

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

SPRING 2008

Monday and Wednesday 12:00- 1:15pm

Washington Square Hall 004

Instructor: Dr. Mark D. McCoy, Assistant Professor

Office: Clark Hall 469A (inside Anthropology Office Suite)

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-12:00 (CL469A) & 3:00-5:00 (WSQ 2); Wednesdays 10:30-1:30 (CL469A)

Faculty Site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/mdmccoy/> **Course Site:** <http://sjsu6.blackboard.com>

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisite courses, however students are encouraged to have completed, or enroll simultaneously, in other introductory anthropology courses including: ANTH 011 (Introduction to Cultural Anthropology) and ANTH 012 (Introduction to Human Evolution).

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Archaeology is the study of the human past through material evidence that ranges from impressive ancient monuments representing the labor of hundreds of individuals to the garbage heaps left over from people's everyday activities. In this course we examine how archaeologists make discoveries through survey, excavation, and laboratory analysis of artifacts. To accomplish this goal, major case studies from around the world are presented.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Student's coursework and examinations will be geared toward understanding the following topics:

● **Methods of Inquiry**

While situated squarely within the field of anthropology, archaeology is a discipline that must reach across the boundaries between life science, earth science, and social science to solve even the most basic methodological problems such as finding new sites, determining the age of artifacts, and connecting patterns in material evidence to past human behaviors. In this course we begin by learning the steps of archaeological fieldwork from survey to excavation to laboratory analysis. The primary goal here is to introduce students to how archaeologists discover new sites, artifacts, and information about the past.

● **Development of Human Social and Cultural Diversity**

One of the great advantages of archaeology is it one of the few social sciences that speaks directly the historical development of human social and cultural diversity. More than simply a chronicle of novel "firsts" and "oldest," archaeological reconstructions allow anthropologists to identify key elements driving social and cultural change through cross-cultural comparison. In this class we explore how our understanding of humanity's diverse past can help us better understand the present and perhaps plan for the future.

● **Challenges for Contemporary Archaeology**

How do archaeologists interpret evidence and present a realistic picture of the past that is scientifically sound, accounts for personal bias, and is accessible to the public? Why do we excavate sites if we already have other historical information about them from written documents, oral traditions, or

folklore? Why should tax-payers fund archaeological research? In this class we will explore specifically how contemporary American archaeology has answered these and other challenging questions.

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.

Midterm	100 points	97% and above	A+	76% - 74%	C
Final	100 points	94% - 96%	A	73% - 70%	C-
Quiz	100 points	93% - 90%	A-	69% - 67%	D+
Exercises	<u>200 points</u>	89% - 87%	B+	66% - 64%	D
TOTAL:	500 points	86% - 84%	B	63% - 60%	D-
		83% - 80%	B-	below 60%	F
		79% - 77%	C+		

Tests

A midterm exam will be given in class. The final exam will be cumulative but the majority of questions will be on topics covered in the second half of the course. Students may not refer to notes or books during exams.

Quiz

Two in-class quizzes will be given. They will center on the location, date, and significance of archaeological sites discussed in your text and in lecture. Each will be 50 points for a total of 100 points over the semester.

Exercises

Over the course of the semester students will be assigned a series of exercises. The goal of these exercises is to promote discussion on important topics and to evaluate student's comprehension of the readings.

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"). This is the first semester this system will be used, so 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.

REQUIRED TEXT

Thomas, David Hurst and Robert L. Kelly

2007 *Archaeology: Down to Earth*. 3rd Edition. Thomson and Wadsworth. ISBN: 0-495-00858-3

Students may choose to use previous additions of the texts since they are similar in content and may be found used. However, this practice is done at student's own risk; use of an earlier text will not be

accepted as an excuse for missed points on exams or exercises. A copy of the text will be made available on reserve at King Library.

READINGS LIST WITH ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM REMINDERS

All readings (▶) must be completed before class. Exercises (□) are listed on the date they are due and tests (o) on the day they will be administered.

1	Weds.	Jan. 23	Introduction to Course		
2	Mon.	Jan. 28	History of American Archaeology	▶ Chapter 1. Meet Some Real Archaeologists	
2	Weds.	Jan. 30	Explaining the Past: Part I.		
3	Mon.	Feb. 4	Explaining the Past: Part II.	▶ Chapter 2. The Structure of Archaeological Inquiry	
3	Weds.	Feb. 6	Overview of Archaeological Fieldwork		□ Exercise #1 – History / Theory Due
4	Mon.	Feb. 11	Survey: Part I.	▶ Chapter 3. Doing Fieldwork: Surveying for Archaeological Sites	
4	Weds.	Feb. 13	Survey: Part II.		
5	Mon.	Feb. 18	Excavation: Part I.	▶ Chapter 4. Doing Fieldwork: Why Archaeologists Dig Square Holes	□ Exercise #2 – Survey Due
5	Weds.	Feb. 20	Excavation: Part II.		
6	Mon.	Feb. 25	o In-Class Quiz #1. Chronology: Part I.	▶ Chapter 5. Chronology Building: How to Get a Date	□ Exercise #3 – Excavation Due
6	Weds.	Feb. 27	Chronology: Part II.		
7	Mon.	Mar. 3	Defining Culture Areas and Artifact Typology	▶ Chapter 6. The Dimensions of Archaeology: Time, Space, and Form	□ Exercise #4 – Chronology Due
7	Weds.	Mar. 5	Mid-term Exam Review		
8	Mon.	Mar. 10	In-Class Midterm Exam	o Midterm Exam	
8	Weds.	Mar. 12	Overview of Laboratory Analysis		
9	Mon.	Mar. 17	Enthoarchaeology and Experimental Archaeology	▶ Chapter 7. Taphonomy, Experimental Archaeology, and Ethnoarchaeology	
9	Weds.	Mar. 19	Stone Tools		
10	Mon.	Mar. 24			
10	Weds.	Mar. 26			
11	Mon.	Mar. 31			
11	Weds.	Apr. 2	Ceramics		
12	Mon.	Apr. 7	Fauna and Flora	▶ Chapter 8. People, Plants, and Animals in the Past	□ Exercise #5 – Lithics/Ceramics Due
12	Weds.	Apr. 9	Human Remains	▶ Chapter 9. Bioarchaeological Approaches to the Past	
13	Mon.	Apr. 14	Case Study: Egypt		□ Exercise #6 – Human Remains Due
13	Weds.	Apr. 16	Social Organization	▶ Chapter 10. Reconstructing Social and Political Systems in the Past	

14	Mon.	Apr. 21	Case Study: Hawai'i		
14	Weds.	Apr. 23	o In-Class Quiz #2. Ancient Economies	▶ Chapter 11. The Archaeology of the Mind	<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise #7 – Social Organization and Ancient Economies Due
15	Mon.	Apr. 28	Ritual and Religion		
15	Weds.	Apr. 30	Historical Archaeology	▶ Chapter 12. Historical Archaeology	
16	Mon.	May 5	Communicating Archaeology	▶ Chapter 13. Caring for America's Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise #8 – Historical Archaeology Due
16	Weds.	May 7	Ethics/NAGPRA		
17	Mon.	May 12	Final Review		
	Thurs.	May 15	Final Exam	o Final Exam 9:45am – 12:00pm	WSQ 004

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMINATIONS

Unless specified otherwise assignments are due at the start of class and **10% will be deducted for every day late**. No make-up exams will be given (see "Incompletes" below). 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."

