

ADVANCED ARCHAEOLOGY: METHOD AND THEORY
FALL 2008

Monday 3:00 pm – 5:45 pm

Washington Square Hall 004

Instructor: Dr. Mark D. McCoy

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Phone: 408-924-5542

Office Hours: Friday 12:00pm-5:00pm

Prerequisites

This course is a graduate level course in archaeology open to students in the Applied Anthropology MA program, other SJSU graduate programs, and advanced undergraduate students with instructor's permission.

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this seminar is on developing advanced skills in the application of archaeological method and theory. We begin with a historical review of major schools of thought in archaeology from the early days of antiquarianism through the field today. In the second half of the course we turn to issues in developing a research design, creating and maintaining data sets, and material analyses of artifacts. Students will take these skills and apply them in their own "mock" research proposal. This course is foundational to the MA in Applied Anthropology and can be substituted for core courses with faculty graduate advisor consent or otherwise counted as an elective.

COURSE FORMAT

This course will be conducted as a student-led seminar. In other words, during the semester you and a partner will be responsible for presenting on the week's readings to your peers and leading a critical discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

Archaeological Theory

1. Identify a range of anthropological perspectives including evolution, diffusion, structural functionalism, personality and culture, structuralism, cultural ecology, interpretive and symbolic approaches, political economy, and post-structural and post-processual theories.
2. Place the work of archaeological theorists within historical, political, and cultural contexts.
3. Address the challenges of representing other cultures and critically examine writing and argumentation.
4. Understand how archaeological writing has changed over time and be able to distinguish major tensions in archaeological thought and practice.

Basic Research Methods

6. Identify and apply the wide range of research methods in the archaeological arsenal.
7. Make use of various forms of the evidence to investigate the past including archaeological, historical, and ethnographic studies.
8. Understand the relationship between problems, issues, methods, and theories in archaeology.

Departmental Learning Objectives for the M.A. in Applied Anthropology

Students who successfully complete this program will:

1. Understand a range of anthropological research methods and be able to conduct research relevant to problem solving in various settings and for different clients/partners;
2. Know basic models of applying anthropology in different settings and have the skills to be able to function as practitioners;
3. Be knowledgeable about the discipline of anthropology in general and how it contributes to understanding and improving contemporary society, and a field in greater depth;
4. Be able to function effectively in at least one content area or domain of application;

5. Understand personal, political and ethical issues inherent in research and application; and
6. Develop professionally as practitioners with skills in contracting, project management, and budgeting, as well as the ability to communicate about project goals and findings and the discipline of anthropology to diverse audiences.

REQUIRED READINGS

Weekly readings, journal articles and book chapters will be assigned and made available through WebCT. The following books are recommended, but not required, for the course:

Blume, J. and A. Paterson (2006). *Archaeology in Practice: A student's guide to archaeological analysis*. Blackwell Publishing: New York.

Trigger, Bruce G. (2006) *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Second Edition. Cambridge University Press: New York.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments for this course include the following:

1. **Participation.** Anthropology 296 is a seminar, a form of educational interaction in which the students are the driving force. Thus students must (i) be prepared for discussion by completing assigned readings; and (ii) actively engage the material in group discussions. For the first part, each week you should prepare a minimum **2**-page double-spaced summary of the week's readings. Naturally, additional bullet point summaries, quotes, or notes are acceptable. However, in the summary you should concisely give main points as well as any criticisms you might have about the readings. Since this is a graduate course we are operating on the honor system regarding weekly summaries however you must bring a printed copy of your summary each week since it will be collected some weeks to check the quality of your work.

For the second part, students should be prepared to answer questions posed by the instructor or discussion leaders as well as pose questions, offer opinions, and otherwise engage in discussion. Therefore absenteeism and tardiness are serious impediments to participation. You will receive full credit for participation for excused absences only as long as the reason is significant and the privilege is not abused. (15 points per week; 180 points total)

2. **Leading discussion.** Once during the semester each of you will be responsible for making a brief presentation and discussion (10-15 minutes) to the seminar group about a particular theory, method, or technology and how it is being used by anthropologists today. You will then lead discussion with the help of a partner. The secondary discussion leader will also be graded. Keep in mind that the format of discussion is at the discretion of the discussion leader (100 points for lead; 20 points for second; 120 points total).

