

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

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Class Meetings—MWF 11:00-11:50

Jones 108

<http://tulane.edu/tulane/about/maps/joseph-merrick-jones-hall.cfm>

Office Hours—T 3:30-4:30 | W 3:30-4:30

1326 Audubon Street

<http://tulane.edu/tulane/about/maps/anthropology.cfm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to method and theory in anthropological archaeology, with consideration of selected case studies. Students will learn basic concepts, techniques, paradigms, and problems in anthropological archaeology. After taking this course, students will be prepared to take more advanced and more specialized courses in archaeology, and they will also be prepared to participate—at an entry level—in archaeological fieldwork and research. Archaeologists reconstruct what life was like in the past, and doing archaeology is comparable in some respects to putting together jigsaw puzzles—without knowing what “pictures” the pieces will form at the outset. Doing archaeology—including fieldwork, analyses of sites and artifacts, reading about archaeological finds and interpretations, and writing—is great fun, and the study of the past is also relevant to understanding the world we live in today.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in this course will be able...

- To define basic archaeological concepts such as sampling, stratigraphy, seriation, absolute dating, relative dating, low-level theory, middle-level theory, high-level theory, long-term change, and cultural resource management.
- To discuss similarities and differences between the processual and postprocessual paradigms in archaeology.
- To describe the major dating techniques in archaeology; the necessary conditions and materials, the relevant date ranges, and the constraints associated with each; and to identify which dating techniques are applicable to different situations.
- To explain basic site formation processes.
- To discuss archaeological knowledge about major trends in prehistory, such as the nature of transitions from foraging to farming and mobility to sedentism, the evolution of modern human thought and behavior, and the origins and development of centralized and hierarchical societies.
- To articulate the reasons why it is important to study the past, and the ethics of preserving, managing, interpreting, and studying archaeological and historic sites.
- To develop research questions and research designs (including survey, excavation, and artifact analyses) necessary to answer those questions.
- To relate archaeological evidence to narratives about past ways of life.
- To derive and to analyze archaeological data collected from sites and artifacts.
- To evaluate arguments made about archaeological findings.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Items on the course schedule are subject to change.

Please complete assigned readings before the dates for which they are assigned, and please plan on spending 2 to 3 hours of preparation for each hour spent in class, including reading, homework assignments, and reviewing class notes.

Readings listed as "TK Chapter" refer to chapters in the course textbook.

Other readings listed as "Name 2008" refer to articles available in the course documents section on Blackboard.

RECONSTRUCTING PAST WAYS OF LIFE

W 8/27 (please read this syllabus)
Hadingham 2008 (*Smithsonian*, February 2008, pp. 36-43)

F 8/29 HURRICANE GUSTAV

M 9/1 LABOR DAY

W 9/3 CLASSES CANCELLED

F 9/5 CLASSES CANCELLED

M 9/8 <http://www.saa.org/publications/ArchAndYou/chap1.html>

<http://www.saa.org/publications/ArchAndYou/chap2.html>

W 9/10 TK Chapter 1

F 9/12 TK Chapter 2

M 9/15 TK Chapter 3

W 9/17

F 9/19	FIRST EXAM	11:00-11:50AM
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

M 9/22 TK Chapter 4

W 9/24 TK Chapter 5

F 9/26 <http://www.archatlas.org/workshop/Ur07.php>

<http://www.archatlas.org/workshop/TWilkinson07.php>

M 9/29 TK Chapter 6

GEOARCHAEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

W 10/1 TK Chapter 7

first homework assignment due

DATING AND CHRONOLOGY

F 10/3 TK Chapter 8

M 10/6 TK Chapter 9

EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND TAPHONOMY

W 10/8 TK Chapter 10

second homework assignment due

R 10/9 YOM KIPPUR

HEALTH AND FOODWAYS

F 10/10 TK Chapter 11
M 10/13 TK Chapter 12

W 10/15

SECOND EXAM	11:00-11:50AM
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STATUS, WEALTH, AND POWER

F 10/17 TK Chapter 13
M 10/20 Earle 2004

LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

W 10/22 Alexander 2008 (*National Geographic*, June 2008, pp. 34-59)
Powell 2006 (*Archaeology*, January/February 2006, pp. 17-23)
F 10/24 Diamond 2001
Straughan 2001

