

ATH 2200: Introduction to Archaeology
TAG OSS002

Instructor:
Office:
Phone:

Office Hours:
Email:

This course is an introduction to the study of archaeology, the science that investigates the human past through study of the material traces that human activity has left behind. The first part of the course explores the development of the discipline, including how the ways in which archaeologists think about and interpret the past has changed over time. The nature of the material evidence left by past human cultures is explored, and the methods employed for dating and analyzing that material are examined. The latter portion of the course explores issues in New World archaeology, illustrating the application of the methods used in analyzing and interpreting the past that were addressed in the first weeks of the course.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Develop knowledge of fundamental archaeological concepts and principles
- Develop a general knowledge of archaeological theories and research methods
- Describe the importance of specific archaeological research strategies including survey, excavation, data analysis, and dating materials
- Develop an understanding of ethical principles in archaeology
- Examine issues of heritage preservation, repatriation, and the effects of looting on the archaeologist's ability to engage with the past
- Critically apply knowledge of social science theory and methods of inquiry to personal decisions, current issues, or global concerns
- Explain and critique the methods of inquiry of social science disciplines
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues involved in the acquisition or application of social science knowledge
- Demonstrate, from a social science perspective, an understanding of the responsibilities of an informed and engaged citizen to the success of democratic society

Texts:

- Discovering Our Past (2010, 5th edition) by Wendy Ashmore and Robert Sharer; McGraw-Hill. This is identified as "Text" in the reading list on the next page.
- Annual Editions: Archaeology (2010, 9th edition) ed. M. Parker & E. Angeloni; McGraw-Hill. "AE" on next page.
- Reading Packet A collection of articles that address New World archaeology. "RP" on next page.

Grading: There will be two hour exams (worth 30% each) and a final exam (40%). The final exam is not cumulative.

Makeup Policy: If evidence of a reasonable excuse for missing an exam is presented to the instructor within one week of the missed exam, an opportunity will be given to make

up that exam. Failure to do so will result in a grade of F being recorded for the missed exam.

Attendance Policy: I do not take attendance. Your education is your responsibility, and if you are serious about it, you will make it to class whenever possible. Since a lot of information is conveyed during class that is unavailable from any other source, your grade will benefit from your good attendance.

Disabilities: If you have a University-recognized disability that will affect your participation or performance in this course, please inform me at the beginning of the quarter and I will make the appropriate accommodations.

Course Schedule

	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Archaeological concepts	Text: Ch 1, 4 AE: 1
Week 2	A review of archaeology's Development	Text: Ch. 2, 3 AE: 32
Week 3	Archaeological surveys and Excavation	Text: Ch. 5 AE: 17, 20
Week 4	Dating techniques	Text: Ch. 7 AE: 21
Week 5	First Hour Exam Stone tools	Text: pp. 124-129 AE: 13, 15
Week 6	Pottery	Text: pp. 129-133
Week 7	Human skeletal analysis	RP: Larson
Week 8	Ethical Issues in Archaeology	Text: Ch. 10 AE: 30, 31, 32
Week 9	Second Hour Exam The Earliest Americans	RP: Clovis Counter-Revolution AE: 9, 10
Week 10	Enclosing the Earth: Hopewell Enclosures in the Midwest	RP: Lepper Ohlson
Week 11	Communities in the desert: the American Southwest	AE: 12 RP: Leckson, Wicklein

Week 12	High cultures in Mesoamerica: The Maya and the Aztec cultures	AE: 18 RP: Carlson Sheets
Week 13	South American archaeology: Incas and others	AE: 33 RP: Moseley
Week 14	Historical archaeology in the U.S. and the Caribbean: a focus on Plantation slavery	AE: 16, 28, 29 RP: Harrington
Week 15	Final Exam	