

# ***Anthropology 205: Principles of Archaeology***

**Shoreline Community College Winter 2005**

**10:30am-11:20am, Daily in 2210**

**Instructor: Aksel Casson**

**Office hours: Wed 9:30 to 10:30am & Thur 11:30 to 12:30pm, Rm. 5360**

**Contact: 533-6620 or [casson@u.washington.edu](mailto:casson@u.washington.edu)**

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## **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the principles, methods, and goals of archaeological research and key developments in the human career. Students will be exposed to each of the main steps of problem formation and analysis that archaeologists encounter in their research. These goals will be met by examining the archaeological record from the earliest human groups to the rise of civilizations.

## **Textbooks**

*Archaeology: A Brief Introduction*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition (2003) by B.M. Fagan. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey

*World Prehistory: A Brief Introduction*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2005) by B.M. Fagan. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey

## **Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Please do assigned readings *during* the week in which they are assigned.

	Lecture and Discussion Topics	Readings
Week 1: Jan 3-7	Introduction to Archaeology	ARCH: Ch. 1-3
Week 2: Jan 10-14	Early Humans in Africa Lithics Dating Methods	ARCH: Ch. 4 WP: Ch. 1-2
Week 3: Jan 18-21	Dating Methods, Cont'd African exodus Finding Archaeological Sites	ARCH: Ch. 5,9 WP: Ch. 3
Week 4: Jan 24-28	Modern Humans and the Upper Paleolithic Excavation	WP: Ch. 4 ARCH: Ch. 6
Week 5: Jan 31- Feb 4	Exam I Monday January 31 <sup>st</sup> Prehistoric Food Production Detecting Subsistence Archaeologically	ARCH: Ch. 10 WP: Ch. 5
Week 6: Feb 7-11	The Neolithic and the Origin of Agriculture State Formation and the Origins of Complexity	WP: Ch. 6-8
Week 7: Feb 14-18	Artifact Classification Ancient Civilizations: New World	ARCH: Ch. 7 WP: Ch. 12-14
Week 8: Feb 22-25	Ancient Civilizations: Old World	WP: 9-11

Week 9: Feb 28 – Mar 4	Archaeological Ethics and Conservation Exam II, Wednesday March 2 <sup>nd</sup> Student Presentations	ARCH: Ch. 14
Week 10: Mar 7-11	Student Presentations	

**Term Paper Due March 14<sup>th</sup> at Noon in my Office.**

### **Student Evaluation**

#### *Exams*

There will be two exams, each covering approximately one-half of the course material. These will not be cumulative exams, though; certain information learned early in the course will provide the foundation upon which latter parts of the course will be based.

**These exams are each worth 100 points.**

#### *Term Paper and Presentation*

In the place of a final exam, each student will complete a research project to be presented to the class as a presentation in the final week of the quarter. The presentation should be 15-20 minutes in length and the term paper of approximately 10 pages will be due on Monday March 14<sup>th</sup> (the final day of the quarter). More information will be provided as the quarter proceeds. **The paper and presentation will be worth a total of 100 points.**

#### *Laboratory Exercises and Article Review*

This course includes a focus on laboratory analysis and methodology. Students will be introduced to various aspects of laboratory analysis throughout the quarter, periodically these will include exercises for evaluation. Additionally, you will be asked to review a scientific archaeology article. **These assignments will total 60 points.**

#### *Discussion Questions and Participation*

Participation in discussion represents the final component of student evaluation. Participation is not limited to discussion during class times. In addition to contributions made during class, students are expected to submit potential discussion questions (based on assigned readings, films, and lecture) via e-mail to the instructor. I will then select those questions most amenable to discussion and introduce them to the class during lecture. Students will be responsible for submitting a total of five *good* discussion questions during the quarter. The instructor will notify students as to whether or not the submitted question will count toward their requirement of five. **Questions and class contributions will total 40 points.**

#### **Total Points: 400**

Exams (50%)  
Term Paper and Presentation (25%)  
Laboratory Exercises and Article Review (15%)  
Participation 40 points (10%)

#### **Grade Scale(%)**

A = 93-100    B-=80-82    D+=67-69  
A-=90-92    C+=77-79    D = 63-66  
B+=87-89    C = 73-76    D-= 60-62  
B = 83-86    C-=70-72    F = 0-59