

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
Anthropology 168, Archaeological Methodology, Section 1,
Spring 2020

Instructor:	Dr. Charlotte Sunseri
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Office Hours:	Tuesday, Thursday 10:30 -11:30AM, or by appt.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday, Thursday 9:00AM - 10:15AM
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

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. (30% of grade)
- Two larger projects are designed to lead students through multiple steps of analysis and interpretation. A documentary project will analyze historical documents from Nineteenth Century 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

Grades will be based on score percentages:

A plus >99%, A 94-99%, A minus 90-93 % B plus 88-89%, B 84-87%, B minus 80-83%
C plus 78-79%, C 74-77%, C minus 70-73% D plus 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

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs.

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

[Add/drop deadlines](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/

[Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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) <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>

Anth 168, Section 1 / Archaeological Methodology, Spring 2020, 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 23	Introduction to course, syllabus, and texts
2	Jan 28, 30	Thinking from Things—contemporary past, ethnoarchaeology, site formation <i>Ethnoarchaeology of SJSU</i>
3	Feb 4, 6	The Documented Past—maps, ledgers, catalogues, photos Film: “Privy to the Past” <i>Historic map study of downtown SJSU</i>
4	Feb 11, 13	The Documented Past—maps, ledgers, catalogues, photos <i>Historic map study of downtown SJSU</i>
5	Feb 18, 20	Read: Voss 2005 (pdf), Voss and Allen 2008 (pdf) Finish map study; Walking through Old San Jose
6	Feb 25, 27	Read: Lightfoot (pdf) Archaeological Survey—historic & modern maps, sampling, catch and release surface survey, geophysical survey, field survey forms <i>Survey of campus quad</i>
7	Mar 3, 5	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>
8	Mar 10, 12	Excavation of a Layered Past—stratigraphy and profiles, soil matrix, profile forms <i>Stratigraphic profile analysis</i> *No class Mar 12 due to SCA Conference—work on project at this time
9	Mar 17, 19	Processing Artifacts—relational databases, curation and conservation <i>Relational databases and cataloguing (in teams)</i> <i>Artifact inventory (in teams)</i>
10	Mar 24, 26	Archival data collection <i>Archival Project introduction</i>
No class—Spring Break!		
11	Apr 7, 9	Read: Praetzellis and Praetzellis 1988 (pdf), <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 1 Archival Histories—stories to tell, comparing to catalogues, urban and rural ledgers <i>Archival data analysis</i>
12	Apr 14, 16	Read: <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 2-4 Artifact Analysis—intro to lab analysis for historical artifacts <i>Artifact Analysis Project introduction</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	Apr 21, 23	Read: <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 5-7 Artifact analysis progress *No class Apr 23 due to SAA Conference—work on project during this time
14	Apr 28, 30	Read: <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 8-10 Putting it together—from project idea to story about the past
15	May 5, 7	Read: <i>Dug to Death</i> Ch. 11 Discuss essay and book, Course wrap-up and review <i>Essay assigned</i> _____

Finals period: Tuesday, May 19 at 07:15-09:30 AM