

**ANTH 168**

**Archaeological Methodology  
Section 1**

**Code 24670  
Tues/Thurs 4:30-5:45  
Meets in WSQ004**

**Dr. Marco Meniketti**

Office hours:

T/Th 12:30-2:30, 6:00-6:30

404N Clark Hall

marco.meniketti@sjsu.edu

924-5787

This course emphasizes theoretical foundations of archaeological research, but with a strong focus on 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 professional archaeological practice. We will also explore the most recent innovations in technology aiding archaeology; data base creation and graphic representation of site data.

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. There will also be student presentations of case study research.

**Required Texts:**

Hester, Thomas; Shafer, Harry and Kenneth Feder

1997 *Field Methods in Archaeology* 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Mayfield Publishing, Mountain View, CA.

**Highly Recommended:**

*Elements of Style*. Turabian. Seventh edition or later.

Several supplemental readings on select topics will be available in pdf format during the semester and are required reading.

**Course website: [www.sjsu.edu/people/marco.meniketti/courses/ArchField](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/marco.meniketti/courses/ArchField)**

**Objectives**

- Broad understanding of research design, survey techniques, 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 structuring data collection methods.
- Knowledge of new technology in the service of archaeologists.
- 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.

**Outcomes:**

- Students will develop basic models for dissemination of archaeological findings to the public.
- Students will develop models for digital stratigraphic profiles.
- Students will develop skills in graphic representations of archaeological data.
- Students will share select readings in seminar format and presentations (SP)
- Students will have the opportunity to manipulate actual research data from current research projects for analysis
- Students will work in cooperative groups to solve real-world problems of archaeological field data.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assessments and Activities</b>
<b>Week One Jan 26</b> Archaeology and technology Introduction	<b>Chp 1-2</b>	
<b>Week Two Jan 31-Feb2</b> Theoretical frameworks The law Sampling approaches	<b>Chp3</b>	1.Compass
<b>Week Three Feb 7, 9</b> Survey fundamentals	<b>Chp 4 &amp; 9</b>	Transit intro
<b>Week Four Feb14, 16</b> Survey fundamentals continued		2.Transit survey Triangulation
<b>Week Five Feb 21, 23</b> Maps, GPS, topography Landscape representation		3. Modeling land forms
<b>Week Six Feb 28 -March 1</b> Maps and survey		Compass follow-up
<b>Week Seven March 6,8</b> Artifacts, ecofacts Excavation methods Types of data Hypothesis development Field methods	<b>Chp 5</b>	4.Soil processing, screening
<b>Week Eight March 13, 15</b> Data recovery Ethics: descendant communities Artifact processing Processing continued	<b>Chp 6 &amp; 7</b>	5.Artifact labeling, analysis illustration and statistics
<b>Week Nine March 20, 22</b> Data processing Databases and digital archiving Photography	<b>Chp 7 &amp; 8</b>	6.Artifact processing

**Spring Break March 26-30 \*\*\*\*\*****Week Eleven April 3, 5**

Standing architecture

7. Recording standing architecture

**Week Twelve April 10, 12**

Architecture continued

**Week Thirteen April 17, 19****Chp 10**

8. Modeling and illustration

Stratigraphy

**Week Fourteen April 24, 26****Chp 11& 12**

Human and animal remains

**Week Fifteen May 1, 3**

Conservation

Field and lab curation

**Week Sixteen May 8, 10**

Special Topics

9. Artifact analysis

**Week Seventeen May 15**

Professional practice

**Finals Week May 17 through 23**

Final scheduled TBA

**Final Exam****Policies:****All lectures are copyrighted and may not be distributed without permission of the Instructor.**

- 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.
- 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 day. No assignments or make up work will be accepted after the last day of instruction.
- 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 passing grade for this course you must complete and submit at least 80% assignments and complete the Final Exam.
- 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. Texting in class is not an acceptable behavior and it may affect grades.**
- **No food or drinks are allowed in the lab.**

**Assessments:**

There will be nine exercises or simulations of archaeological procedures and problems. The best eight will count toward your grade. There will be numerous quizzes during the term and a final exam. The final is comprehensive, covering all course material, with emphasis on problem solving. Additionally, you will complete a critical research project on a examining published fieldwork having themes covered during this course. You will make use of multiple outside sources in this independent project. Students will lead the class in a review of selected 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

Exercises 8 pts x 10 (80 pts)

Quizzes 6 x 20 pts (120 pts)

Final Exam 100 pts

Portfolio Research Project 100 pts

Participation embedded in exercises (20%)

Total: 400 pts

Grades will be based on score percentages. 95-100 A; 90-94 A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 B; 80-82 B-; 77-79 C+; 73-76 C; 70-72 C-; and so forth...

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.

*Please note: The instructor will have the discretionary choice of failing a given assignment or the entire semester depending on the severity of the plagiarism.*

### **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/>