

Anthropology Department ANTH168

Archaeological Methods

Spring 2018

Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Marco Meniketti
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Office Hours:	Tues/Thurs 3:00-4:30
Class Days/Time:	Tues/Thurs 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	WSQ 4 Integrative Anthropology lab

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas

Course Description

This course emphasizes practical and theoretical foundations of archaeological research with a strong focus on application of various field methods and skills. Techniques and procedures fundamental to inquiry in archaeology and Cultural Resource Management are stressed, including legal and ethical considerations of archaeological practice. 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 components.

Course Objectives: On completion of the semester students will

- develop practical understanding of research design, survey techniques, archaeological recovery of cultural and environmental data and application protocols.
- have hands-on experience of specific methods and techniques of field archaeology.
- recognize the technologies in the service of archaeologists.
- demonstrate research skills and methods of inquiry using documentary sources.
- demonstrate basic field skills relevant to production of archaeological documentation, including using compass, measured drawings, transit and theodolite, spatial documentation, site mapping, report preparation, and artifact cataloging/curation.
- articulate comprehensive understanding of NAGPRA, CEQA, Federal 106 compliance and other relevant laws and regulations affecting archaeological research.

Course Learning Outcomes: Students will

- CLO 1 demonstrate proficiency with stratigraphic profiles and architectural documentation; mixed media and digital representation.
- CLO 2 master use of digital theodolite, compass, GPS, and basic archaeological survey techniques.
- CLO 3 develop basic artifact identification and documentation skills.
- CLO 4 demonstrate working knowledge of legal requirements and obligations in archaeology.
- CLO 5 apply appropriate research design for a variety of project types.

CLO	Assessment Instrument or Activity	Measure of Competency
CLO 1 demonstrated proficiency with stratigraphic profiling and architectural documentation; digital representation.	Site profile activity, Harris matrix. Digital transfer.	Completion of unit profiles and illustration in digital media with appropriate interpretation, clarity and accuracy.
CLO 2 master use of digital theodolite, transit, Total station, compass, and basic archaeological survey techniques.	Practical field survey of mock site using appropriate technology, compass course, map logging.	Completion of compass course; site mapping at scale; grid sample strategies critically assessed. Site map produced. All elements.
CLO 3 develop basic artifact identification and documentation skills. Historic material culture.	Identification and statistical analysis of attributes; statistical formatting.	Completion of artifact recording protocols. Correct ID, all nominal variables recorded.
CLO 4 working knowledge of legal requirements in archaeology.	Problem sets and discussion of basic Federal and State laws. NAGPRA	Examination of knowledge through objective and qualitative exam questions; problem sets. 85% and above representing competency.
CLO 5 recognize and apply appropriate research design for a variety of project types.	Problem based and research specific project design applications. Sampling strategies.	Examination of knowledge through objective and qualitative exam questions; problem sets. 85% and above represents competency.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Hester, Thomas; Shafer, Harry and Kenneth Feder
1997 *Field Methods in Archaeology* 7th edition. Mayfield Publishing, Mountain View, CA.

Highly Recommended writing manual

Elements of Style, Turabian. Seventh edition or later.

Additional Readings

Additional readings, updates and assignments and various announcements will be available for download from the Canvas website established for this course.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins

King Library

silkie.higgins@sjsu.edu

408-808-2118

Course Requirements and Assignments

We will undertake a series of practical application exercises or simulations of archaeological procedures and problems. These will be formatted as Labs and each will be reported in a portfolio of semester work. We will begin each class with discussion of readings and applications of methods. Several ungraded quizzes on Canvas will be provided designed to help you assimilate important concepts for long-range preparation for the final exam. The Final Exam is comprehensive, covering all course material, with emphasis on problem solving. Additionally, you will complete a research methods analysis on a topic related to the major themes covered during this course. You will make use of multiple outside sources in this independent project. 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 student portfolio will be assessed holistically. Portfolios are ongoing which requires discipline from each student to maintain.

We plan on having guest speakers who will cover field applications.

Assessments

Exercises: Five scored lab products: 10 pts each (50pts). Portfolio

Site report analysis paper 20pts. Portfolio

Final Exam pts 100 pts

Participation scores embedded in exercises 30pts

Total: 200 pts

Grade percentages

A+ 97-100%	A 96-93%	A- 92-89%
B+ 88- 85%	B 84-81%	B- 80-77%
C+ 76-74%	C 73-70%	C- 69-64%
F Below 64%		

Grading Policy

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments. This grade range is generous. Please note that a grade of D is not given.

To earn an A: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate mastery of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful and critical analysis, effort at conceptual synthesis, and originality. Papers will be carefully proofread for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit exemplary writing appropriate to the discipline. Assignments must be of consistently high quality in terms of content and execution. Examinations will score in the range of 90% and above. Final project complete, original, or free of technical errors.

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 80% and above range. Final project completed and original or innovative.

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 thoughtful effort with few errors in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score in the 70% and above range. Final project completed at average level of competence.

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. Assignments exhibiting a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and major errors evident in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors along with general writing problems, especially in word usage. Citation standards incorrect. Exams score below the 60% range. Final project possibly incomplete or late. Failure to take Final Exam or submit the required term paper will result in automatic failing grade for the semester regardless of other work.

