

Archaeology 205
Summer 2007 Syllabus
Tue-Thur 1:10 to 4:00pm
Denny Hall 401

Principles of Archaeology
Instructor: Aksel Casson
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Office in Denny 421
Office hours by appointment

Course Webpage: <https://courses.washington.edu/arch205/>

Course EPost:

<https://catalyst.washington.edu/webtools/epost/register.cgi?owner=casson&id=19296>

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the history, techniques, methods, and goals of archaeological research. Students will be exposed to each of the main steps of problem formation and analysis that archaeologists encounter in their research and will be shown how archaeologists from different theoretical perspectives attempt to meet these goals. This course does not focus on the prehistory of any particular region, although examples of archaeological research from many parts of the world will be discussed.

Text

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn

2007 *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods and Practice (Abridged)* Thames and Hudson. **REQUIRED**

Important Notes

1. Plagiarism, copying, or cheating of any kind will automatically earn you a 0.0 for the entire class.
2. In order to pass this course, you must complete **ALL** assignments and exams.
3. Speaking up, making comments, and asking questions is encouraged, but hostility towards other students is not permitted, no matter how much you may disagree with their point of view; all students are encouraged to express their ideas without fear of negative repercussions.
4. Mobile phones, pagers, beeping PDAs, and other noise-making devices should be switched off prior to the beginning of lecture. Switch all devices off out of courtesy to your classmates.
5. If you need to leave during lecture, or if you arrive after lecture has already started, try to be inconspicuous. Don't let the door slam, don't walk between the instructor/video and the class, and don't make a big production. If you think you will need to leave prior to the break or the end of class, or if you arrive late, find a seat close to the door to avoid walking all the way across the room.

Schedule and Assignments

Labs and exams may be rescheduled only with documentation of a legitimate emergency. All readings refer to Renfrew and Bahn

	Lecture and Discussion Topics	Readings	Laboratory Activity
Week 1: June 19-21	Introduction →What is scientific archaeology? History of Archaeological Research I → History and Geology → Formation Processes	Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2	Stratigraphy
Week 2: June 26-28	Goals of Archaeological Research I →Processual Archaeology and the Post-Processual Critique Analysis of Archaeological Data I →Lithics	Chapter 9	Lithics
Week 3: July 3-5	Goals of Archaeological Research II → Social Archaeology → Cognitive Archaeology	Chapters 5 and 8	Exam I, July 5th
Week 4: July 10-12	Field and Excavation Methods I →Site Identification →Sampling Strategies	Chapter 3, p. 59-86	Survey
Week 5: July 17-19	Field and Excavation Methods II →Excavation Techniques →Real-World Examples	Chapter 3, p. 86-94	Excavation
Week 6: July 24-26	Analysis of Archaeological Data II → Trade and Exchange	Chapter 7	Exam II, July 26th
Week 7: July 31-Aug. 2	Analysis of Archaeological Data III →Ceramics →Plant and Animal Remains	Chapter 6	Ceramics Flotation
Week 8: Aug. 7-9	Relative and Absolute Dating →Seriation →Dendrochronology, Radiocarbon, Luminescence	Chapter 4	Absolute Dating Methods
Week 9: Aug. 14-16	Archaeological Ethics and Cultural Resource Management	Chapter 10	Exam III, Aug. 16th

Sections topics are fluid and may change as the quarter progresses.

Student Evaluation*Exams (225 points)*

There will be three exams in this course. These exams are cumulative in the sense that information learned early in the course will provide the basis for latter parts of the course, but specific information from the first exam will not be on future exams. These exams are each worth 100 points. You cannot pass the course without completing each of the three exams.

Laboratory Exercises (75 points)

To a great extent this course revolves around laboratory analysis and methodology. On a semi-weekly basis students will be introduced to various aspects of laboratory analysis. Exercises for evaluation will be assigned for several of these topics. Absence during one of these sections will result in a zero for that assignment.

Student Presentations (80 points)

During the course of the quarter, each student will be responsible for the presentation of published information from two archaeological projects. Each presentation, approximately 10-15 minutes in length, should discuss the specifics about one archaeological project of relevance to the weekly topic. The suitability of projects for presentation must be cleared with the instructor by the appointed deadline. Each presentation is worth 40 points.

Discussion Questions and Participation (20 points)

Participation is not limited to discussion during class meetings, though this does represent an excellent forum to present your opinions and/or to voice questions about course content. Participation also includes the submission of discussion questions, via email, to the instructor. Students are expected to submit potential discussion questions (based on assigned readings, films, and lecture) using the course EPost utility. We will then select those questions most amenable to discussion and introduce them to the class during lecture. You will have opportunities to discuss the questions in smaller groups in your sections. There is no firm quantitative minimum or maximum requirement for submitting on EPost or for discussion during class meetings. Students will be evaluated based on **consistent participation of quality**.

Grade Scale (400 Total Points)

	GPA	Percent	Points
A	4.0-3.8	95-100%	380-400
A-	3.7-3.6	90-94%	360-379
B+	3.5-3.2	87-89%	348-359
B	3.1-2.9	84-86%	336-347
B-	2.8-2.5	80-83%	320-335
C+	2.4-2.2	77-79%	308-319
C	2.1-1.9	74-76%	296-307
C-	1.8-1.5	70-73%	280-295
D+	1.4-1.2	67-69%	268-279
D	1.1-0.9	64-66%	256-267
D-	0.8-0.7	60-63%*	240-255
F	0.0	0-59%	0-239

* Lowest passing grade.