

Anthropology 13: Introduction to Archaeology

**Section 80 (27936) Spring 2023
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

Instructor:	Viviana Bellifemine Sanchez-Chopitea
Office Location:	Clark 463
Email:	viviana.sanchezchopitea@sjsu.edu
Zoom Office Hours:	Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online asynchronous
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.

GE Area A3 Learning Outcome (GELO)

- 1. locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way, including through library research; and integrate research findings into oral and written arguments through appropriate citation and quotation;
- 2. use a range of rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view;
- 3. identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the contexts of arguments; and
- 4. use inductive and deductive logic to construct valid, evidence-supported arguments and draw valid conclusions

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)

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

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>)

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Passing grade for this course is C- or better (see https://www.sjsu.edu/general-education/docs/GE%20Guidelines_June_2022.pdf (Links to an external site.)).

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 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 (10 points), and citations draft (10 points), are components of this assignment, contributing to a total of 120 points.

Papers will not be accepted after the deadline (unless previously arranged with the instructor), or with a Turnitin score greater than 20%. “Turnitin” is a feature built in Canvas that highlights and calculates a similarity score based on fragments that have been copied from other sources (websites, books, articles, student papers, etc.). Check your “turnitin” score when you submit your assignment to Canvas, therefore, it is advisable not to wait until the last minute. Build in some extra time to be able to revise your work. Academic dishonesty, cheating or intentional plagiarism indicated by a high “turnitin” score 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).

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

- **Exercises and quizzes:** (80pts). A number of exercises and chapter quizzes will be given throughout the course based on the course readings listed in Canvas or other additional material.
- Dates, topics and other details for all assignments will be provided in Canvas.
- 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	50%
Term paper (proposal, sources)	120	30%
Exercises and quizzes	80	20%
Total	400	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

- **Communication:** I will answer all emails during regular working hours (Monday through Fridays from 9am-6pm. I will not answer emails during the weekend or holidays, or after the official closing of the semester. Make use of office hours (or make an appointment) to chat about more complex (or any) issues. Office hours are by zoom.
- **All assignments are due the date specified in the Canvas schedule** unless the date has been officially changed by the instructor or there is a compelling and verifiable reason. **All written assignments are to be submitted through Canvas or as indicated by the instructor. Unexcused late written assignments will not be accepted after two weeks and will be subject to heavy penalties** (see <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S22-2.pdf>). **All assignments are due before the last day of class.**
- **Assignments described as mandatory (exams and term paper) are required to pass the course regardless of other accumulated points.**
- **Make-up exams** will be given only if 1) you know in advance that you are unable to complete it 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 by email and provide a verifiable reason (note from physician/nurse, etc.). Only students with a valid documented justification 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. Students 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>)
- There will be **no Extra Credit** assignments in this class.

- **For all concerns regarding your grade, please see me before the last day of class. After the end of semester there will be no changing of grades or any further grade negotiation.** Canvas keeps you updated on your current grade; it is up to each student to calculate what is needed for the desired goal.
- Students are encouraged to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.
- **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.**

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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Spring 2023, 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	Jan 25	Introduction to the course. Module 1: The framework of Archaeology. The science of Archaeology and its roots Reading: P&K ch 1, 2
2	Jan 30	Introduction to Archaeological theory: Perspectives and paradigms. Pseudoarchaeology: frauds and mysteries Reading: P&K ch 1, 2; PDF: Piltdown.
3	Feb 6	Archaeology in the Americas: The myth of the Moundbuilders (video). Contemporary Archaeology: Archaeology and Native Americans. Kennewick Man. Reading: P&K ch 3, 4; PDF's critical analysis
4	Feb 13	Module 2: Obtaining data. The archaeological record: sites and site formation. Preservation. Reading: P&K ch 5; PDF's critical analysis
5	Feb 20	What do we do at the field? Surveying, site selection and sampling. Technological applications. Landscape archaeology. Reading: P&K ch 6
6	Feb 27	What do we do at the field? Excavation. What is an artifact, ecofact, feature? Ethics in fieldwork. Reading: P&K ch 6; PDF's
7	Mar 6	What do we do at the lab? Classification, analysis and cataloging of artifacts. Identifying and processing other cultural remains. Reading: P&K ch 7 Assignment:
8	Mar 13	What do we do at the lab? Chronology. Seriation project. Reading: P&K ch 8 MIDTERM
9	Mar 20	Module 3: Interpreting data. Reconstructing past environments: Geoarchaeology. Settlement patterns. Middle Range Theory. Video. Reading: P&K ch 9; PDF's
10	Mar 27	SPRING RECESS NO CLASS

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	April 3	Reconstructing human activities: Lithic and ceramic analysis. Archaeology of economics (production and trade). Video. Reading: P&K ch 10, 11; PDF's
12	April 10	Reconstructing human activities: Archaeobotany and Archaeozoology. Diet, hunting strategies, and past environments. Optimal Foraging Theory. The beginning of food production. Reading: P&K ch 12, 13; PDF's
13	April 17	Reconstructing human populations: Bioarchaeology. DNA and isotope analysis. Reading: P&K ch 14, 15; PDF's
14	April 24	The African Burial Ground Project. Reconstructing social identity, social inequality, power and the state. Reading: PDF's; Videos
15	May 1	Reconstructing social identity, social inequality, power and the state. Reading: PDF's; Videos
16	May 8	Module 4: Archaeology today and the future of the past. Preserving and protecting our heritage. Archaeology and the law. Reading: P&K ch 15, 16; V&C selected readings
17	May 15	Who owns the past? Ethical issues. The significance of Archaeology today. Reading: P&K ch 15, 16; V&C selected readings
Final Exam	May 18 (Thur.)	Final Exam All day