

**Anthropology 321**  
**Archaeological Methods**  
**Fall 2003 Syllabus**  
**Meets Mon-Thur, 2:00-2:50**  
**Farrell Hall Rm 401**

**Instructor: Aksel Casson**  
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**Office: Farrell Hall 320A**  
**Office hours: M-F 9:00-10:00**  
**and by appointment**

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the techniques, goals, and methods of archaeological research. Students will be exposed to each of the main steps of problem formation and analysis that archaeologists encounter in their research, from data collection and measurement to the evaluation of behavior through hypotheses derived from data. Lectures, readings, films, discussion, and assorted exercises will all be used to understand these issues. We will not focus on the history or prehistory of any particular region, although examples of archaeological research and data analysis from many different parts of the world will be discussed.

Texts and Other Readings

The text for this course is not a text at all, but rather a CD-Rom designed by Thinking Strings called Revealing Archaeology (RA). This medium will increase the amount of interactive learning throughout the quarter. The software has many of the features of a traditional text, including an exhaustive glossary and text explanations of key concepts, as well as dozens of exercises that provide continuous feedback as one progresses through the assignments. You will not be assigned all of the units within each module, however you should be familiar with the goals and summaries of those not assigned. **The Passkey for RA is 'aksel'**. You should see the course code, ANTH321\_0403, once you've logged in. If you have any questions regarding the functioning of this software, please contact: [support@thinkingstrings.com](mailto:support@thinkingstrings.com).

Additional readings and handouts will supplement the software.

Schedule and Assignments

	<b>Lecture and Discussion Topics</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments</b>
<b>Week 1:</b> <b>Sept 24-25</b>	Goals and History of Archaeology -Roots of the Discipline	<b>RA: <i>Humanity's Imprint</i></b> 'Presence of the Past', What is Archaeology', and 'Archaeology's Goals '
<b>Week 2:</b> <b>Sept 29-Oct 2</b>	Geology and Formation processes -Geoarchaeology	<b>RA: <i>Leaving a Trail</i></b> Do all units
<b>Week 3:</b> <b>Oct 6-19</b>	Relative Chronologies -Stratigraphy and Seriation	<b>RA: <i>Tracking Down Time</i></b> 'Stratigraphy and Sequence', 'Stratigraphic Correlation', 'Biostratigraphy and Index Fossils', 'Seriation and Sequence'
<b>Week 4:</b> <b>Oct 13-16</b>	Data Recovery I -Finding Sites and Artifacts  <b>Schedule an appointment to discuss project topics, before Friday</b>	<b>RA: <i>Following the Trail</i></b> 'Designing Fieldwork' 'Locating our Footprint' 'Regional Survey'
<b>Week 5:</b> <b>Oct 20-23</b>	Data Recovery II -Excavation	<b>RA: <i>Following the Trail</i></b> 'Excavation Principles' 'Digging a Site'
<b>Week 6:</b> <b>Oct 27-30</b>	Data Analysis I -Unit Formation  <b>Due 10/27: One-page outline of proposal,</b>	<b>RA: <i>Detecting Technology</i></b> 'Shifting Frameworks' 'Archaeological Typology' 'Thinking about Technology'

	<b>to be presented in class (5-7 minutes)</b>	'Prehistory of Technology'
<b>Week 7: Nov 3-6</b>	Data Analysis II -Lithics -Ceramics	<b>RA: <i>Detecting Technology</i></b> 'Studying Technology' 'Stone' 'Skeletal Materials' 'Pottery'
<b>Week 8: Nov 10-13</b>	Data Analysis III -Subsistence Analysis -Environmental Context -Human Behavior	<b>RA: <i>Provisioning Society</i></b> 'Human Subsistence' 'Subsistence resources' 'Studying Plant Remains' 'Studying Animal Remains' 'Other evidence'
<b>Week 9: Nov 17-20</b>	Absolute Dating -Methods and Decisions	<b>RA: <i>Charting Time</i></b> 'Scales of Time' 'Radiocarbon Dating' 'Tree-Rings and Calibration' 'Fission Track Dating' 'Obsidian Hydration Dating' 'Luminescence Dating'
<b>Week 10: Nov 24-27</b>	Cultural Resource Management -Native Rights and Relations	<b>RA: <i>Preserving the Trail</i></b> 'Preserving our Footprint' 'Culture Resource Management' 'Organizing the Past' 'Owning the Past' 'A Past without Borders' 'Negotiating the Past'
<b>Week 11: Dec 1-4</b>	<b>Student Presentations: Research Proposals ( 15-20 minutes)</b>	
<b>Week 12: Finals</b>	<b>No Final Exam, Final Draft of Proposal Due 12/10 at 5:00 pm</b>	

### Student Evaluation and Grading

*Research Proposal (including presentations and proposal outline) (60%)*

At the end of the quarter you will be expected to present a proposal, with budget, outlining either the data acquisition or data analysis of a relevant archaeological project. You will be evaluated on the logical structure and the feasibility of your proposal. A detailed description of the assignment will be handed out later in the quarter. Note the important deadlines above; your performance on these will also be graded.

*Revealing Archaeology Exercises (30%)*

Each week you will be assigned several units, each of which will also include the completion of 'try it' sections. Completion, by the due date, of these assignments represents part of this course component.

*Discussion Questions and Participation (10%)*

Participation is not limited to discussion during class times, though this does represent an excellent forum to present your opinions and/or to voice questions about course content. Participation also includes, for this course, the submission of discussion questions, via email, to the instructor.

*Total Points: 400*

Research Proposal, 240 points

180 for final draft, 30 each for  
outline, and presentation

Exercises and Software Progress, 120 points

Participation, 40 points

*Grade Scale(%)*

A = 95-100	B-=80-83	D+=67-69
A-=90-94	C+=77-79	D = 64-66
B+=87-89	C = 74-76	D-= 60-63
B = 84-86	C-=70-73	F = 0-59