

ARCHY 200: Principles of Archaeology

Location and Time: TBD
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Introduction

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word “Archaeology”? Is it the Great Pyramids of Egypt? Indiana Jones? Mayan Temples? All of these examples do relate to archaeology but this course will look beyond these famous examples to explore the key methodological and ethical questions of archaeology including: What do artifacts tell us about ancient people? How do archaeologists know how old the artifacts are? How do archaeologists know where to dig? Can knowledge of the past be a political tool? Who owns the past? These questions will be explored through lecture and discussions, laboratory activities and assigned coursework. By the end of this course, you will have gained a better understanding of:

- The history of archaeological research and its role in the social sciences
- Theoretical perspectives of archaeological thought
- The methods of archaeological research including survey and excavation methods, artifact analysis, research methods and dating methods
- Key archaeological sites throughout the world
- Contemporary issues in archaeology including preservation of the archaeological record, multiple perspectives of the archaeological record and the future of archaeology

Required Text

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn (2007) *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods and Practice*. Thames and Hudson.

Praetzellis, Adrian (2003) *Dug to Death: A Tale of Archaeological Method and Mayhem*. Altamira Press

Praetzellis, Adrian (2000) *Death by Theory: A Tale of Mystery and Archaeological Theory*. Altamira Press

Occasionally, you will also be required to read articles and journal publications in addition to the texts. These will be posted on the course website or distributed in class.

Class Structure

There are two primary class sessions. First, a large-group session, occurring four times a week, which will typically involve lectures and group discussions. Class lectures will be a prominent part of the course but I also want you to critically think and discuss many of the issues we will explore. Therefore, large-group sessions will routinely feature question and answer periods, in-class debates and discussion of various archaeological scenarios and dilemmas.

The second class session, occurring once a week, is your laboratory session led by one of our Teaching Assistants. Laboratory sessions will involve hands-on classroom activities and small group discussions. Due to the limited lab time (50 minutes) you may be asked to do readings and short activities **prior** to the start of the lab session. Please purchase a lab notebook or small binder to keep all of the lab information in. Lab notebooks will be collected for grading five times throughout the quarter.

Grading and Evaluation

There will be 500 total points in this course awarded in a variety of formats including exams, lab assignments, lab journals, final projects and overall participation. Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Exams (2)	100 points / 200 total	20% / 40% total
Lab assignments (6)	25 points / 150 Total	5% / 30% total
Lab journals (5)	10 points / 50 Total	2% / 10% total
Final poster project (1)	50 points	10%
Participation and attendance	50 points	10%

Percentage	Points	Letter Grade	GPA Value
90-100	450-500	A+	4.0
85-89	425-449	A	4.0
80-84	400-424	A-	3.7
77-79	385-399	B+	3.3
73-76	366-384	B	3.0
70-72	350-365	B-	2.7
67-69	335-349	C+	2.3
63-66	316-334	C	2.0
60-62	300-315	C-	1.7
57-59	285-299	D+	1.3
53-56	266-284	D	1.0
50-52	250-265	D-	0.7
0-49	<250	F	0.0

Exams: Each exam will be taken in-class and designed to test your knowledge of the topics presented in lecture and laboratory sessions. The first exam will take place at the end of week 4 and will include all topics discussed in weeks 1-4. The second exam will take place at the end of week 8 and will include all topics discussed in weeks 5-8. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. There will be **NO** make-up examinations except for **documented** emergencies

Lab assignments: Lab sections are essential and mandatory. Lab activities are often devoted to “hands on” exercises and group discussions. The assignments will require original and creative thought in discussing the various lab topics. Lab assignments are graded and will generally be due in the next week’s section class. Because of the nature of these section exercises, they cannot be made up if missed.

