

Anthropology 210
Introduction to Archaeology

COURSE GOALS AND EMPHASES

This course introduces students to theory and methods in archaeological research, data collection, and analysis. We explore different varieties of archaeology and examine theory, methods, and techniques for investigating, reconstructing, interpreting, preserving, and ultimately, learning from the past. The objective is to familiarize students with the strategies employed in investigating archaeological remains and how these strategies further the aims of anthropological archaeology.

We review major events in human history starting from the emergence of first humans, the development of food production, to the present issues. We will also focus on important social, economic, and even ideological questions, such as those on the origins of food production, social inequality, and civilization. Two major emphases throughout the course are *archaeology as anthropology* and the *relevance of archaeology to modern human society and politics*. We will also examine exciting discoveries that make the news during the term.

COURSE FORMAT and REQUIREMENTS

Class lectures and assigned readings

Lectures and visual aids are important components of the course. Please note that the lectures will not cover everything in the textbook. Participation in class discussions is required. Readings will be assigned from a textbook entitled *In the Beginning* (Fagan and DeCorse). You must attend class to view the video segments and participate in follow-up discussions.

Laulima: If you are registered in this course, you should familiarize yourself with Laulima interface. Most, if not all, of course resources will be available in this portal. If you encounter problems with the software, contact ITS by clicking the [Request Assistance](#) link.

There is also an available laulima tutorial at: [Laulima Tutorial](#).

Web Resources: This syllabus is embedded with hyperlinks to archaeological web resources. These sites are specifically related to a particular topic. For general archaeology and prehistory web resources, check the following links:

[Exploring Ancient World Cultures](#): An Introduction to Ancient World Cultures on the WWW

[ArchNet](#): Virtual Library of Archaeology

[World Atlas of Archaeology on the Web](#): Archaeological information by region

Video summaries, class attendance and participation

Punctual class attendance is essential to participate in our group discussions and in-class exercises. You must arrive on time to receive credit for attendance. We will also watch partial segments of selected videos during class. The video segments will provide an important opportunity for discussion and knowledge of the videos is essential to do well in the course. Five (5) video and discussion summaries are required in this class.

Quizzes

There will be ten quizzes worth five points each in this course, distributed throughout the term. Since in-class participation and attendance are integral to this class, there will be no make up for a missed quiz – a missed quiz is a missed quiz.

Essay examinations

Two take-home essay examinations will be taken during the course; each exam will require no less than eight pages of writing, not including supplemental figures, tables, and charts. Examinations will be taken according to schedule (see below). **Exams will be reduced an entire letter grade for each day (including weekend days) they are submitted late.** No makeup exams will be allowed. To improve your grade, you will be provided one opportunity to revise each essay examination.

Grades

Grades will be determined from class attendance, participation, video and discussion summaries, zoo exercise/essay, quizzes, assignments, and examinations. Punctual class attendance and participation will reflect 10 percent of the course grade; Video and discussion summaries will merit 20 percent; zoo exercise will earn 10 percent; quizzes comprise 10 percent, assignments earn 10 percent, and, each take-home exam will be worth 20 percent of the course grade.

Attendance and Participation	50 points
Video and Discussion Summaries	100 points
Quizzes	50 points
Assignments	50 points
Long Examination (2 x 100)	200 points

Course Schedule

(This schedule is subject to change and it is the student's responsibility to keep up with schedule changes)

Date	Topic/Activity	Readings, Videos, and Web Resources	Activities and Assignments
	Course overview Four-field anthropology Anthropology as the study of culture Anthropological approaches to world prehistory	Bad Archaeology Alfsen: Digging Deep (Laulima)	Drawing of an archaeologist (due: May 29) (1st Assignment)
	Anthropological Archaeology Principles of Archaeology Themes: Culture; material culture; time; prehistory? Science and archaeology The Power of the Past	Chapter 1 Stark and Bayman: Defining Archaeology (Laulima) Sebastian: The Awful Truth About Archaeology (Laulima) Rathje and Murphy: Yes, Wonderful Things (Laulima) Video: "Kourion"	
	Early Development of Archaeology	Chapter 2 The Romance of Archaeology (Laulima) Video: "Digging up the Past" (VHS 12116, 23 min.)	Digging through the Web (Due June 8) (2nd Assignment)
	Recent Development in Archaeology	Chapter 3 Hegmon: Setting Theoretical Egos Aside: Issues and Theory in North American	Due: 1st discussion/reading/video summary

		Archaeology Video: “Cannibals”	
	Nature of Archaeological Record	Chapter 4 Video: “People of the Bog”	
	Archaeological Perspectives on Culture	Chapter 6	The Island of Kufunga (Due June 15) (3rd assignment)
	Relative Dating and Chronology	Chapter 7 Wintle: Archaeologically-Relevant dating Techniques for the Next Century Video: “Ice-Age Crossings”	
	Absolute Dating and Chronology	Chapter 7 Video: “Meadowcroft Rockshelter”	
	MIDTERM Examinations		
	Research Design Formulation	Chapter 5 Research Proposal	Due: 2nd discussion/reading/video summary
	Sampling in Archaeology	Chapter 5	
	Fieldwork – Site Discovery	Chapter 8	
	King Kamehameha I Day		
	Fieldwork Methods -- Excavation	Chapter 9	Due: 3rd discussion/reading/video summary

	Artifact Classification and Analysis: Lithics	Chapter 10-11 Dunnell: Methodological Issues in Archaeological Method and Theory	
	Artifact Classification and Analysis: Ceramics	Chapter 10-11	
	Artifact Classification and Analysis: In-Class Exercise		
	Reconstructing Subsistence	Chapters 12-13 Denevan: The Pristine Myth Video: "Life in the Jomon Period" (VHS 9479, 47 min.)	Due: 4th discussion/reading/ video summary
	Reconstructing Subsistence	Chapters 12-13 Fellman: Finding the First Farmers (Laulima) Why Settle Down? The Mystery of Communities Çatalhöyük Evolution of Crop Plants Video: "Tiwanaku Water Control Systems"	Concepts of garbage (due: June 30) (4th assignment)
	Ethnographic Analogy and Experimental Archaeology	Chapter 14 Video: "Early Stone Tools"	
	Reconstructing Settlement Patterns – Foraging	Chapter 15 Video: "Children of the Rainforest"	

	Reconstructing Settlement Patterns – Food Production	Chapter 15 Video: “The Chaco Legacy”	
	Trade, Exchange, and Social Organization	Chapter 16 Video: “Power, Prestige, and Wealth”	Take-home examinations due
	Interpreting Religion and Ideology	Chapter 17 Video: Temple of the Kama Sutra”	Return take-home examinations with preliminary grades Due: 5th discussion/reading/ video summary
	Post-Processual Archaeology and Critical Theory	Shanks: Post Processual Archaeology and After	
	Repatriation and Indigenous Perspectives on Archaeology	Chapters 18-19 Video: “Thieves of Time”	
	Course wrap-up and retrospective		