

Anthropology 13: Introduction to Archaeology

**Section 2 (48942) Fall 2019
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

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Office Hours:	Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	Clark Hall 204
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area A3

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and grades can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) or [Canvas](#) to learn of 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.

GE Learning Outcome (GELO)

- Area A3 Critical thinking and writing should help students learn to recognize, analyze, evaluate, and produce reasoning.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

T. Douglas Price & Kelly Knudson, 2018. *Principles of Archaeology*. Second Edition (earlier edition acceptable). Thames and Hudson. ISBN: 13:9780500293362 (Required)

Praetzellis, 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 (each exam = 100pts). Exams are multiple choice and short answer oriented.

Failure to take the any exam will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work

- **A Term Paper:** (120 pts). A research paper (of 1500 words, approximately 6 pages double spaced, of original work is required for this class. 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%.

Failure to complete this assignment will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.

- **In/out-class exercises:** (100pts). 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. You will 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**
- **Class participation/discussion:** (50pts). 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.
- **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. **I do not drop students for non-attendance; you are responsible for your registration status.**

A grade of **Incomplete** will not be given to avoid an F in the class.

Assignments and Grade Break-down

Exams (2 partial tests, 100 points each)	200	42%
Term paper (proposal, sources)	120	25%
In/out-class exercises	100	21%
Class participation	50	11%
Total	470	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 plus	87-89% = B plus	77-79% = C plus	67-69% = D plus	Below 60% = F
93-96% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A minus	80-82% = B minus	70-72% = C minus	60-62% = D minus	

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

- **Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable** unless there is an exceptional circumstance or has been previously arranged with the instructor. Students will be asked to leave the classroom when this occurs on a regular basis since it is disruptive to the class.
- **All electronic devices including laptops, tablets, and cell phones, must be turned off and out of sight during class.** Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of electronic devices in classroom settings.
- **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 not be accepted. All assignments are due before the last day of class.**
- **In-class activities/assignments/exercises cannot be made up.**
- **Assignments described as mandatory and all exams are needed to pass the class.**
- **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 for 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 (or turn in a late assignment). Make-up exams will only be scheduled within one week from the original due date.

- **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.
- **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.

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>

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Fall 2019, 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 22	Introduction to the course.
2	Aug 27, 29	Module 1: The framework of Archaeology. The science of Archaeology and its roots. Archaeology as a science. Pseudoarchaeology: frauds and mysteries Reading: P&K ch 1, 2 ; P ch 1, 2
3	Sep 3, 5	Contemporary Archaeology. Archaeology in the Americas. The myth of the Moundbuilders (video). Reading: P&K ch 1, 2
4	Sep 10, 12	Introduction to Archaeological theory: Perspectives and paradigms. Reading: P&K ch 3, 4; P ch 3
5	Sep 17, 19	Module 2: Obtaining data. The archaeological record: sites and site formation. Preservation. Reading: P&K ch 5; P ch 4
6	Sep 24, 26	What do we do at the field? Surveying, site selection and sampling. Technological applications. Landscape archaeology. Reading: P&K ch 6; P ch 5
7	Oct 1, 3	What do we do at the field? Excavation. What is an artifact, ecofact, feature? Ethics in fieldwork. Reading: P&K ch 6; P ch 6
8	Oct 8, 10	What do we do at the lab? Classification, analysis and cataloging of artifacts. Reading: P&K ch 7
9	Oct 15, 17	What do we do at the lab? Identifying and processing other cultural remains. Chronology. Reading: P&K ch 8 Review MIDTERM
10	Oct 22, 24	Module 3: Interpreting data. Reconstructing past environments: Geoarchaeology. Settlement patterns Reading: P&K ch 9

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	Oct 29, 31	Reconstructing human activities: Lithic and ceramic analysis. Archaeology of economics (production and trade). Reading: P&K ch 10, 11; P ch 5, 7
12	Nov 5, 7	Reconstructing human activities: Archaeobotany and Archaeozoology. Diet, hunting strategies, and past environments Reading: P&K ch 12, 13
13	Nov 12, 14	Reconstructing human populations: Bioarchaeology. DNA and isotope analysis. Reading: P&K ch 14, 15; P ch 7
14	Nov 19, 21	Module 4: Archaeology today and the future of the past. Preserving and protecting our heritage. Archaeology and the law. Who owns the past? Archaeological ethics: Archaeology and Native Americans. Reading: P&K ch 15, 16; P ch 9; V&C ch 17
15	Nov 26, 28	Who owns the past: Ethical issues. Reading: P&K ch 16, V&C selected readings Nov 28: Thanksgiving Holiday
16	Dec 3, 5	What does it all mean? The significance of Archaeology today. Where are we on our theoretical views? Reading: P ch 10 Review
Final Exam	Dec 16 (Monday)	Final Exam 12:15-14:30