

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 (<i>Smithsonian</i> , 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

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
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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
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second homework assignment due

R 10/9	YOM KIPPUR
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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