

ANTH 168
27159**Archaeological Methodology**M/W 12:00-1:15
WSQ 4**Dr. Marco Meniketti**Department of Anthropology
404N Clark Hall

Office Hours: M/W 10:30-11:30 & 3:00-4:30

Or by appointment

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This course addresses theoretical foundations of archaeological research and emphasizes practical application of various field methodologies. Techniques and procedures fundamental to inquiry in archaeology and Cultural Resource Management are stressed, including legal and ethical considerations of archaeological practice. We will also explore the most recent innovations in digital archaeology, such as data base creation and manipulation, graphic representation of site data, and professional applications of GIS technology. We will investigate advances in interactive web-based archaeology. The course will experiment with new instructional technology and students will participate in creating new methods for content delivery. Most of all we will get our hands dirty in the basics of field archaeology.

We will use case studies, simulations, hands-on problem based inquiry, selected readings and discussion to develop a practical repertoire of methods for the recovery and interpretation of the archaeological record. The course will be divided between lab and lecture.

Texts:**Feder, Kenneth****2004** *Linking to the Past*. Oxford University Press, New York.**Drennan, Robert****1996** *Statistics for Archaeologists*. Plenum, New York.

Several handouts or pdfs on select topics.

Recommended:

Elements of Style Turabian. Seventh edition.**Objectives**

- Broad understanding of research design, 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.
- Introduction to GIS applications in varied contexts.
- Knowledge of remote sensing technology.
- Critical understanding of the major theories concerning site formation processes, and how these generate the archaeological record.
- Students will develop research skills and methods of inquiry using documentary sources.

- Students will learn basic field skills relevant to production of archaeological documentation: Compass, GPS, measured drawings, transit, spatial documentation, site mapping, report preparation, and artifact cataloging/curation.
- Students will develop a knowledge base of NAGPRA and CEQA, Federal 106 compliance and other relevant regulations affecting archaeological research:
 - Analysis of artifact categories and typology in context of material culture theory.
 - Development of simulated museum exhibits of archaeological finds.
 - Students will engage in specific experimental studies.

Outcomes:

- Students will develop basic models for dissemination of archaeological findings to the public.
- Students will develop graphic representations of archaeological data.
- Students will share select readings in seminar format and presentations (SP)
- Students will work in cooperative groups to solve real-world problems of archaeological field data.
- Students will learn documentation of standing architecture at HABS/HAER standards.

Archaeology is a field science. Because a great deal of the course will take place outside or in the lab it is essential that the readings be completed **Before** the class indicated. Handouts listed below will be available in pdf format on the course website. The library is also important. Be prepared to do research at MLK Library.

Major themes and activities.

Theme	Readings	Assessments/Activity
Week One Jan 26 Archaeology and technology Environments Site Formation processes The field notebook	Feder Unit 1,2 handouts	
Week Two Jan 31, Feb 2 Survey strategy Sampling Compass and GPS navigation	Drennan chp 17	Compass course
Week Three Feb 7, 9 Data collection/excavation protocol Interpreting stratigraphy	Feder Unit 9 handouts	Simulation
Week Four Feb 14, 16 Artifacts, ecofacts Materials The archaeological tool kit Using research catalogues and reference sources	Feder Unit 3, 4	Compass follow-up
Week Five Feb 21, 23 Transit survey Optical and digital theodolite		Survey Site recording
Week Six Feb 28, Mar 2 Mapping Batching data	Drennan chp 1-3 handouts	Summary 1 due

Week Seven Mar 7, 9

Field methods/field notes
Data recovery
Data reliability

Feder Unit 6-8

Survey

Week Eight Mar 14, 16

Statistical comparisons

Drennan chp 4, 5

Survey

Week Nine Mar 21, 23

Documenting standing architecture
HABS/HAER standards

Midterm Exam

*******Spring Break Mar 28, Apr 1** *****

Week Eleven Apr 4, 6

Documenting standing architecture
HABS/HAER standards

handouts

Documentation 1

Week Twelve Apr 11, 13

Documentation
Statistical confidence

Drennan chp 11, 14

Documentation 2

Week Thirteen Apr 18, 20

Remote sensing
GIS

handouts

Week Fourteen Apr 25, 27

Environmental archaeology
Soils chemistry/sample collections

handouts

Screening
Summary 2 due

Week Fifteen April -May 2, 4

Environmental continued

Screening

Week Sixteen May 9, 11

Artifact management and analysis

Week Seventeen May 16

The Archaeological profession

Feder Unit 5

Portfolio due**Finals Week May****Comprehensive Final Exam TBA****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 reduced by 10% per week. No assignments will 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. 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. There is enough to do already.
- **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 will be provided for use.
- Students are expected to attend class. Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. 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 either lab.**

Assessments:

To receive a grade in this class you must complete a minimum 50% of assignments.

There will be several exercises or simulations of archaeological procedures and problems. There will be one exam during the term and final exam. The final is comprehensive, covering all course material, but with emphasis is on problem solving. Additionally, you will complete a research project on a topic related to the major themes covered during this course. You will make use of multiple outside sources in this independent project. The project will be produced in digital format and submitted on CD. The focus will be on innovative multi-media approaches to the final product and interactive content. An outline and abstract of the topic should be submitted for approval by the fourth week of the term and you are encouraged to meet with me often in the progress of your research. You will also complete three summary papers during the semester that concisely synthesize critical issues or practices based on group work. Students will complete a museum investigative / interpretation assignment, and lead the class in a seminar review of selected assigned topics. 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. The final grade assessment will be based on a completed student performance portfolio integrating traditional with digital products.

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

Or you can access the page through the quick links search on the SJSU home page. A page will be set up for this course for easy access to assignments and readings posted in pdf format.

Surprise quizzes 10pts x 5 (50 pts)

Summary assignments 25pts x 2 (50pts)

Mid term Exam 50 pts

Final Exam 100 pts

Portfolio of exercises 150 pts

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.

To earn 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.

To earn 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.

To earn 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.

To earn 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.

To earn an F: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete and submit more than 50% of assignments. Basic knowledge of conceptual material and critical analysis not demonstrated. No evidence of general skills or course content provided. Assignments will exhibit a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and errors will be evident in content. Papers will likely contain 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 or late. Any intentional plagiarism will automatically result in a failing grade.

Grade I: Special circumstances. Failure to complete and submit better than 50% of assignments. Attendance below acceptable levels. In some instances an F grade will be assigned instead.

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/>

