

Archaeology 2500
Introduction to Archaeology
Spring 2009
TTh 9:30 am-10:50 pm

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ENV 210C
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Course Description and Goals

Archaeology 2500 serves as an introduction to the basic theories, methods, and techniques used in archaeology. This course presents an overview of what archaeology is, and how and why archaeologists do archaeology.

My goal for the course is to help you to develop an understanding and knowledge about archaeology that will enable you to evaluate media presentations of archaeological research and gain an appreciation for the archaeological record as a non-renewable resource. Upon completion of the course, you will be able to do the following:

- describe and analyze how theoretical perspectives and data collection are linked.
- compare how the four major conceptual frameworks used in archaeology differ.
- describe and analyze archaeological phenomenon using archaeological terms.
- evaluate samples for bias and evaluate how bias can affect interpretations.
- explain the importance and the problems of preserving the archaeological record.
- evaluate the ethical issues surrounding cultural resources preservation laws.

Course Structure and Grading

To meet the goals and learning objectives for the class, both in-class and out of class time are used in specific ways. In-class time will be used to learn and practice new concepts and skills. This will be done through lectures, discussions, and activities. The out of class assignments and exercises are designed either to present background information to be used in class discussions, or to practice and test the skills and knowledge developed in class. A rule of thumb for the time that instructors expect students to spend doing work out of class is 2 hours for every credit hour per week. As a three credit class, plan for about six hours per week for homework.

Below, the grading scheme further elaborates on this course structure.

Grading

Readings	15%
Exercises	50%
Midterm	10%
Project	25%

Reading Assignments

The readings present background information about the topic we will be covering next in class. Since it is important that you have read that information before class, no late reading assignments will be accepted.

For the readings, you will be required to either outline the major concepts of the chapters, or answer specific questions. The assignments will be graded on a plus (+), check (√), minus (-) system. The due dates for the assignments are listed in the left column of the homework schedule below. The readings are available as pdf files on electronic course reserves via the UNT library web page. You can find the class articles by searching by course (ARCH 2500) or by instructor (Nagaoka). The password to access the articles is "ARCH2500".

Exercises

The exercises will either be an analysis of an article or a short research assignment. They will vary in length from a few questions about an article to two or three page homework exercises to a short research project. The exercise directions will be handed out at least a week before they are due.

The analysis of articles will consist of questions that are designed to either guide you to focus on pertinent details about the readings or to evaluate your ability to apply what you have learned in class. Most of the articles come from popular

magazines such as *National Geographic* or *Archaeology*. The exercises are designed to test the knowledge and skills that you have learned in class by applying them to new situations. The number of points each exercise is worth will reflect the length of the homework. They are due on the days listed in the right column of the homework schedule below. The readings for the exercises are available on reserve in the Willis Library and at the copy centers in the Student Union.

Midterm Exam

There is one midterm exam. It will be a take home exam that covers the first part of the course. It is designed to test your knowledge and ability to articulate and evaluate topics that are covered in the first part of the course.

Project

The project will be an evaluation of an archaeological problem that has been heavily covered by the media. Kennewick Man is a skeleton that was found near Kennewick, Washington. The fate of the remains has been the subject of a court battle for ownership and the rights to study the skeleton. For this class, we will approach this problem as a trial where you will be expert witnesses, jury, and judge. Students will work in groups to gather information about particular issues relevant to the problem. In the trial, your group will be expert witnesses on one issue of the controversy. Each group will present the information they learned on the topic to the rest of the class. After all the groups have presented their topics, the class will act as judge and jury to decide the fate of the remains of Kennewick Man. Each student will be responsible for writing up their contribution to the trial as expert witnesses, as well as the reasoning for their decision in the trial. More details about the project will be given later in class.

Class Attendance and Participation

Both class attendance and participation are essential to doing well in this class. Most of the information and skills you will need to do well on the homework, the project and the exam will be gained during class. In addition, much of class time will be spent in discussions and activities. Thus, **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY** if you plan to do well in this class. After five absences without a legitimate excuse, you will receive a WF and be dropped from the class.

If you have a legitimate excuse for missing class, please make every attempt to notify me ahead of time so we can make alternative arrangements if necessary. I am easily accessible via e-mail or by phone. You can also e-mail me your homework as an attachment if you know you will miss class. Please make sure the file you send is a .doc, .txt, .rtf, or .pdf format. I cannot open WordPerfect or Word for Works files. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from other students and the handouts from the class web page.

Late Assignments

No late reading assignments will be accepted. Late exercises will be penalized 30% for the first day; 60% for the second day.

