

Anthropology 13: Introduction to Archaeology

**Section 1 (43996) Fall 2016
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 16:00-17:00 or by appointment
Class Days/Time: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:45
Classroom: CLK 310

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and grades can be found on the Canvas course web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>. The course Canvas will be published by the first day of class. My SJSU web page is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/viviana.sanchezchopitea/>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU and through Canvas to be current with any updates.

Course Description

Catalog: How archaeologists invent their own version of the past, illustrated with compelling Old and New World discoveries from early prehistory to the present. How archaeological sites are discovered, excavated and analyzed; how facts are tested and fictions unmasked.

This course is an introduction to the facets and methodologies of the practice of archaeology. The course explores the theoretical currents of thought on the nature and practice of the archaeological discovery and interpretation of human culture. In this

context it will address the processes of cultural formation and change. Current methods and issues will be addressed in a theoretical and practical manner, including exploration, surveys, recovery, cataloguing, dating and interpretation, in addition to legal and ethical issues in the management of cultural resources.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Theoretical framework:

- Discuss the evolution of archaeological thought, and the role of key individuals in development of archaeology as a science.
- Discuss the history of archaeology in the Americas
- Recognize current issues relating to Archaeology and Native Americans.

Data acquisition:

- Apply basic principles and techniques in field archaeology including identifying sites, surveying, site formation processes, sampling of sites, uses of new technology such as remote sensing and GIS, and landscape archaeology.
- Apply principles of archaeological excavation emphasizing on the importance of context and provenience and excavation methods and recording cultural remains.
- Address ethical issues relating to knowing local laws, protection from vandalism, consultation with local tribes or Native American descendants, storing cultural remains, and publishing the work.

Data interpretation:

- Illustrate uses of cultural remains to reconstruct past environment, health, social and political systems
- Apply knowledge of the main theoretical approaches to explain world-wide cultural evolution.
- Apply techniques of conducting archaeological research and the dissemination of results

Cultural heritage:

- Be aware of challenges and issues related to the preservation and protection of cultural resources.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Kelly, Robert and David Hurst, 2013. *Archaeology*. Seventh Edition (earlier editions acceptable). Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-305-67040-02

Vitelli, Karen D., and Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, 2006. *Archaeological Ethics*. Lanham: Altamira Press. Second Edition. ISBN 9780759109636. (* optional)

Rathje William and Cullen Murphy, 2001. *Rubbish: The Archaeology of Garbage*. The University of Arizona Press. ISBN: 978-0-8165-2143-2

Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format will be available on the course Canvas page.

Course Requirements

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Success in this class is founded on your class participation, completion of reading assignments previous to class lecture and participation on in-class activities. Attendance is strongly encouraged and expected. Missing lectures can cause missing of information and may lead to failing the course.

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

- Two Exams: Midterm and Final

Conceptual understanding and application of knowledge is the principal objective of the course and will be targeted by assessment. Exams are multiple choice and short answer oriented. Objective questions are included to assess core content.

Failure to take the any exam will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work (each exam = 100pts).

- A Term Paper:

An original research paper (of 1500 words, approximately 6 pages double spaced, of original work [**excluding quotes and references**]) including a reference section is required for this class. Details on topics and the required guidelines for format will be provided during the semester. The paper will be graded on original thinking, application of concepts developed in class, organization, use of proper citations and required citation

format, and proper grammar and spelling. **References will follow *American Antiquity* style only.** Academic dishonesty, cheating or intentional plagiarism will result in an automatic grade of F (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>, **you are responsible for knowing the content of this document, no exceptions**).

The paper itself is worth 100 points. Additionally, a one page proposal (5 points), and citations draft (5 points) are required components of this assignment, contributing to a total of 110 points.

Papers will not be accepted after the deadline or with a Turnitin score greater than 15%.

- Group Project:

Contribution to a group project will be assessed as part of your general grade. Details of this exercise will be given at the beginning of the semester. The final product will be presented to the class at the end of the semester. Grading will take into account time, clarity, ingenuity, and effectiveness of the presentation (100pts).

- In/out-class exercises:

A number exercises will be given throughout the course based on the course readings listed in Canvas or other additional material presented in class. These are to address archaeological methods and to further discuss current issues in the field. All written activities are due the same day during class and **cannot be made up** (100pts).

- Class participation/discussion:

There will be a number of class interactive discussions in individual or group form throughout the semester. Contribution to the class in the form of questions, comments, ideas, and the sharing of current events related to the field will be also evaluated and considered for the final grade in the class. Student participation is important to promote critical thinking and evaluate the understanding of class material (50pts).

- Quizzes and written exercises:

Additional reading material will be selected and provided in Canvas for analysis and discussion. A short written assessment to be completed in class individually or in a group will be required. Guidelines for these exercises will be given in class. Participation in this activity is important since you will be able to apply the concepts acquired during lecture and have a glimpse of the current issues and controversies surrounding the discipline (50pts).

Failure to take the midterm or final exam and complete the term paper will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.

