How Archaeology Works—ANTH 382

When  MWF 9:30—10:20
Where  Saunders 345
Instructor  Dr. Thomas S. Dye
Office  Saunders Hall 346B
Office hour  Monday 10:30–11:30, or by appointment

Course Description

Archaeologists use critical thinking skills to ask questions about the past, and they take care to craft these questions in terms of archaeological data. Students in this course learn basic scientific methods and tools that archaeologists use to study ancient peoples, their cultures, and past natural environments. Students will learn and practice strategies for acquiring, analyzing, and evaluating archaeological data to answer practical, logistical, empirical, and ethical questions. This course is designed to prepare students for upper-division classes in archaeology, physical anthropology, and or the natural sciences. By the end of this course the successful student will be able to:

• Use their enhanced critical thinking skills through practice in the classroom, lab, and life outside the classroom;

• Understand selected classic and recent themes in, contributions to, and problems of archaeology;

• Formulate linking arguments between archaeological questions and archaeological evidence;

• Be familiar with some basic archaeological methods, theory, and interpretive frameworks; and
- Discuss ethical issues inherent in archaeological practice within and beyond the United States.

This course requires active learning, active thinking, and active problem-solving. All upper-class and graduate students are welcome to join the course, although completion of ANTH 210 (Introduction to Archaeology) is useful. Advanced readings are provided for graduate students.

**Grading**

Grading is based on discussion papers, the mid-term examination, and the final examination.

You can complete up to thirteen discussion papers. For each discussion paper, choose one discussion question from the list of discussion questions that will be provided to you and write a well-structured, 1–2 page essay that places the question in context and attempts to answer it. Each discussion paper should have an introductory paragraph, one or more body paragraphs, a conclusion paragraph, and, optionally, a bibliography.

Discussion papers must be submitted via Laulima by the due date and time. Late discussion papers will not be accepted.

The mid-term examination on Monday, October 10 will consist of three discussion questions from the lists of questions that are provided to you.

The final examination on Friday, December 16 will consist of six discussion questions from the lists that are provided to you.

The distribution of points is set out in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion paper</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term examination</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
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Final grades will be assigned according to the number of points accumulated over the semester, as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98–110</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–97</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83–86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60–62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0–59</td>
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**Course Calendar**

A detailed course calendar will be posted on Laulima.

**Week 1** What is Archaeology?
- **Take home activity** Lecture
- **Assignment** Discussion question

**Week 2** Archaeology and Time
- **Take home activity** Lecture
- **Assignment** Discussion question
- **Classroom activity** Tree ring dating

**Weeks 3 and 4** Archaeology and Space
- **Take home activity** Lecture
- **Assignment** Discussion question
- **Classroom activities** Torralba site, Descriptive graphics

**Week 5** Stratification and Stratigraphy
- **Take home activity** Lecture
- **Assignment** Discussion question
- **Classroom activity** Love Canal
Week 6 Lithic Artifacts

Take home activities Reading, lecture
Assignment Discussion question
Classroom activity Projectile points

Week 7 Ceramic Artifacts

Take home activities Reading, lecture
Assignment Discussion question
Classroom activity Ceramic attributes

Weeks 8 and 9 Fundamentals of Classification

Take home activity Lecture
Assignment Discussion question
Classroom activities Naja pendants, seriation

Weeks 10 and 11 Chronology Building

Take home activity Lecture
Assignment Discussion question

Week 12 Culture History

Take home activity Lecture
Assignment Discussion question

Week 13 A Landscape Perspective

Take home activity Lecture
Assignment Discussion question
Classroom activity Survey sampling

Week 14 The Nature of Explanation

Take home activity Lecture
Assignment Discussion question

Week 15 Social Inequality

Take home activity Lecture
Assignment Discussion question

Week 16 Ethics and Stewardship

Take home activity Lecture
Assignment Discussion question