

Anthropology 2 – Syllabus Introduction to Archaeology

FALL 2010

Dr. Lee Panich

Class: Tuesday & Thursday: 9:55-11:40 am, O'Connor 210

Labs: Tuesday: 1:45-4:45 pm, Ricard Memorial Observatory

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-3:00 pm

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Course Description

Archaeologists study the human past through the material remains left by past cultures. This course examines the methods and theoretical frameworks used by archaeologists to identify, analyze, date, and interpret archaeological evidence. Archaeology is a multidisciplinary field, using its own methodology as well as making use of natural science methods (e.g., botanical, faunal, geological) as well as historical and ethnographic methods and information. We will explore how these different types of evidence are analyzed, integrated, and interpreted to understand past cultures and how these cultures changed over time. This course will also consider the relationship between archaeology and contemporary society, including descendant communities and other stakeholders. Modern archaeology includes intensive field and laboratory research, and a major component of this class will be hands-on laboratory exercises that mirror real life research scenarios.

As part of the core curriculum this course will emphasize: scientific inquiry, complexity, critical thinking, and quantitative analysis. Students will demonstrate a proficiency in theory, concepts, and methods in archaeology, and will be able to demonstrate an awareness of the (material) cultural diversity of past human behavior.

Anthropology 2 satisfies the Core Natural Science Requirement (with Lab).*

Goals: *Scientific Inquiry, Complexity, Critical Thinking, Mathematical & Quantitative Reasoning*

Objectives: Students who have completed Natural Science will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the theory and concepts central to the study of a particular topic or discipline in the natural sciences.
2. Apply scientific reasoning and methods of inquiry, such as formulating testable hypotheses, designing informative experiments, or collecting experimental or observational data that explain phenomena in the natural world.
3. Interpret scientific data both qualitatively and quantitatively, in order to derive conclusions consistent with the scope and quality of the data.
4. Recognize limitations of experimental and observational methods, and understand concepts of probability, causation, and correlation.

Anthropology 2 also satisfies the Core Social Science Requirement.*

Goals: *Scientific Inquiry, Complexity, Critical Thinking, Mathematical & Quantitative Reasoning*

Objectives: Students who have completed Social Science will be able to:

1. Apply deductive and inductive reasoning to analyze social science topics.
2. Evaluate evidence used to validate theories, hypotheses, or predictions.
3. Appreciate that theories and data analysis often admit multiple interpretations, and evaluate the relative merits of alternative perspectives.

***Note:** Students must choose to use the course to satisfy *either* the Natural Science or the Social Science core requirement. Students may not take Anthropology 2 to satisfy *both* Natural Science and Social Science.

Course Requirements:

1) *Required Text:*

Renfrew, C. and P. Bahn. 2007. *Archaeology Essentials*. Thames and Hudson.

Additional required articles will be on Camino (ANGEL)

2) *Lectures and Discussion:* The readings will be discussed in class. Slide presentations, videos, and group discussions will be used to illustrate the contexts of archaeological issues. Videos, required readings, and the class lectures will be covered in the quizzes. Class participation is a critical portion of the class requirement. Asking and answering questions, contributing comments and discussion will enhance your grade considerably.

3) *Quizzes:* Five quizzes will be based on the readings and lectures.

4) *Labs:* Five 3-hour lab sections are required. Missing a lab will lead to being dropped from the class.

5) *Final Project:* The purpose of the final project is for students, in small groups, to select an archaeological site of interest to them and to read a sample of primary archaeological literature related to that site. Each group will present their findings to the class and write about their observations in a brief paper due at the end of the semester. Details of the assignment, including a list of questions to consider, will be provided.

Extra credit: Opportunities for extra credit will be discussed in class. These will include attending Santa Clara County Archaeological Society lectures and Anthropology Department seminars and providing a one-page summary that also relates the lecture to your class readings or discussion.

