Introduction to Archaeology
ANT 304
Spring 2013

Course Unique Numbers:
31161, 31162, 31163, 31164

Instructor: Emily Root-Garey
Office: SAC 4.190
Office Hours: W 10:00-12:00, and by appointment
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Lecture:
Mondays and Wednesdays 4-5 pm, UTC 3.112

Labs:
31163: Mondays 3-4 pm, SAC 4.174 (TA: Drake)
31164: Wednesdays 3-4 pm, SAC 4-174 (TA: Drake)
31161: Fridays 12-1 pm, SAC 4.174 (TA: Laparidou)
31162: Fridays 2-3 pm, SAC 4.174 (TA: Laparidou)

Teaching Assistant: Stacy Drake
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Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to the discipline of American archaeology. It is divided into three sections. **Section one** focuses on the **fundamentals of archaeology**. This will include defining the discipline and locating it within academic and non-academic communities. We will also discuss the history of the discipline, and go over the process of archaeological research in this section. **Section two** addresses **interpretation in archaeology**. We will discuss theoretical paradigms that have shaped archaeological practice and discourse, and explore different interpretive aids employed by archaeologists. We will also discuss ethics in archaeology. **Section three** focuses on **major events in human history**. These topics will range from the development of modern cognition, the agricultural and industrial revolutions, social complexity, and the movement of people and material culture across the landscape.

We will return to particular themes throughout the semester, all of which pertain to course objectives:

- What kinds of knowledge does archaeology constitute?
- What are the politics involved in dealing with the past?
- How does the past inform the present, and specifically how does archaeology contribute to this?

Course Objectives:
By the end of the course, students will understand:

1. The history of archaeology as a discipline, and how this history has shaped disciplinary structure and practice.

2. Major paradigms in archaeological theory, and how theory is wedded to archaeological practice and interpretation.

3. The process of archaeology, from research design through publication.

4. How archaeology affects the politics of the past, and how it is situated within modern social and political issues.

5. Why characters such as Indiana Jones and Lara Croft are lousy archaeologists.

Required Texts:

1. Renfrew, Colin, and Paul Bahn
2012 *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice.* 6th Edition. Thames and Hudson, New York.
The textbook is available at the Co-op and a copy is on reserve at the PCL. Also available as an e-book.

2. Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

There are no pre-requisites for this class.

Course Evaluation and Grading:

Regular attendance and participation are crucial for success in this course, and all students are expected to be present and on time for lectures and lab sections. Students may only attend the lab section they are enrolled in, unless they have obtained permission both their original TA and the TA whose lab they will be attending. Students are also expected to complete weekly readings. **Make-up policy:** Missed labs and exams will only be excused with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note) that explains the absence. Late assignments and make-up exams will not be accepted without proper documentation or ***PRIOR*** approval from instructor.

Exams: Three exams will be given over the course of the semester, all non-cumulative. I pull exam material from lectures, weekly readings, and lab assignments. Exam format will consist of short answer and short essay questions.

Labs: Students are expected to participate in a total of 12 weekly lab sections*, during which they will be presented with an assignment **due in lab the following week**. Lab assignments consist of in-class exercises, but will sometimes require student work outside their lab period. The majority of lab exercises are small **GROUP** (3-4 people) assignments that will require cooperation and peer-review of each other's work.

*Students may drop their **lowest** lab grade

Final grade breakdown:

Lab Assignments: 40%
Exam 1: 15%
Exam 2: 20%
Exam 3 (final): 25%

A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	59 and below

Course Schedule*:

*Course schedule is subject to change

Week 1 (January 14-18) – Introduction to archaeology; history of American archaeology

No lab
Readings: Renfrew & Bahn, ch. 1 pp. 21-48. **(27 pages**)

Week 2 (January 22*-25) – Types of archaeological evidence; survey and sampling techniques

No lab
Readings: Renfrew & Bahn, ch. 2 pp. 49-52; ch. 3 pp. 71-103 (**36 pages**)

Week 3 (January 28-February 1) – Survey and sampling techniques; site formation processes; excavation techniques

Lab 1: Survey techniques
Readings: Renfrew & Bahn, ch. 2 pp. 52-69; Kelly & Thomas pp. 85-99 (Blackboard) (**31 pages**)

Week 4 (February 4- 8) – Data recovery: Archaeological excavation and dating

Lab 2: Excavation units
Readings: Renfrew & Bahn, ch. 4 pp. 122-156 (**34 pages**)

Week 5 (February 11-15) – Review and Exam 1

Lab 3: Relative dating
Readings: None

Week 6 (February 18-22) – Theory in archaeology

Lab 4: Theoretical paradigms in archaeology

Readings: Johnson, chapters 2 and 7, pp. 12-34, pp. 102-122 (Blackboard) (**42 pages**)