ARCHAEOLOGY OF RITUAL

M 10/27 TK Chapter 14 third homework assignment due
W 10/29 Lewis-Williams 1999 (*Archaeology*, May/June 1999)
Campbell/Coulson 2001 (*Archaeology*, July/August 2001)
F 10/31 Aveni 2000 (*Archaeology*, May/June 2000)

MAJOR TRENDS IN PREHISTORY

M 11/3 TK Chapter 15
W 11/5 Balter 2005 (*Smithsonian*, May 2005, pp. 68-74)
Kunzig 1999 (*Discover*, May 1999, pp. 84-92)
F 11/7 Kirch 1986 (*Archaeology*, February 1986, pp. 53-59)
Kirch 1982 (*Natural History*, December 1982, pp. 32+34-35)
M 11/10 LeBlanc 2003 (*Archaeology*, May/June 2003, pp. 18-25)
Ferguson 2003 (*Natural History*, July/August 2003, pp. 28-35)
W 11/12 Young 2004 (*Natural History*, July/August 2004, pp. 24-30)
Swaddling 1984 (*Natural History* June 1984, pp. 61-77)
F 11/14 Shaw 2003 (*Harvard Magazine*, July/August 2003, pp. 42-49+99)
Friedman 2003 (*Archaeology*, November/December 2003, pp. 50-56)

ETHICS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

M 11/17 TK Chapter 16
W 11/19 Power 2004 (*Discover*, November 2004, pp. 70-72)
F 11/21 TK Chapter 17

CAREERS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

M 11/24 TK Chapter 18 fourth homework assignment due

W 11/26 THANKSGIVING
F 11/28 THANKSGIVING

M 12/1 Kirch 1997
W 12/3 Hegmon 2003
F 12/5 Flannery 1982
(and please reread the course syllabus)

12/6 – 12/7 STUDY PERIOD

12/8 – 12/16 EXAM PERIOD

W 12/10

FINAL EXAM

1:00-3:00PM

READINGS

Students should read the assigned chapters and articles before the class for which they are assigned. The textbook for this course—*Archaeology (Fourth Edition)*, by David Hurst Thomas and Robert Kelly (Thomson Wadsworth, 2006)—may be purchased at the Tulane bookstore, or purchased through used booksellers, and it will also be made available on reserve at the Tulane library. Additional required and optional readings will be made available on Blackboard.

EXAMS

All students taking this course will take two midterm exams and one final exam. The first exam is scheduled for Friday, September 19, and the second exam is Wednesday, October 15, both of which will be given during the normal class period. The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, 12/10/08, from 1:00PM-3:00PM. **Advice for exam preparation: stay current with course readings, and review class notes and main points from assigned readings consistently throughout the semester.**

HOMEWORK

Homework assignments can be turned in on or before the due dates listed on the syllabus, but homework will not be accepted after the due dates listed on the syllabus. These assignments will be handed out in class, and they will also be available through Blackboard. **Advice for doing homework assignments: the best student performances on homework assignments (and in class discussions) are those that demonstrate original thought and creativity, in addition to familiarity with course content.**

GRADES

Students will earn points towards final grades throughout the semester, according to their performance on tests and homework, and through class participation. Class attendance is one component of class participation grades. Another component is the instructor's assessment of each student's engagement with course content and activities. Final grades are determined as follows.

Semester grade scores are determined by:

class participation	10%
first exam	10%
first homework assignment	5%
midterm exam	25%
second homework assignment	10%
third homework assignment	10%
fourth homework assignment	5%
final exam	25%

Letter grades are derived as follows:

A = >94	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D = 60-69
A- = 90-94	B = 84-86	C = 74-76	F = <60
	B- = 80-83	C- = 70-73	

COURSE POLICIES

Students are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions and are expected to respect the thoughts and opinions shared by others taking this course. Take advantage of your chances to read, to write, to reflect, and to learn in this course and in your other courses. Attendance is mandatory, students are expected to attend and to participate in every scheduled class meeting, reading and homework assignments should be completed by the date for which they are assigned, and the exams must be taken as scheduled. Each student may be absent from three classes, after which points will be deducted from the class participation component of his or her course grade.

Students are welcome to study with each other and to talk about the material and ideas covered in the course, but exams and writing assignments must reflect individual thought and effort.