Grading and Assessment:

A variety of criteria will determine your grade in this class. In general, assessment will be based on the quality of your performance for each of these categories:

Class participation: 15% (attendance, discussion, in-class group work)

Reading Quizzes (5): 35% (7% each)

Lab Exercises and Participation: 25%

Final project and presentation: 25% (20% for paper, 5% for presentation)

Performance quality – or your grade – will be judged by 1) your understanding of the subject, 2) your ability to apply what you learn in readings and discussion to the problems, quizzes, and your final paper 3) your participation and completion of all course activities, and 4) your degree of competence, analytical ability, and intellectual initiative.

Class attendance is mandatory. Formal excuses from doctors, court, etc. **must** be presented for missed classes. Extensions for assignments or make-ups are only possible with proof of illness or of an unavoidable event. Scores for late assignments will be penalized at 5% for each day after assignment due date. Any assignment more than one week overdue is cause for student withdrawal. All assignments that are handed in outside of class must be typed on a word processor – no hand written work will be accepted.

Office Hours:

You are welcome to attend office hours. These hours are specially set aside as a time for you to discuss any questions or concerns you have about the course. General questions about the practice of archaeology are also encouraged. If you have class during the listed hours, special appointments can be made.

Disability Accommodation Policy:

“To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in The Drahmman Center in Benson, room 214, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations.”

<http://www.cse.scu.edu/~atkinson/teaching/wi05/012/public/policies.html>

Academic Integrity Policy:

“The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course.” (SCU Undergraduate Bulletin and Community Handbook)

Course Schedule [* indicates in-class quiz]:***Week 1 – Why Study Archaeology?***

21 Sept Introduction, and Class Requirements; The “Excluded Past”
23 Sept Study of Culture Change; Stewardship of the Past
Readings: Renfrew and Bahn, Introduction
Russel 2008, pp. 11-15
Lab: No lab meeting Week 1

Week 2 – Challenges of Archaeology

28 Sept The Nature of the Evidence / Differential Preservation
30 Sept* Contexts of Deposition
Readings: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 2
Fagan 1978, pp.59-81
Lab: Archaeological Materials (Lab Group 1)

Week 3 – What is Archaeology?: A Summary of Recent Approaches

5 Oct Examples of Recent Approaches in Archaeology
7 Oct Archaeology and Contemporary Society / Collaborative Archaeology
Readings: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 1 & Chapter 10
Panich 2007, pp.12-15
Lab: Archaeological Materials (Lab Group 2)

Week 4 – Cultural Resource Management / Research Design

12 Oct Cultural Resource Management / Problem-Oriented Research
14 Oct* Archaeology on the Santa Clara University Campus
Reading: Allen et al. 2009, pp. 3-8
Lab: Mapping and Spatial Analysis (Lab Group 1)

Week 5 –Data Collection: Survey and Excavation

19 Oct Surface and Subsurface Survey

21 Oct Excavation

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 3

Lightfoot 2006, pp. 16-19

Lab: Mapping and Spatial Analysis (Lab Group 2)

Week 6 – Dating / Environment and Subsistence

26 Oct Relative and Absolute dating methods

28 Oct* What was the environment? What did they eat?

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 4 & Chapter 6

Lab: Excavation Techniques (Lab Group 1)

Week 7 – The Manufacture and Use of Artifacts

2 Nov Stones and bones (subtractive technologies)

4 Nov Pottery and Metal (additive technologies)

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 7

Lab: Excavation Techniques (Lab Group 2)

Week 8 – Other Sources of Data / Other Questions

9 Nov Museum collections, oral traditions, & ethnoarchaeology

11 Nov* Social archaeology

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 5

Farris 1989, pp. 471-480

Lab: Sediments and Stratigraphy (Lab Group 1)

Week 9 – Cognitive Archaeology & Bioarchaeology

16 Nov What did people think?

18 Nov The archaeology of people

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 8

Lab: Sediments and Stratigraphy (Lab Group 2)

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

23-25 Nov NO CLASS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 10 – Explanation in Archaeology and Final presentations

30 Nov* Assessing, quantifying, and interpreting variability

2 Dec Student Presentations (FINAL PAPERS DUE IN CLASS)

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 9

Lab: Relative Dating/Seriation (Lab Groups 1 and 2)