 88-93% 3.5; 82-87% 3.0; 76-81% 2.5; 70-75% 2.0; 64-69% 1.5; 57-63% 1.0; <56% 0.0

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments. Grading is criterion based and follows a set of rubrics so that assessment is consistent for all students. Final grade is all based on assessment trends rewarding consistent improvement.

Earning an A: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate thorough mastery of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful and critical analysis, conceptual synthesis, and originality. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit exemplary writing appropriate to the discipline. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments must be of consistently high quality in terms of content and execution. Examinations will score in the 90% and above range. Projects complete and original or innovative.

Earning a B: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general comprehension of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful analysis and effort should be made at conceptual synthesis. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit very few writing problems. Assignments must be of good

quality in terms of content and conform to standards appropriate to the discipline. Exams may score in the 85% and above range. Projects complete and original.

Earning a C: At least 80% of assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general understanding of critical content. Knowledge of basic conceptual material should be demonstrated. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments will exhibit careful effort with minimal errors in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score in the 75% and above range. Projects complete but of average quality as measured by content and scope.

Earning a D: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete no more than 60% of assignments. Only basic knowledge of conceptual material. Critical analysis not demonstrated. Assignments exhibiting a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and several errors in content. Failure to achieve seminar responsibilities or at barely acceptable effort. Minimal engagement in class projects. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards ignored. Exams may score below 75% range. Project partial completed a basic level.

Earning an F: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete and submit more than 60% of assignments. Basic knowledge of conceptual material and critical analysis not demonstrated. No evidence of general skills or course content acquired. Assignments exhibiting a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and significant errors evident in content. Papers will likely contain serious grammatical and typographical errors along with general writing problems, especially in word usage. Citation standards wrong. Exams may score below the 60% range. Final project possibly incomplete, late, or absent. Any intentional plagiarism will automatically result in a failing grade. Missing final exam will result in an F.

Grade I: Special circumstances. Failure to complete and submit at least 50% of assignments, or personal circumstances preventing student from academic completion of the course. Attendance below acceptable levels to have earned the 'I' will in some instances be assigned an F grade per University policy.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin a university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University.

Cheating

At SJSU, cheating is an act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

Copying in part or in whole from another's test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy; Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy; Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

Plagiarism

At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work; and representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own. In written works this may include the over use of quoted materials to build a paper that is otherwise lacking in original content.

Add/Drop Policy

The university has specific procedures for dropping a class. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. You are able to do this through My SJSU. Navigate to "Self Service>Student center>Drop a class"**
Check the schedule and be sure to drop prior to submitting fees to ensue your registration fees are properly assessed.

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, they are not required to do so. For students who wish to drop a course **it is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. For more information about "add" and "drop" deadlines go to:**
<http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-2.html>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a condition or situation that requires special accommodations must make arrangements through the Disability Resource center. This includes learning and physical disabilities that prevent you from fulfilling course requirements under expected conditions. If you feel you have a disability, you must go to the DRC and follow their guidelines in order to receive assistance. I will work with the DRC to assist you based on their recommendations. I am not authorized to make assessments of personal situations

regarding disabilities, and request that you prepare well in advance for any special needs you may have, particularly for taking exams. You can find more information on SJSU's policy and the programs available as well as your rights at: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>