3. **Mock research proposal.** Your single largest assignment will be a 15 page mock research proposal that should conform to NSF guidelines for a dissertation improvement grant (www.nsf.gov, see Archaeology Program). Students must get instructor approval of topics by week 7. (200 points)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Over the semester students will be graded out of a total of 500 points. All grades are individual; there will be no group work.

Proposal	200 points	97% and above	A+	76% - 74%	C
Participation	180 points	94% - 96%	A	73% - 70%	C-
<u>Discussion</u>	<u>120 points</u>	93% - 90%	A-	69% - 67%	D+
		89% - 87%	B+	66% - 64%	D
TOTAL:	500 points	86% - 84%	B	63% - 60%	D-
		83% - 80%	B-	below 60%	F
		79% - 77%	C+		

Course Schedule

INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (August 25) — Introduction to the Course

- Presentations sign up.

THEORY

Week 2 (September 1) — Labor Day – Campus Closed

Week 3 (September 8) — Antiquarianism and the Beginnings of Prehistoric Archaeology

Week 4 (September 15) — Culture History

Week 5 (September 22) — Processual and Evolutionary Theory

Week 6 (September 29) — Post-Processual and Processual-Plus Theory

Week 7 (October 6) — Pragmatic Synthesis of Archaeological Theory

- Final Date to Get Instructor Approval of Paper Topic.

METHOD

Week 8 (October 13) — Research Questions, Research Design, and Statistics

Week 9 (October 20) — Primary Data Collection: Field Survey and Remote Sensing

Week 10 (October 27) — Primary Data Collection: Excavation

Week 11 (November 3) — Mining Secondary Data and Other Sources

Week 12 (November 10) — Material Analysis: Lithics and Ceramics

Week 13 (November 17) — Material Analysis: Flora and Fauna; Historic Period Materials

Week 14 (November 24) – No class.

Week 15 (December 1) — Ethics in Archaeology

- Research Proposals Due.

Week 16 (December 8) — Wrap-Up Discussion

Exam Week – There will be no final exam.

BLACKBOARD CLASS MANAGEMENT

In an effort to provide better access to course materials, instructor help, and grades the university has adopted class management software called “Blackboard” (formerly “WebCT”). Students will be given website address and login instructions as they become available. However, be sure set up your Blackboard email to forward to your personal address so you will receive course messages.

If you run in to difficulties using the system, San José State University employs IT support personal that can be contacted at 408.924.2377, helpdesk@sjsu.edu, or 408.924.2670, ecampus@online.sjsu.edu.

EMAIL POLICY

To help me organize and answer your emails as quickly as possible, please send messages via the mail option of Blackboard. Blackboard automatically “tags” your message with your class/section. Also, coursework will

not be distributed or accepted via email transmission and student's emails will be answered during regular business hours M-F 9am-5pm.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMINATIONS

All assignments are due at the start of class and **10% will be deducted for every day late**. No make-up exams will be given. To be fair to all students, **this policy is strictly enforced with concessions for documented medical emergencies only**. Late material should be "time stamped" and left in my mailbox at the Anthropology Department office in Clark Hall.

"I" (INCOMPLETE) AND "WU" (WITHDRAWAL UNAUTHORIZED)

Students will only be given a grade of incomplete if they meet the following criteria: (1) have completed +66% of coursework and (2) have written instructor approval for incomplete prior to the final exam. Students with less than 66% of coursework completed will be given a WU which indicates that an enrolled student did not officially withdraw from or drop the course and failed to complete course requirements. Students who have missed coursework or the final exam due to a documented medical reason should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me at office hours. It is San José State University's policy that students register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability (<http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>). Nonetheless, students need not be registered with the DRC to meet with me and discuss their needs for special arrangements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please take a moment and read about San José State University's policy on "academic integrity."

"Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. **Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action that could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.**

Cheating:

At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

Copying in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy. Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

Plagiarism:

At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving appropriate credit regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work; and representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own."