Assignments and Grade Break-down

Exams (2 partial tests, 100 points each)	200	35%
Term paper (proposal, sources)	110	20%
Group project	100	18%
In/out-class exercises	50	9%
Quizzes and written exercises	50	9%
Class participation	50	9%
Total	560	100%

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments. Letter grades will be assigned based on score percentages, as follows:

Grading is as follows:

A	B	C	D	F
97-100% = A+	87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	Below 60% = F
93-96% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A-	80-82% = B-	70-72% = C-	60-62% = D-	

IMPORTANT: Read the syllabus, familiarize yourself with Canvas, and keep up with the reading. Your presence in class is very important, if you miss a day you are responsible to get the notes from a classmate. If you have any questions or issues do not hesitate to contact me or see me during office hours. Do not wait too long to communicate if you are having problems in class or with the class material. Your success in the class depends on your understanding of the material and completing the assignments on time. I strongly encourage you to reach me through email or in person for any questions you may have that are not already addressed in the syllabus or Canvas.

Classroom Protocol:

- **Student participation and attendance is essential** for academic success. Students are expected to attend class. Students are encouraged to attend class regularly since material presented and discussed in the classroom may be additional to the information presented in the assigned textbook.
- **Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable** unless there is an exceptional circumstance or has been previously arranged with the instructor.
- Laptops are only permitted for note taking and for specific in-class exercises, and only under the specific approval of the instructor. Any other electronic devices need to be off during class. Activities such as texting, surfing the web, chatting, or emailing during class are disruptive and constitute disrespectful behavior towards the instructor and other students. Please be courteous and respectful.
- **All assignments are due the date marked in the class schedule** unless the date has been officially changed by the instructor. **All written assignments are to be submitted through “Turnitin” in Canvas or as indicated by the instructor.**

Make-up exams will be given only if 1) you know in advance that you are unable to attend due to an important and verifiable reason and have arranged in advance with me an alternative date prior to its scheduled date, 2) if any reason arises beyond your control you need to notify me before class by email and provide a verifiable reason (note from physician/nurse, etc.) for the absence. Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up a test. **Unexcused late written assignments** will be subject to a 3% penalty per day and not accepted after one week from the original due date.

- **Students may not leave the room during an examination.** This will be an indication to the instructor that the student has completed the exam and it will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- **All lectures and course materials, including exams, assignments, quizzes, handouts, and exercises, are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission from the instructor.**
- Discussions of controversial topics can become emotional. Such discussion demands respect and intellectual honesty toward and between fellow students, instructor, and from instructor toward students. Personal attacks on individuals holding non-conventional/controversial ideas will not be tolerated.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.

Departmental Goals

Learn about the goals of the anthropology department and how it can benefit your education.

Goals <http://www.sjsu.edu/anthropology/departmentinfo/goals/index.html>

Credit Hours

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

University Policies

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Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

All students must obtain the instructor's permission if they wish to record lectures or distribute materials from the class.

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

Anth 13: Introduction to Archaeology

Fall 2016, Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice made available from the instructor by email and class announcements.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 25	Introduction to the course.
2	Aug 30, 1	Module 1: The framework of Archaeology. The science of Archaeology and its roots. Pseudoarchaeology: frauds and mysteries. Reading: K&T 1, 2
3	Sep 6, 8	Archaeological theory: Perspectives and paradigms. Reading: K&T 2
4	Sep 13, 15	Archaeology in the Americas. Who owns the past? Archaeological ethics: Archaeology and Native Americans. The myth of the Moundbuilders (video). Archaeology and the law. Reading: K&T 2, V&C 17
5	Sep 20, 22	Module 2: Obtaining data. The archaeological record: sites. Geoarchaeology and site formation. Preservation. Reading: K&T 3:48, 4:69-71, 5:96-102. Assignment:
6	Sep 27, 29	Fieldwork: Surveying, site selection and sampling. Technological applications. Landscape archaeology. Reading: K&T 3 Assignment: in-class activity.
7	Oct 4, 6	Fieldwork: Excavation. What is an artifact, ecofact, feature? Ethics in fieldwork. Reading: K&T 4 Assignment: in-class activity
8	Oct 11, 13	Assignment: Midterm (11th) Labwork: Classification, analysis and cataloging of artifacts Reading: K&T 4, 5 Assignment: in-class activity
9	Oct 18, 20	Labwork: Identifying and processing other cultural remains. Chronology. Reading: K&T 6,7

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	Oct 25, 27	Module 3: Interpreting data. Reconstructing past environments, diet and health, Zooarchaeology, plant archaeology, Bioarchaeology. DNA and isotope analysis. Reading: K&T 9, 10 Assignment: in-class activity
11	Nov 1, 3	Reconstructing social and political systems: gender archaeology, power and social inequality. (Video) Reading: K&T 11
12	Nov 8, 10	Archaeology of economics (production and trade). Symbolism, ideology, world view. (Video) Reading: K&T 11, 12
13	Nov 15, 17	Theoretical approaches to cultural evolution, domestication, state formation. Reading: K&T 13
14	Nov 22, 24	Nov 24: Thanksgiving Holiday Module 4: Archaeology today and the future of the past. Preserving and protecting our heritage. Reading: K&T 15 Assignment: Research Papers due (Nov 22)
15	Nov 29, Dec 1	Who owns the past: Ethical issues. Reading: K&T 16, V&C selected readings
16	Dec 6, 8	Who owns the past: Ethical issues. Reading: K&T 16, V&C selected readings
Final Exam	Dec 15 (Thursday)	Assignment: Final 9:45-12:00