Grade I: Special circumstances. Failure to complete and submit better than 60% of assignments owing to extraordinary causes as defined by University policy. Must complete Final Exam. To make up this grade will require an additional project at instructor's discretion.

Classroom Protocol

All lectures and handout materials including exams and exercises are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission to do so.

- 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.
- Clear criteria for grading will be provided for each assignment format. Feedback to students will be immediate and as detailed as manageable. The instructor will make every reasonable effort to provide timely and constructive feedback to students concerning performance throughout the semester, especially with written work.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.
- Students who hand in research draft papers for pre-assessment will have the opportunity to make revisions and improvements before final grading.
- **Assignments will not be accepted by email or after the last scheduled class.** Students having special circumstances either personal or medical that interfere with the ability to submit work on time should consult in advance with the instructor for special accommodations.
- Students may not leave the room during an examination. This will be a signal to the instructor that the student has completed the exam and it will be collected without further opportunity to continue.

- Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. Students are expected to attend class. Although no formal role will be taken, informal attendance will be monitored through hands-on activities.
- As a courtesy and in respect for fellow students and instructor please turn off your cell phones and other electronics. Text messaging during class is disruptive and not only disrespectful, but insulting. It also prevents you from concentrating on the lecture. If you must, then please leave the room.
- 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.
- A missed exam may be made-up only if a student provides appropriate documentation for legitimate excused from scheduled exam dates (funeral, medical emergency, family crisis). *Make-up exams will be by scheduled appointment at the convenience of the instructor. Absolutely no makes-up exams for reasons not governed by university policy. If a student has multiple exams scheduled for the same day consideration will only be given if sufficient advance notice has been given. A **grace period of one class for late research papers will be allowed, but 25 % or more may be deducted.** Late assignments will not be accepted without valid excuse.* No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes or during Finals week.*
- 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.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.
- Students who hand in research draft papers for pre-assessment will have the opportunity to make revisions and improvements before final grading.
- There will be no extra credit assignments for this course. There is plenty to do.
- Incomplete (I) can not be given to avoid an F grade (University Policy)

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Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by announcements in class and on course webpage.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 25	Introduction: Archaeological science. The interpretive puzzle. Readings: H,S&F Chapters 1-2 & 14
2	Jan 30/ Feb 1	Areas of archaeological research, site types, concepts of data recovery. Reading reports. Terrestrial, maritime, special environments.
3	Feb 6/8	Research Design: Sampling Readings: H,S&F Chapter 3. Mock survey and site mapping. Site map Phase 1/Phase II
4	Feb 13/15	Sampling methods: theory, technology, interpretation. Readings: H,S&F Chapters 3-4. Lab 1
5	Feb 20/22	Survey fundamentals. Transit and theodolite. Reading maps. Creating maps. Understanding Topography. Readings: H,S&F Chapter 4
6	Feb 27/Mar 1	Introduction to Artifacts. Classification, identification, typology. Preview to material culture analysis. Lab 2
7	Mar 6/8	Excavation basics: methods of artifact recovery and documentation. Stratigraphy; Munsel soil guide; basic geology for archaeology. Readings: H,S&F Chapter 5 & 9-10 <i>Society for California Archaeology Conference (San Diego)8th No class.</i>
8	Mar 13/15	Drawing and analyzing unit profiles. Unit profile in digital format. Determining sequences. Archaeological illustration. Lab 3
9	Mar 20/22	Artifact documentation and research context. Historic artifacts. Readings: H,S&F Chapter 6, pdfs. Lab 4
10	Mar27/29	No Class : Spring Break
11	Apr 3/5	Artifact documentation and laboratory analysis. Digital approaches. The cell phone as archaeological tool. 3D software applications. Readings: H,S&F Chapter 7&8, pdfs.
12	Apr 10/12	Artifact documentation and laboratory analysis. Techniques in analysis. Faunal remains, botanical remains. Readings: H,S&F Chapter 12-13, pdfs. Lab 5
13	Apr 17/19	Underwater archaeology. Maritime archaeology. The UNESCO 2001 Convention on Preservation of Maritime Heritage. Readings: TBA
14	Apr 24/26	Guest Lectures: Human Remains. Special Problems. Readings: H,S&F Chapter 11, pdfs <i>UNESCO Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (Paris)</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	May 1/3	New directions in Maritime archaeology. Global research updates. Video. Portfolios due (3rd)
16	May 8/10	Professional practice; CRM; Laws. Special Topics, employment opportunities: the skills required to get a job. Publishing. Archaeological societies.
Final Exam	May 16	Final Exam Comprehensive. Wednesday May 16, 12:15 pm

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

Here are some of the basic university policies that students must follow.

Dropping and Adding

Find the procedures and deadlines for adding and dropping classes.

Catalog Policies <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

Add/drop deadlines http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/

Late Drop Policy <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>

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>

Academic integrity

Learn about the importance of academic honesty and the consequences if it is violated.

[University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>
[Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

Here are guidelines to request any course adaptations or accommodations you might need.

[Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf

[Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec>

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>