Cheating on exams, plagiarism of written material, and other forms of academic misconduct are strictly forbidden, they will lead to disciplinary action, and academic misconduct by a student may result in a

failing grade for this course. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the honor code and adhering to it—<http://college.tulane.edu/honorcode.htm>. The more general code of student conduct, which includes statements about the honor code and other university policies, is available on line at—<http://studentaffairs.tulane.edu/judicial/CodeofStudentConduct.pdf>.

In addition to consulting with the professor about issues related to coursework and their performance in this course in particular, students are welcome to consult with teachers and staff of the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling here at Tulane University (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/>), whose web site includes pages devoted to study tips (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/study/index.htm>), tutoring services (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/tutoring/index.htm>), and counseling services (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/counseling/index.htm>). Please know that those resources are there for you if you want or need them. There is nothing wrong with asking for help.

LEARN MORE

Students interested in learning more about the archaeology are encouraged to read articles published in *American Archaeology* (<http://www.americanarchaeology.org/>) and *Archaeology* (<http://www.archaeology.org/>) magazines. Articles about current archaeological finds and debates are often published in both the *New York Times* and in *National Geographic*.

More advanced and more specialized courses at Tulane consider specific topics in archaeology and the archaeology of specific areas or periods of the past. Archaeologists at Tulane have interests and expertise in the archaeology of southeastern and southwestern North America, Mesoamerica, Africa, South America, Europe, and the Mediterranean.

VIRTUAL SITES TO VISIT

World Heritage Centre	http://whc.unesco.org/
Biblical Archaeology	http://www.bib-arch.com/
Archaeology Magazine	http://www.archaeology.com/
Archaeological Conservancy	http://www.americanarchaeology.org/
Archaeology Channel	http://www.archaeologychannel.org/
National Geographic Society	http://www.nationalgeographic.com/
African Rock Art	http://www.africanrockart.org/
Bradshaw Rock Art Foundation	http://www.bradshawfoundation.org/
English Heritage	http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/
Historic Scotland	http://www.historic-scotland.org.uk/
National Park Service	http://www.nps.gov/
Historic Parks in Canada	http://www.pc.gc.ca/
Olmec and Maya Archaeology	http://www.maya-archaeology.org/
Ancient Egypt	http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/
British Museum	http://www.britishmuseum.ac.uk/
State Hermitage Museum	http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/
Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology	http://www.harvard.peabody.edu/
Burke Museum of Natural and Cultural History	http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/
Simon Fraser Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology	http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/
Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology	http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/
Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology	http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/
University of Cambridge Museum of Classical Archaeology	http://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/museum/
Canadian Museum of Civilization	http://www.civilization.ca/
Royal Ontario Museum	http://www.rom.on.ca/
British Columbia Museum	http://www.royalmuseum.bc.ca/
Museum of Northern British Columbia	http://www.museumofnorthernbc.com/
University of British Columbia Museum	http://www.moa.ubc.ca/
American Museum of Natural History	http://www.amnh.edu/
National Museum of Natural History	http://www.nmnh.si.edu/
University of Pennsylvania Museum	http://www.museum.upenn.edu/
Field Museum in Chicago	http://www.fieldmuseum.org/
Pyramids of Ancient Egypt	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pyramid/
Megaliths of Easter Island	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/easter/
Vikings in the North Atlantic	http://www.mnh.si.edu/vikings/
Vikings in the British Isles	http://www.mnh.si.edu/vikings/
Vikings in Scandinavia	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/vikings/
Harappa and Ancient Indus Civilization	http://www.harappa.com/
Inca Mummies	http://www.nationalgeographic.com/inca/
Egyptian Pyramids	http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pyramids/
Mesoamerican Studies	http://www.famsi.org/
Ancient Writing	http://www.ancientscripts.com/
Interactive Ancient Mediterranean Project	http://iam.classics.unc.edu/
Ancient World Mapping Center	http://www.unc.edu/awmc/
Ancient Maya Sites and Hieroglyphs in Mesoamerica	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/maya/
Preserving Antiquities and Ancient Artwork in Tibet	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tibet/
Ancient Roman Settlements in Turkey	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/zeugma/
Lost Cities of Arabia	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ubar/
First Americans 1	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/first/
First Americans 2	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/stoneage/
Chinese Mummies	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/chinamum/
Ice Mummies	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/icemummies/
Secrets of Lost Empires	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempire/
Neandertals and Human Evolution	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/neanderthals/
Becoming Human	http://www.becominghuman.org/
Human Evolution	http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/projects/human/