Anthropology 210: Archaeology

Overview: This course is an introduction to archaeology as an anthropological sub-discipline dedicated to the study of ancient human societies, and their various iterations through space and time. It begins with a brief overview of archaeology, surveying the methods and theories that have helped shape its developmental trajectory and emphasizing scientific approaches to researching the past. The course proceeds with an examination of the various methods and research concerns currently shaping the discipline. It concludes by discussing the ethical issues surrounding the study of the past, as well as the relevance and practical application of ancient knowledge in the world today.

Objectives: The goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive overview of archaeology as an academic discipline and scientific means of researching the past. By the conclusion of the course, students will:
- Understand the development and current state of archaeology as a discipline
- Gain a solid understanding of archaeological research methods and foci
- Understand the ethical issues, practical applications and relevance of archaeological research


Requirements: In order to perform well, students will need to: 1) complete and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings, 2) complete eight course exercises 3) participate in an archaeological ethics debate, 4) score well on one course midterm and one final exam.

Grading: Student performance in the course will be assessed on a 100-point scale:
- Participation = 10 points
- Course exercises = 40 points
- Archaeological ethics debate = 15 points
- Midterm Exam = 15 points
- Final Exam = 20 points
The following scale will be used to determine final grades:

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**Academic Dishonesty:** Disciplinary action will be taken against all forms of academic dishonesty (plagiarizing, cheating, etc.) as outlined in the University of Hawaiʻi-Manoa’s Campus Policies (http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm).

**Two Points On Valid Sources of Information and Proper Citation:**
1) Wikipedia, however convenient, is **not** a valid source of reliable information. Anyone with a computer and internet connection can create/edit Wikipedia articles and entries. It should **never** be used as a serious research tool, and **never** be cited in an academic paper.
2) All academic papers require that you properly cite/give credit to your information source. **Rephrasing/slightly changing the wording or structure of information does not make it your own.** As students pursuing higher education, it is important for all of you to understand what plagiarism is, as well as how to evaluate, employ and cite an accurate source of academic information. To that end, the UH-Manoa Library has an excellent listing of online research and citation tools: http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/content.php?pid=143516&sid=1221447. The Pennsylvania State University’s Online Writing Lab (OWL), accessible through the aforementioned link, is an especially useful tool for research and citation.

**Late Assignments and Exams:** As a general rule, late assignments and exams will not be accepted. Extenuating circumstances require proper documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note, etc.), and will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the instructor’s discretion.

**Policy on Electronics Use During Class:** Students are asked to show respect for their education, classmates and instructor by turning off all electronic devices for the duration of the class.

**Student Resources:** A variety of resources exist at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa to help students maximize their educational experience.

- **First Year Center** (http://manoa.hawaii.edu/freshman/academic.html) - Helps new students plan their degree programs and navigate their educational requirements.
- **The Student Success Center at Sinclair Library** (http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/gohere) - Physically located in Sinclair Library (for those of you who can access the UH Manoa campus). Helps students develop and implement study skills and research plans. Offers a helpful “Live Chat” with librarians feature
• **Writing Center** ([http://www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/](http://www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/)) - Free assistance, by appointment ([tutors@hawaii.edu](mailto:tutors@hawaii.edu)) with writing term papers, projects and assignments.

• **Kokua Program** ([www.hawaii.edu/kokua/](http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/)) - A confidential resource for students with disabilities that helps coordinate individual accommodations for every facet of their education. Students with disabilities are also welcome to contact the instructor directly to make confidential arrangements.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1**
Introduction, Logistics and Course Requirements
Archaeology as an Anthropological Sub-discipline (Check out the Society for American Archaeology's “What is Archaeology?” [http://www.saa.org/ForthePublic/Resources/EducationalResources/ForEducators/ArchaeologyforEducators/MethodsofGatheringData/tabid/1347/Default.aspx](http://www.saa.org/ForthePublic/Resources/EducationalResources/ForEducators/ArchaeologyforEducators/MethodsofGatheringData/tabid/1347/Default.aspx) and “Methods of Gathering Data” http://www.saa.org/ForthePublic/Resources/EducationalResources/ForEducators/ArchaeologyforEducators/MethodsofGatheringData/tabid/1347/Default.aspx - **Current State of Knowledge Worksheet Due**

**Week 2**
Archaeology’s Inception and Development (Read: Bahn Chapters 1 and 2; Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 1)

**Week 3**
The Nature of Archaeology
- the archaeological record (Read: Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 2)
- field and laboratory methods (Read: Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 3)
**Virtual Excavation Exercise Due**

**Week 4**
Dating Methods and the Establishment of an Archaeological Chronology (Read: Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 4)
**Relative and Absolute Chronology Exercise Due**

**Week 5**
Culture-historical Approaches to Archaeology (Read: Bahn Chapter 6)
**Culture-historical Approach Case Study Due**

**Week 6**
Social Archaeology – Looking at Structure and Change Over Time in Ancient Societies (Read: Renfrew and Bahn Chapters 5 and 10)
Week 7
Environmental Archaeology – Studying Ancient Environments and Life-ways (Read: Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 6)
Social or Environmental Archaeology Case Study Due

Week 8
Landscape Archaeology
Midterm

Week 9
Bioarchaeology (Read: Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 8)
Landscape or Bioarchaeology Case Study Due

Week 10
Evolutionary Archaeology

Week 11
Cognitive Archaeology (Read: Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 9)
Evolutionary or Cognitive Archaeology Case Study Due

Week 12
New Research Trends and Foci (Read: Bahn Chapter 8)
Report on Current Archaeological Researcher and Research Project Due

Week 13
Archaeological Ethics: Archaeology & Indigenous Peoples (Read: Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 11; Check out the Society for American Archaeology’s stance on ethics at: http://googosearch.org/godao.php?said=8&terms=archaeological+ethics)

Week 14
Archaeological Ethics: Archaeology & Indigenous Peoples

Week 15
Archaeological Ethics: Archaeology and Nationalism
Class Debate: Archaeological Ethics

Week 16
Practical Applications of Archaeology: Cultural Resources Management (Read: Renfrew and Bahn’s Chapter 12)

Week 17
Archaeology’s Importance, Promise and Pitfalls
Final Exam