

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
Anthropology 168, Archaeological Methodology, Section 1,
Spring 2016

Instructor:	Dr. Charlotte Sunseri
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Office Hours:	T 1-3pm, or by appt.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday, Thursday 10:30AM - 11:45AM
Classroom:	WSQ 004
Prerequisites:	ANTH 13 or instructor consent

Course Description

Catalog Description: Central methods of archaeological practice. Methods of archaeological inquiry, research design, and the cultural resource management presented through case studies in historic and prehistoric archaeology.

This course is a hands-on study of excavation and survey methods, artifact analysis, and historic document analysis in archaeology. We will learn field methods in an outdoor classroom and lab methods in the Integrative Anthropology Lab and discuss the relationship of scientific methodology to archaeological inquiry and theory. The course emphasizes real-world application of skills through developing research proposals and project reports. Students will engage with archaeological workflow in a project setting and the methodological stages of research design.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Course Content Learning Outcomes (LO)

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

LO1 Apply a rigorous scientific or humanistic approach to answer questions about the earth and environment and generate new knowledge.

LO2. Broad understanding of the methodology of archaeological science, data collection methods and techniques, and interpretive frameworks.

LO3: Apply basic skills in documentary studies, archaeological survey, excavation design, and post-excavation stages of processing, analyzing, and cataloguing an historical archaeological assemblage.

LO4: Knowledge of new technology used in archaeological science.

Required Texts/Readings

Carmichael, D., R. H. Lafferty, B. L. Molyneaux. 2003. *Excavation: Archaeologist's Toolkit 3*. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek. ISBN: 0759100195.

Collins, J. M. 2003. *Archaeological Survey: Archaeologist's Toolkit 2*. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek. ISBN: 0759100217.

Praetzellis, Adrian. 2003. *Dug to Death: A Tale of Archaeological Method and Mayhem*. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek. ISBN: 0759104077

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format available on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

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>.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Quizzes covering assigned readings will be given at the beginning of class. These may not be made up in the event of late arrival or absence on a quiz day. (25% of grade)
- Several simulations or hands-on activities will be assigned during this course, including an ethnoarchaeological study of SJSU, historic map study of downtown SJSU, survey of campus, stratigraphic profile analysis, artifact processing and cataloguing, and artifact illustration. (30% of grade)
- Two larger projects are designed to lead students through multiple steps of analysis and interpretation. A documentary project will analyze historical store ledgers from Nineteenth Century grocers in California and historical artifact analysis will provide real-world training in basic laboratory methods. (25% of grade)
- An essay to critically examine *Dug to Death* will be tie together themes in the course. This essay will be due by the end of the finals period. (20% of grade)

Grading Policy

A+ >99%, A 94-99%, A- 90-93 %

B+ 88-89%, B 84-87%, B- 80-83%

C+ 78-79%, C 74-77%, C- 70-73%
D+ 68-69%, D 63-67%, F <63%

Classroom Protocol

- Students will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity and intellectual ethics. The chief product in the social sciences is new knowledge and original thinking. Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with university Academic Integrity Policy.
- **No** late assignments will be accepted without prior instructor approval and documented cause. Unless otherwise specified in the instructions, assignments will not be accepted by email or after the last scheduled class.
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus, exam dates, or course content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class, or to explore timely topics.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf> and SJSU current semester's [Policies and Procedures](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Anth 168, Section 1 / Archaeological Methodology, Spring 2016, Course Schedule

Schedule (including assignment due dates, exam dates, date of final exam) is subject to change with fair notice – notice may be made available by email from instructor and/or classroom announcements.

All supplemental readings and article pdfs are available on Canvas course website.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 28	Introduction to course, syllabus, and texts
2	Feb 2, 4	Thinking from Things—contemporary past, ethnoarchaeology, site formation Film: excerpt from “Secrets of Lost Empires” <i>Ethnoarchaeology of SJSU</i>
3	Feb 9, 11	Read: Supplementals on Canvas (pdf); explore and read the website: http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/PUBLIC/publicLaw.htm Research Design: law, ethics, methodology, hypotheses
4	Feb 16, 18	The Documented Past—maps, ledgers, catalogues, photos Film: “Privy to the Past” <i>Historic map study of downtown SJSU</i>
5	Feb 23, 25	Read: Voss 2005 (pdf), Voss and Allen 2008 (pdf) Finish map study; Walking through Old San Jose
6	Mar 1, 3	Read: Lightfoot (pdf); <i>Archaeological Survey</i> Ch. 1-4 Archaeological Survey—historic & modern maps, sampling, catch and release surface survey, geophysical survey, field survey forms <i>Survey of campus quad</i>
7	Mar 8, 10	Read: <i>Archaeological Survey</i> Ch. 5-7, <i>Excavation</i> Ch. 2 Analyze survey results, make mock excavation plan Archaeological Excavation—design, provenience and point-plotting, features, unit triangulation, excavation forms, methods <i>Setting up Units</i> *No class Mar 10 due to SCA Conference—work on survey project at this time
8	Mar 15, 17	Read: <i>Excavation</i> Ch. 1, 3-4 Excavation of a Layered Past—stratigraphy and profiles, soil matrix, profile forms <i>Stratigraphic profile analysis</i> Excavated Artifacts— post-excavation processing, cleaning and sorting, inventory <i>Artifact inventory (in teams)</i>
9	Mar 22, 24	Read: <i>Excavation</i> Ch.5-6 Processing Artifacts—relational databases, curation and conservation <i>Relational databases and cataloguing (in teams)</i> <i>Ledger Project introduction</i>
No class—Spring Break!		
10	Apr 5, 7	Ledger data collection *No class Apr 7 due to SAA Conference—work on ledger project during this time
11	Apr 12, 14	Read: Praetzellis and Praetzellis 1988 (pdf), <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 1 Ledgers of the West—stories to tell, comparing to catalogues, urban and rural

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Ledger data analysis
12	Apr 19, 21	Read: <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 2-4 Artifact Analysis—intro to lab analysis for historical artifacts <i>Artifact Analysis Project introduction</i>
13	Apr 26, 28	Read: <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 5-7 Artifact analysis progress, Illustrating artifacts—basic techniques for artifact types
14	May 3, 5	Read: <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 8-10 Putting it together—from project idea to story about the past
15	May 10, 12	Read: <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 11 Discuss essay and book, Course wrap-up and review <i>Essay assigned</i>

Finals period: Wednesday, May 18 at 9:45AM - 12:00PM