

Intro to Archaeology

Anth 204:

T/TH 11:45 - 2:00

Instructor: Dr. Candace Gossen

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Office Hrs: by appointment

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Course Description:

Archaeology is the scientific study of human material remains in the form of fossil relics, artifacts, monuments, refuse and whatever is left behind to tell the story of cultural, social and technological behavior of people. Be it on land, in water, in caves or on mountain tops humans have a long story of how they came to be what they are, how they define themselves and what we are doing to change the future. Archaeology is but one part of Anthropology that tells the story of millions of years of behavior by studying the past whether it be yesterday or millions of years ago. In order to put the story of humanity together we must also draw on supporting information from environmental and ecological studies, architecture, landscape and geography, geology, biology and botany, history and astronomy to name a few disciplines that help us as archaeologists bring artifact into story.

This course is an Introduction to Archaeology. It is only 10 weeks long and cannot encompass the wealth of archaeology as a study, but will intrigue you nevertheless. Expect to learn about all the forms of archaeology and how to ask and answer questions in a scientific manner. We will use the scientific method in inquiry, hands on exercises and in the field excavation methods. You will improve your technical writing skills and learn to work in teams. Part of this course offers a combined writing credit which we will focus on Creative Non-Fiction, how to take fact and make creative story out of it. Expect to use math formulas, excel for charts and graphs, to draw, photograph and get dirty. Mainly this course asks you to critically think, use creative solutions to solve problems and appreciate and honor the ethics of the archaeology process.

Required Texts: (from Skagit Valley College bookstore and online sources)

Loubser, Johannes H.N.

2003 Archaeology: The Comic. Altamira Press. California.

For Further Study (Not Required):

Burke, Heather, Claire Smith, and Larry J. Zimmerman

2009 The Archaeologist's Field Handbook, North American Edition. Altamira Press, UK

Fagan, Brian M.

1978 Archaeology: A Brief Introduction Little, Brown and Company, Inc. Canada/USA.

Hester, Thomas R., Shafer, Harry j. and Feder, Kenneth L.

1997 Field Methods in Archaeology 7th Edition. Mayfield Publishing Company. California.

Course Requirements/Grading:

4 graded assignments = 100pts

1. Terms & techniques assignment (10 pts)
2. Creative Non-Fiction Writing Assignment (25 pts)
3. Methods Assignment (garbage) (50 pts)
4. Final Case Study - Exam (15pts)
5. **Extra Credit - Each Ancient Culture Class (5pts each)**

Class participation is expected and critical to obtaining a good grade in this class. Each class there will be a lecture of Dr Gossen's research which is not found in the text assigned. Projects will be handed out in class as well, so it requires you to be in class in order to get all of the information.

In order to satisfactorily complete the projects and assignments, you must come to each class unless you are ill or have a family emergency. Please have a classmate to study and look over notes with, and contact the school about serious problems.

Course Schedule

Classes	Topics	Readings
Apr 7 & 9	intro to archaeology; slideshow; Pothunters Exercise: take home jar test; Terms	Loubser Ch 1
Apr 14 & 16	Survey; Artifacts; Techniques; Quiz: Assignment 1 due	Loubser Ch 2
Apr 21 & 23	Excavation; Process; Pythagoras's Theorem	Loubser Ch 3
*April 24	Ancient Cultures: Intro BBC Film Easter Island Heads	Storytelling
Apr 28 & 30	Dating methods In Class Exercise: Earth Science/GW	Loubser Ch 4
*May 1	Ancient Cultures: Rapa Nui	Moai & Palms
May 5 & 7	Lab work; Analysis; Dissemination	Loubser Ch 5 & 6
*May 8	Ancient Cultures: Poverty Point & Moundbuilders	Earthworks
May 12 & 14	Garbage Archaeology; Midden sites, Taxonomy In class Exercises	pdf download
*May 15	Ancient Cultures: Maya, Rio Bravo	Ballcourts
May 19 & 21	Continued Taxonomy; Charts; Maps	pdf download
*May 22	Ancient Cultures: Malta, Greece, Pompeii	Golden Rectangle
May 26 & 28	Excavation In Field	Reading (hand-out)
*May 29	Ancient Cultures: Chaco Canyon, Chimney Rock	Archaeo-Astronomy
June 2 & 4	Excavation In Field	Reading (hand-out)
June 9 & 11	Cultures, Findings, What's left?	pdf download
June 15-19	Final Exam - Case Study	