ANTH 210: Introduction to Archaeology

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Archaeology is one of the three sub-disciplines of anthropology (the study of humans); it is the study of the human past based on preserved material evidence. This course will explore: a) the nature of the evidence available to archaeologists, b) various methods and techniques used to access that information, and c) a range of interpretational approaches. Traditional site excavation and some of the great figures and famous monuments from the history of archaeology will be discussed. We will also cover non-invasive archaeological methods and some more recent discoveries illustrating current controversies and debates in archaeology. Students will be challenged to consider the roles archaeology plays in everyday life.

FORMAT

Lecture, discussion, group work, internet. An interest in the subject matter is presupposed; therefore, lively participation is expected and desired.

There will be 4 quizzes, a midterm and a final exam, weighted as follows:

- Quizzes and class participation: 35%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final (cumulative): 35%

TOPICS AND READINGS

Reading assignments must be completed BEFORE each class.

Textbook: Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn, Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods and Practice 2nd Ed. London: Thames & Hudson. (Reading selections in parentheses).
There will be readings outside your textbook; these will be posted on the course Laulima. The two books by Praetzellis are not required. They are suggested for students who learn contextually rather than by memorization.

**POLICIES**

Teamwork and study groups are strongly encouraged, particularly for those with no archaeological background. Any work produced by a team must be clearly designated as such and will receive a team grade. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, see [http://www.cte.hawaii.edu/TA/Plagiarism.html](http://www.cte.hawaii.edu/TA/Plagiarism.html)

Students requiring special accommodations should contact the Kokua program at 9556=7511, [http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/](http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/), or talk to me privately.

**SCHEDULE**

This list of readings will be supplemented by additional readings on Laulima; all readings must be completed BEFORE the class date.

Week 1: Aug 20  
22 Nature and Aims of Archaeology (Intro)
24 History of Archaeology, evolution (Ch. 1 to p. 17)

Week 2: Aug 27  
29 History of Archaeology (Ch. 1 to p. 35)
31 Contextual discussion: Archaeology in Hawai’i

Week 3: Sept 3  
[ Labor Day ] sugg: read Death by Theory
5 The Evidence (Ch. 2)
7 Accident of Preservation
Contextual discussion: Preservation in Polynesia

Week 4: Sept 10  
12 Noninvasive methods (Ch. 3 to p. 103)
14 Excavation Quiz 1

Week 5: Sept 17  
17 Dating Methods (Ch. 4)
19 Relative dating (Ch. 4 to p. 114)
21 Absolute dating (Ch. 4 to p. 139)

Contextual discussion: Chronology on volcanic islands

Week 6: Sept 24 Social Archaeology (Ch. 5 to p. 164)
26 Social Analysis
28 Social Analysis Quiz 2

Week 7: Oct 1 Social Archaeology, Identity (Ch. 5 to p. 171)
3 Identity
5 Environmental Archaeology (Ch. 6 to p. 191)

Contextual discussion: Settlement and social structure of ancient Hawai‘i

Week 8: Oct 8 Subsistence Archaeology (Ch. 6 to p. 205)
10 Subsistence Archaeology
12 Subsistence Archaeology Quiz 3

Week 9: Oct 15 Technology, Tools (Ch. 7 to p. 215)
17 Technology, Tools, Materials
19 Technology, Tools, Materials

Contextual discussion: Reconstructing traditional agriculture, navigation

Week 10: Oct 22 Contact, Trade, Exchange (Ch. 7 to p. 229)
24 Contact, Trade, Exchange
26 Midterm

Week 11: Oct 29 Physical Archaeology (Ch. 8)
31 Physical Archaeology
Nov 2 Physical Archaeology

Contextual discussion: Human remains, burial sites

Week 12: Nov 5 Cognitive Archaeology (Ch. 9 to p. 254)
7 Cognitive Archaeology, Semiotics (Ch. 9 to p. 263)
9 Cognitive Archaeology, Ancient Religion

Contextual discussion: Reconstructing Hawaiian religion from material remains?

Week 13: Nov 12 Explanation in Archaeology (Ch. 10)
14 Explanation in Archaeology, Agency
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<th></th>
<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Archaeology and the Public (Ch. 11)</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>Archaeological Ethics</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Managing our Heritage (Ch. 12)</td>
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<td>The Future of Archaeology</td>
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<td>Contextual discussion: When archaeology meets historic preservation, development, tourism</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Review and Final Exam</td>
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