Extra Credit

It is the policy of the Department of Geography not to allow extra credit assignments. Extra credit is defined as any form of additional class related work that is not specified on the course syllabus as a component in determining the final grade for a class. Thus, there are no extra assignments that you can do to raise your grade. This is different from bonus points that can be awarded on existing assignments or exams.

The Department of Geography, in cooperation with the Office of Disability Accommodation, complies with the American with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request before the 12th day of class.

Homework Schedule

Due	Topic	Reading Assignments	Exercises
T Jan 20	What is Archaeology?		
Th Jan 21	The Role of Theory		Syllabus Quiz (10 pts)
T Jan 27	Establishing Human Antiquity	Grayson 1990	
Th Jan 29			
T Feb 3	Culture History		Human Antiquity (15 pts)
Th Feb 5			
T Feb 10	Culture Reconstruction		Modern Material Culture (20 pts)
Th Feb 12	Culture Process		
T Feb 17			Moving the Moai: Van Tilburg 1995 (15 pts)
Th Feb 19			Aztec Sacrifice: Harner 1977 (15 pts)
T Feb 24			
Th Feb 26	Post-Processual	Thomas Chapter 11	
T Mar 3	Formation Processes		
Th Mar 5			Take Home Midterm Due
T Mar 10	Field Methods	Thomas Chapter 5	
Th Mar 12	Dating	Thomas Chapters 3	
SPRING BREAK			
T Mar 24	Ethics		
Th Mar 26	Archaeological Laws	Staeck 2001, Chapter 10	
T Mar 31	Cannibalism in the SW		
Th Apr 2			
T Apr 7			Cannibalism in the SW: Billman et al. 2000; Dongoske et al. 2000 (25 pts)
Th Apr 9	Cultural Resource Management		
T Apr 14	Preserving the Record		Antiquities Market (Braden 1999; Bruhns 2000; Gardner 2000; Robbins 2004; Toner 2002) (25 pts)
Th Apr 16			
T Apr 21			
Apr 23- May 7			Kennewick Presentations
Th May 14			KMan Project Due by 5 pm

Readings

Articles for Reading Assignments

- Jan 27 Grayson, Donald K. 1990 The provision of time depth for paleoanthropology. *Geological Society of America Special Paper* 242:1-13.
- Feb 26 Thomas, David H. 1999 Chapter 11. An archaeology of the human mind. In, *Archaeology: Down to Earth*, 2nd Edition, pp. 300-327. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York.
- Mar 10 Thomas, David H. 1999 Chapter 5. Fieldwork: Why archaeologists walk straight lines and dig square holes. In, *Archaeology: Down to Earth*, 2nd Edition, pp. 121-156. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York.
- Mar 12 Thomas, David H. 1999 Chapter 3. Chronology building: How to get a date. In, *Archaeology: Down to Earth*, 2nd Edition, pp. 60-86. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York.
- Mar 26 Staek, John P. 2001 Chapter 10. The preservation of the archaeological record. In, *Back to the Earth*, pp. 293-318. Mayfield, Mountain View, CA.

Articles for Exercises

- Feb 17 Van Tilburg, Jo Anne 1995 Moving the moai. *Archaeology* 48: 34-42.
- Feb 19 Harner, Michael 1977 The enigma of Aztec sacrifice. *Natural History* 86(4): 46-51.
- Mar 5 Meltzer, David J. 1999 North America's vast legacy. *Archaeology* Jan/Feb: 50-59. (article for the midterm)
- Apr 7 Billman, Brian R., Patricia M. Lambert, and Banks L. Leonard 2000 Cannibalism, warfare, and drought in the Mesa Verde region during the twelfth century A.D. *American Antiquity* 65: 145-178.
- Dogonske, Kurt E., Debra L. Martin, T. J. Ferguson 2000 Critique of the claim of cannibalism at Cowboy Wash. *American Antiquity* 65: 179-190.
- Apr 14 Braden, Maria 1999 Trafficking in treasures. *American Archaeology* 3(4):18-25.
- Bruhns, Karen Olsen www.plunderedpast.com. *SAA Bulletin* 18(2): 14-15, 17.
- Gardner, Randy 2000 Broken arrowheads: Bargains in the antiquities market. *Antiques and Collecting* Jun 2000: 22-26.
- Robbins, Elaine 2004 The World Wide Web of antiquities. *American Archaeology* 8(3): 27-30.
- Toner, Mike 2002 Treasures surface with few questions. In, *The Past in Peril*. Southeast Archaeological Center, National Park Service, Atlanta.