Lab journals: For this course, lab journals will serve two purposes. First, these journals will be the primary place to record your laboratory data and observations. Second, at the end of each lab sessions, I want you to write 2 paragraphs (approximately 100 words each) concerning the topics of the week. I want thoughtful paragraphs about the topics, such as how the topics we discussed that week relate to contemporary issues or how the discussion topics influence your previous conceptions of archaeology. **I do not want a summary of the topics for that week.**

Final poster project: The final project will focus on examination of a key archaeological site. You will form a group of 2 (and only 2!) and will choose a site from either our course readings, supplemental material or other sites that might interest you. You will research this site and develop a poster which explores the history of archaeological research at the site, the analytical and research methods used by archaeologists at the site and contemporary issues of the site (i.e. tourist visitation, adverse climate change, etc.). Poster topic proposals are due by the end of Week 5. During the final exam period your group will present your poster and answer questions from fellow students. A portion of the lab fee for this course will be used in the printing of these posters. Further details of the final project will be discussed throughout the quarter.

Class participation: This is primarily a lecture class, although discussions and lab sections will supplement lecture content and readings. Your opinions, questions and commentary are always welcome as long as your opinions respect other students in the course and your instructors. I will not tolerate any disrespectful comments towards student or instructors. Your level of involvement in the class, especially in sections, will be considered when marks are calculated at the end of the quarter.

Missed and late assignments/exams: Points will be deducted for assignments that are handed in late (10% per day late). This rule will be strictly enforced. Missed exams and exercises may not be made up without documentation of an officially excused absence (e.g. a doctor’s note). If you will be missing class for an excused reason, please notify your TA in advance.

Course Policies

Absences

Your attendance and class participation is critical to your success in this class. In-class activities and discussions during lecture will help prepare you for exams and lab assignments. Note that labs and in-class activities cannot be made-up at a later date. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing a lab, an alternative assignment will be available.

Late Assignments

It is important to complete your lab assignments for this class on-time so that the TAs can grade them and return them to you. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per day late. Late assignments will NOT be accepted electronically – you MUST turn in a paper copy.

Extra Credit

One extra lab assignment worth 10 extra points added to your overall lab grade will be available. The details of the assignment will be discussed after the second exam.

Class Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings	Section Topic
W1	Introduction to Archaeology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is archaeology? What is a scientific archaeology?• Archaeology and the Public• History of Archaeology: Antiquarian Roots	Essentials - Chapter 1	Introduction to Archaeology: Beyond Indiana Jones
W2	Archaeological Theory I: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture History and Culture Reconstruction Archaeological Theory II: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The New (Processual) Archaeology• Methodological Developments	Begin Death by Theory Essentials – Chapter 9	Is it an artifact? Lab Journal Due
W3	Archaeological Theory III: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post-Processual Critique• Social and Cognitive Archaeology Exam 1: Archaeological Theory	Essentials – Chapter 8	Death by Theory Discussion Stratigraphy
W4	The Archaeological Record <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formation Processes (Cultural and Natural) Field and Excavation Methods I: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site Identification and Sampling• Survey Principles and Approaches	Finish Death By Theory Essentials – Chapter 3	Survey Lab Journal Due

W5	Field and Excavation Methods II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavation Approaches and Techniques • Data Recovery and Management 	Start Dug to Death	Excavation
W6	Methods of Artifact Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithics • Ceramics • Fauna 	Essentials – Chapter 7	Artifacts Lab Journal Due
W7	Reconstructing the Past: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Reconstruction • Diet, Subsistence and Ecology • Trade and Exchange (Sourcing Methods) 	Essentials – Chapter 6 Finish Dug to Death	Fauna, Flora, and Flotation
W8	Dating the Past: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative and Absolute Dating Techniques • Seriation, Dendrochronology, Radiocarbon, Luminescence 	Essentials – Chapter 4	Dug to Death Discussion Seriation Lab Journal Due
W9	Exam 2: Archaeological Methods Archaeology in Perspective I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Resource Management • Ethics and Legals Issues / Who Owns the Past? 		No Section
W10	Archaeology in Perspective II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology in the Public and Media • Future directions of Archaeology 		Work on Poster Lab Journal Due
W11	Poster Conference during Final Exam: TBD		