

Introduction to Archaeology

This course is an introduction to prehistoric archaeology, from the origins of lithic technology and discernable human culture through the development of agriculture and complex civilizations. A weekly laboratory session provides hands-on exposure to archaeological materials and methods. The course serves as a required component of the Anthropology majors as well as a survey for those interested in a first course in prehistoric archaeology. 4 Credit Hours.


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TA: Rene Studer-Halbach rks109@rci.rutgers.edu
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Office Hours: T 11:00 – 12:30 in 306 BioSci, or by arrangement.

Class Meetings: Tuesday & Friday 1, 9:15-10:35 AM, CDL 102, DC

Laboratory Sections: Section 01: Wednesday 2 10:55 - 12:15 Bio 206
 Section 04: Wednesday 3 12:35 - 1:55 Bio 206
 Section 06: Wednesday 6 5:35 - 6:55 Bio 206

Text (required): Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. 2016. Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice, 7th edition. Thames & Hudson, New York. (or any other edition).
 Additional course materials will be available on Sakai (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu>)

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|  | <p><u>Core Curriculum Learning Goals Met by this Course</u></p> <p>II: B: Social Science and History</p> <p>h. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.</p> <p>i. Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.</p> <p>k. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.</p> |
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The objectives of this course are to teach you:

- what archaeologists do
- how archaeologists think
- how the past is reconstructed
- why the past matters

Course Requirements: Assignments will include text readings and quizzes (scheduled bi-weekly and several pop-quizzes). One midterm and a (comprehensive) final exam are scheduled. Grades will be based on performance on quizzes (10%), hourly (30%) and final (30%) exams and the laboratory (30%).

| Date | Topic | Text Chapter |
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| Week 1 | 17 Jan Introduction: Prehistoric Archaeology 20 Jan History of Archaeology | 1 |
| Week 2 | 24 Jan Human Origins and Heritage 27 Jan Cultural Beginnings (History Quiz) | |
| Week 3 | 31 Jan Archaeological Evidence 3 Feb The Upper Pleistocene (Hominins Quiz) | |
| Week 4 | 7 Feb Site Formation Processes 10 Feb Archaeological Evidence | 2 2 |
| Week 5 | 14 Feb Sites and Spatial Components 17 Feb Excavations | 3 3 |
| Week 6 | 21 Feb Stratigraphy and Relative Dating 24 Feb Dating Methods | 4 4 |
| Week 7 | 28 Feb Midterm Exam 3 Mar Social Organization | (1-4) 5 |
| Week 8 | 7 Mar Environmental Archaeology 10 Mar Environmental Archaeology (Paleolithic Quiz) | 6 6 |
| Week 9 | 14 Mar No Class – Spring Break 17 Mar No Class – Spring Break | |
| Week 10 | 21 Mar Subsistence and Diet 24 Mar Subsistence and Diet | 7 7 |
| Week | 28 Mar Technology 31 Mar Technology | 8 8 |
| Week 12 | 4 Apr Trade and Exchange 7 Apr Trade and Exchange (UP Quiz) | 9 9 |
| Week 13 | 11 Apr Cognitive Archaeology 14 Apr Art and Religion | 10 10 |
| Week 14 | 18 Apr Bioarchaeology 21 Apr Causation and Explanation (Sites Quiz) | 11 12 |
| Week 15 | 25 Apr Archaeology and the public 28 Apr Summary and Review | 14-15 (5-15) |

Tuesday 9 May 8 AM Final Exam