

## Introduction to Archaeology Spring 2022 syllabus

Code: 070:105

Credits: 4

Lectures—CDL-110 (Douglass/Cook)

<https://des.rutgers.edu/classrooms/cook-douglass-lecture-hall-room-110>

Tuesdays & Fridays: 12:10 -1:30 pm

Laboratory sessions—Biological Science Building 206,

<https://goo.gl/maps/bwKUJuRZCWyBPLFG6>

Sections;

- Section 1— Tuesday 3:50-5:10 PM (Kyra)
- Section 2— Wednesday 10:20-11:40 AM (Kyra)
- Section 3— Wednesday 5:40-7:00 PM (Ankita)
- Section 4--- Thursday 12:10-1:30 PM (Ankita)

### Instructor

Dan Cabanes

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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 2-3 pm

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### TA

Kyra Johnson

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Ankita Chandranath

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 4-5 PM

### Pre or Co-requisites

None.

### Catalog description

An introductory course to the discipline of Archaeology.

**Detailed description**

This course is an introduction to Archaeology, explaining its theories, methods, and applications. Archaeology is probably the most complex discipline in the domain of Social Sciences. Although Social Sciences are made up of extremely complex disciplines most people believe that they are easier because we can talk with persons but not with atoms or molecules. Archaeology is even more complex because we cannot talk with people in the past. The only way they can “talk” to us is through their material remains.

This course will introduce Archaeology as a discipline that combines humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences to study past human societies and their evolution through time. The course is intended to demystify the aura of archaeologists as adventurers and to show how actual scientific work is conducted nowadays. During the course field and laboratory methods will be explained using examples from well-known archaeological excavations around the world. This course aims provide the students with critical tools to comprehend future archaeological discoveries and their implications in the study of the human condition.

**Course-Specific Student Learning Outcome Goals**

- To acquire basic knowledge on the theories, methods, and field techniques applied to archaeological research [EA1 and EA3 see <http://anthro.rutgers.edu/undergrad-program/department-learning-goals>].
- To be familiar with the chronological and geographical variation of past human societies and cultures.
- To understand the importance of Archaeology in our world regarding heritage management, politics, religion, emerging countries, and nationalism.
- To obtain the necessary tools to critically understand future archaeological discoveries and their implications on the study of human societies [EA2 see <http://anthro.rutgers.edu/undergradprogram/department-learning-goals>]

**Core Curriculum Goals**

- h. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- i. Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.
- k. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.

## Suggested Texts

**Renfrew, C.; Bahn, P. (2016) Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice, Thames & Hudson, New York. (or any other edition).**

## Grading Structure

Grading will be based on **6 quizzes** (10% each, 60% in total), **10 practice quizzes** (10% of the grade), and **lab attendance and coursework** (30%). The quizzes can cover any material presented in the lectures, lab, and readings. The exams are non-cumulative, although the students should be familiar with the materials discussed in previous parts of the course.

Optional extra credit (5%) can be obtained by submitting a **short essay**.

## Detailed grading structure

### *Quizzes*

- The quizzes will be online through the Canvas platform
- Six quizzes (10% of the final grade each).
- Non-cumulative, each exam will cover 2 chapters
- 20 multiple-choice questions randomly selected from a large questionnaire pool
- You'll have 60 minutes to answer the 20 questions.
- The quizzes will cover any material presented in the lectures, lab, readings (Renfrew & Bahn)
- The quizzes will be opened the first day of class and will remain open until the end of the semester. Please check Canvas for the detailed deadlines.

### *Practice quizzes*

Practice quizzes are like regular quizzes with the difference that the questions are pooled out from any module in the course. These same questions can appear again, or not, in the real quiz. **There are 10 practice quizzes (1% of the final grade)**. The results of each quiz will be automatically generated when you finish the quiz, you can use these results as feedback, but they will not count for your final grade. The practice quizzes will be graded as complete/incomplete by the end of the semester. In other words, taking a practice quiz will add automatically 1% to your final grade, regardless of the quiz results.

### *Laboratory*

#### **The lab is worth 30% of your course grade.**

Participation (contribute to discussions, participate in group activities, etc.): 10% is for attendance and participation.

20% is for the weekly lab assignments.

#### **Voluntary short essay (5% extra credit)**

Subject: Review of an archaeological discovery of 2021

How to: Look in the major newspapers for a recent discovery, read it, and make a review. Be sure that you answer the following questions:

1. What it is?
2. When & Where (chronology and location)?
3. Who has discovered it? How was it discovered?
4. Why is important? What does it change?
5. What is your scientific opinion on this discovery?

You must support your information with references (Books, journals, etc. At least 3 references)

Length: Maximum 1,000 words. Minimum 500 words. Use word count tools to calculate the length. The maximum and minimum limits are not negotiable and failing to adjust to these limits will affect negatively your grading.

Deadline: April 29, 23:55

### **Course policies**

Academic Integrity: Cheating lowers the value of a Rutgers degree and the learning experience for all students. No form of cheating, including plagiarism, will be tolerated. One commits plagiarism when one represents the text or ideas of others as one's own creation. Please visit the website of the Rutgers Office of Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>) for a fuller explanation of plagiarism and of the penalties for it. Convicted plagiarists may receive a disciplinary F in the course and possibly face expulsion from the University.

Student Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Unjustified absences during the exams will result in a 0 and will affect your final grades. Up to ten percent of the laboratory grade is for attendance and participation, failing to justify an absence in the lab will result in a proportional loss of the grade. For absence periods longer than one week you will be directed to see a Dean of Students for assistance to help verify these circumstances. For any other circumstances please contact me.

### **Lectures schedule & topic list**

Week One (18 & 21 Jan)

Introduction and Scope of Archaeology-History of Archaeology: Renfrew and Bahn Ch 1  
NO LAB

Week Two (25 & 28 Jan)

Archaeological Evidence-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 2 (Types of sites & materials found)  
Lab: Introduction, Archaeology as a Science, and the Scientific Method

Week Three (1 & 4 Feb)

Archaeological Evidence-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 2 (Site formation processes)  
Lab: Stratigraphy

Week Four (8 & 11 Feb)

Sites and Excavations-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 3  
Lab: Pace and Compass Mapping

Week Five (15 & 18 Feb)

Dating and Chronology-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 4  
Lab: Relative and Absolute Dating and Seriation

Week Six (22 & 25 Feb)

Social Organization-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 5  
Lab: Paleoanthropology

Week Seven (1 & 4 March)

Environmental Archaeology-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 6  
Lab: Climate Reconstruction and Ostracods

Week Eight (8 & 11 March)

Subsistence and Diet-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 7  
Lab: Zooarchaeology

### Spring Break

Week Nine (22 & 25 March)

Technology-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 8  
Lab: Lithics

Week Ten (29 March & 1 April)

Trade and Exchange-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 9  
Lab: Fall off analysis

Week Eleven (5 & 8 April)

Cognitive Archaeology, Art and Religion-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 10

Lab: Symbolism

Week Twelve (12 & 15 April)

Bioarchaeology-Renfrew and Bahn Ch 11

Lab: Paleopathology, Bioarchaeology, and Mortuary Archaeology

Week Thirteen (19 & 22 April)

Archaeology and the public, and heritage issues -Renfrew and Bahn Ch 14 & 15

Lab: Current Debate in Archaeology

Week Fourteen (26 & 29 April)

Course summary and close up, including a debate on career perspectives in archaeology (not counting towards the final grade)

Lab: Review period