

Anthropology 13: Introduction to Archaeology

**Section 1 (42707) Fall 2018
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

Instructor:	Viviana Bellifemine Sanchez-Chopitea
Office Location:	CLK 402H
Telephone:	408-924-5712
Email:	viviana.sanchezchopitea@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 12:00-13:00 or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 13:30-14:45
Classroom:	CLK 202

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

Sutton, Q. Mark, 2013. *Archaeology, The Science of the Human Past*. Fourth Edition (earlier editions acceptable). Pearson. ISBN: 13:9780205881796 (Required)

Praetzelis, Adrian, 2011. *Death by Theory, A Tale of Mystery and Archaeological Theory*. Revised Edition. Altamira. ISBN: 9780759119581. (Required)

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

Vitelli, Karen D., and Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, 2006. *Archaeological Ethics*. Lanham: Altamira Press. Second Edition. ISBN 9780759109636. (* optional, I will provide pdfs on selected chapters)

Other Readings

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

Course Requirements

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)

NOTE: “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.” [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

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 separate 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 of exercises will be given throughout the course based on the course readings listed in Canvas or other additional material presented in class and laboratory activities. 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. You will also be able to conduct hands-on activities related to processing and dating archaeological material. All in-class written activities are due the same day during class and **cannot be made up** (50pts).

- **Quizzes and written exercises:**

A number of short written assessments to be completed in class individually or in a group will be required addressing the reading material assigned for the lecture. All written activities are due the same day during class and **cannot be made up** (50pts).

- **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. It provides an indication of your engagement in your own education. (50pts).

- **Attendance**

Roll will be taken sporadically. Attendance is strongly encouraged and expected. Your success in the class depends on your presence during lecture and class activities. I do not provide the PowerPoints of the lectures hence you are responsible for obtaining class notes. Missing lectures may result in failing the class.

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.

I do not drop students for non-attendance; you are responsible for your registration status.

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.** **Unexcused late written assignments** will be subject to a grade penalty and not accepted after one week from the original due date. **All assignments are due before the last day of class.**
- **In-class activities/assignments/exercises cannot be made up.**
- **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 the instructor an alternative date prior to its scheduled date, 2) if any reason arises beyond your control you need to notify the instructor 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. Make-up exams will only be scheduled within one week from the original due date. Make-up exams will take place at the Testing Office and it is the student’s responsibility to make the arrangements in a timely manner through <http://testing.sjsu.edu/makeupstudents/>. Keep in mind that they need an advance notice of at least 48 hours as well as the instructor’s copy of the exam. Please read their instructions before the day of the exam and keep in mind you have only a week allowance.
- **The Final Exam cannot be made-up. You must take the Final Exam at the scheduled time or earlier with the approval of the instructor.** [University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)
- **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.

- **If extra credit is offered in this class, it will apply toward only one extra activity.**
- **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 relevant questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.

University Policies

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) 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>

Resources

The university provides resources that can help you succeed academically. Just look here.

[Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/>

[Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

[Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

[Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

Anth 13: Introduction to Archaeology

Fall 2018, Tentative 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 21, 23	Introduction to the course. Module 1: The framework of Archaeology. The science of Archaeology and its roots. Reading: S ch 1
2	Aug 28, 30	Archaeology as a science. Pseudoarchaeology: frauds and mysteries Reading: S ch 1, P ch 1, 2
3	Sep 4, 6	Contemporary Archaeology. Archaeology in the Americas. The myth of the Moundbuilders (video). Reading: S ch 2, 3
4	Sep 11, 13	Introduction to Archaeological theory: Perspectives and paradigms. Reading: S ch 2, 3; P ch 3
5	Sep 18, 20	Module 2: Obtaining data. The archaeological record: sites. Geoarchaeology and site formation. Preservation. Reading: S ch 4; P ch 4
6	Sep 25, 27	Fieldwork: Surveying, site selection and sampling. Technological applications. Landscape archaeology. Reading: S ch 5; P ch 4 Assignment: Term Paper proposal/citations due
7	Oct 2, 4	Fieldwork: Excavation. What is an artifact, ecofact, feature? Ethics in fieldwork. Reading: S ch 4, 5;
8	Oct 9, 11	Labwork: Classification, analysis and cataloging of artifacts Reading: S ch 6
9	Oct 16, 18	Labwork: Identifying and processing other cultural remains. Chronology. Reading: S ch 6,7 Assignment: Midterm
10	Oct 23, 25	Module 3: Interpreting data. Reconstructing past environments, diet and health, Zooarchaeology, plant archaeology, Bioarchaeology. DNA and isotope analysis. Reading: S ch 8, 9, 10

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	Oct 30, 1	Reconstructing social and political systems: gender archaeology, power and social inequality. (Video) Reading: S ch 11; P ch 5, 7
12	Nov 6, 8	Archaeology of economics (production and trade). Symbolism, ideology, world view. (Video) Reading: S ch 11, 12
13	Nov 13, 15	Theoretical approaches to cultural evolution, domestication, state formation. Reading: S ch 12; P ch 9
14	Nov 20, 22	<u>Nov 22: Thanksgiving Holiday</u> <u>Module 4: Archaeology today and the future of the past.</u> Preserving and protecting our heritage. Archaeology and the law. Who owns the past? Archaeological ethics: Archaeology and Native Americans. Reading: S ch 13; P ch 6; V&C ch 17
15	Nov 27, 29	Who owns the past: Ethical issues. Reading: S ch 14, V&C selected readings Assignment: Term Papers due (Nov 29)
16	Dec 4, 6	What does it all mean? The significance of Archaeology today. Where are we on our theoretical views? Reading: S ch 14, P ch 10
Final Exam	Dec 13 (Thursday)	Final Exam 12:15-14:30