Week 7 (February 25-March 1) – Environmental archaeology; the historical record and alternative forms of knowledge

Lab 5: Palynology
Readings: Renfrew & Bahn, ch. 6, pp. 230-253; Whiteley article (Blackboard) (**35 pages**)

Week 8 (March 4-8) – Ethics in archaeology; bioarchaeology

Lab 6: Ethics debate
Readings: La Roche & Blakey article (Blackboard); Indiana Jones Denied Tenure article (Blackboard) (**20 pages**); *additional readings TBA*

Week 9 (March 11-15) – SPRING BREAK

No lab
No readings

Week 10 (March 18-22) – Archaeometry

Lab 7: Trade and exchange
Readings: Renfrew & Bahn, ch. 8, pp. 332-346; ch. 9, pp. 355-373 **(32 pages**)

Week 10 (March 25-29) – Review and Exam 2

Lab 8: Interpreting artifacts in space
Readings: None

Week 11 (April 1-5) – Cognitive archaeology; the rise of modern human cognition and capabilities

No lab
Readings: Renfrew & Bahn, ch. 10, pp. 381-420 (**39 pages**)

Week 12 (April 8-12) – Food and the rise of agriculture

Lab 10: Interpreting human burials
Readings: Grant et al. chapter, pp. 233-266 (Blackboard) (**33 pages**)

Week 13 (April 15-19) – Social complexity and social inequality

Lab 9: Settlement archaeology
Readings: Hayden chapter, all (Blackboard) (**36 pages**)

Week 14 (April 22-26) – The spread of people, things, and ideas

Lab 11: Lithic analysis
Readings: Feder chapter, pp. 196-224 (Blackboard); Kelly article (Blackboard) (**44 pages**)

Week 15 (April 29-May 3) – Archaeology and colonialism; the politics of archaeology

Lab 12: Ceramic analysis and typology
Readings: Lyons & Papadopoulous chapter, all (Blackboard); Zimmerman et al. article (Blackboard) (**38 pages**)

Week 16 (May 6-10) – NO CLASS MONDAY THE 6th. Final exam review WEDNESDAY THE 8th.

No lab
No readings

Week 17 (May 13-17) – Finals week. Our third exam time/place TBD.

No lab
No readings

Important Dates:

- **January 17th (Thursday)**: Last day of the official add/drop period; after this date, changes in registration require the approval of the department chair and usually the student's dean.
- **January 30th (Wednesday)**: Twelfth class day; this is the date the official enrollment count is taken; last day an undergraduate student may add a class except for rare and extenuating circumstances; last day to drop a class for a possible refund; last day a student may, with the required approvals, add a class; last day a student may add or drop a course without the approval of the dean.
- **April 1st (Monday)**: Last day a student may change registration in a class to or from the pass/fail or credit/no credit basis**.**
- **May 3rd (Friday)**: Last day an undergraduate student may, with the required approval, withdraw from the University or drop a class (Q drop) except for urgent and substantiated, non-academic reasons.
- After **May 3rd**, students must go to the non-academic advisors in their college Dean's office. To be eligible for an **incomplete** you must have a letter grade of **C-** or better and a written, verifiable excuse for missing the last test. This is a **necessary** but **not sufficient** condition for receiving an incomplete.

Expectations for students by instructor/TAs:

- Students are responsible for knowing what is in the syllabus.
- Students should attend class and lab regularly, and make an effort to arrive on time.
- Students must attend the lab session they are enrolled in, unless they have a legitimate/documentable excuse, and clear make-up labs with the TAs.
- Students must be respectful of others during class or lab sessions. Please refrain from distracting behaviour (talking over others, texting/IMing/facebooking/watching videos/etc) during class and lab.
- Please turn off or silence all cell phones and other irritating, chirpy electronic devices during class and lab (laptops are allowed).
- Let your instructor or TA know immediately if a problem arises that will prevent you from performing satisfactorily in this class.
- Let your instructor or TA know ASAP if you have to miss a lab or exam due to legitimate excuses such as illness, emergencies, religious holidays, and so on. The farther we know about issues in advance, the easier it will be to make accommodations.

Expectations for instructor/TAs by students:

- Grading should be consistent as possible and a reasonably transparent process.
- Grades should be posted in a timely manner (no longer than two weeks), and be accessible to students online.
- The instructor and TAs must attend their office hours and return valid emails in a timely manner.
- Students must be informed promptly if there are any changes in the course schedule.

University of Texas Policies:

Documented Disability Statement

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

Notice Regarding Academic Dishonesty

The University of Texas Honor Code – The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to university rules, and may result in failing the class, suspension, or expulsion from the university. Please see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php for UT Austin's policies concerning academic dishonesty.

Religious Holy Days

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an exam, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time before the absence.