Introduction to Archaeology
AANT 104 – Summer 2016
Syllabus of Classes & Assignments

Session: 4 Week Course, Session 2
Dates: June 20- July 15, 2016
Class Time: Mon.-Fri. 12:30-2:50
Classroom: AS 011

Instructor: Rebecca Mendelsohn
Office: AS 233
Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 2:50-3:50pm
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Course Description

How do archaeologists reconstruct the activities of ancient civilizations through the study of their material remains? Why is the study of past civilizations important? This course covers the methods used by archaeologists to identify and compare the economic, social, political, and ideological organization of various hunter-gatherers, fishers, farmers, and urban civilizations ranging in time from the Ice Age through Colonial times. We review the history of archaeology, considerations of designing and implementing a research program, how to locate sites through archaeological survey, various approaches to excavating sites, and strategies of laboratory analysis of tools and ecological remains associated with human occupations. The course will also explore current issues in archaeology, and how the study of the past is relevant to the modern world.

Lectures will emphasize what archaeologists study, while lab sessions will emphasize how archaeologists answer these questions through the study of material remains. Students must participate in both aspects of the class to succeed. This class satisfies the General Education Disciplinary Perspectives Requirement for Social Science and for International Perspectives.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Summarize what archaeologists do
- Critique misunderstandings in media representations of archaeology
- Construct a convincing argument based on archaeological data
- Explain to a family member why archaeology is still relevant in today's society
- Compare and contrast the cultural practices of world societies

Texts

Fagan, Brian M.
2012 *Archaeology: A Brief Introduction, 11th edition*. Pearson, Boston.

Grade Breakdown

Reading Assignments 30% (2% each)
In-Class Participation 30%
Lab Assignments 30% (5% each)
Current Event Presentation 10%

Reading Assignments (15 assignments worth 2% each, for a total of 30% of final grade)
For each day of the course, students will have a reading assignment to complete. These are intended to be short answers in either bullet point form or 1-3 sentences. They do not need to be typed. If you hand-write your reading assignments, please make sure your writing is legible.

These assignments are due at the beginning of class on the session the reading are assigned (example: Reading assignments for Chapters 1 and 2 will be due Tues, June 21). Reading assignments turned in after the start of class or the next class session will be accepted for a maximum of half credit. They will not be accepted more than one day late.

In Class Participation (30% of final grade)
Participation is an important part of this class. Students are expected to actively participate during both "lecture" segments of the class and during lab activities. This means active listening during lectures, contribution to in-class discussions and activities, and individual and group work on lab assignments. **Students must therefore be in attendance for all classes to receive full participation points.** In extreme (and well-documented) cases, absences may be excused.

Current Event Presentation (10% of final grade)
On the final class students will present a brief 10-minute presentation, including Powerpoint slides, discussing a current event relating to archaeology. Events must be current to within the last two years.

Ideas for topics may include:

- Recent findings in archaeology; how they have updated our understanding of a particular cultural group?
- A rebuttal to a pseudoscientific study describing why the material is not "good archaeology"
- Issues of cultural heritage preservation or destruction
- Indigenous issues associated with archaeology (US or worldwide)
- Advancements in technological tools used by archaeologists

All students must approve their topics and sources with the instructor by the end of Week 2. Failure to do so will result in decreased points. Grading rubrics will be distributed to students in advance.

Lab Assignments (6 assignments worth 5% each, for a total of 30% of final grade)
Students are expected to attend and participate in all lab sections as part of their lab participation grade. However, students are only required to submit write-ups for six labs. Prompts for the submitted lab assignments will be provided during the lab. Students may choose which labs to submit, but two must be submitted from Group A, two from Group B, and two from Group C. Lab assignments must be typed and will be between 2 and 3 double-spaced pages in length (12 point, Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins) and will be submitted the following Monday (exceptions: Week 2 labs will be submitted on Tuesday, July 5 and Week 4 labs must be submitted on the last day of class, Friday 15th of July). Two points will be deducted for every day a lab assignment is late.

Students may choose which labs they would like to turn in; however, **AT LEAST TWO LABS FROM EACH GROUP** (A, B, AND C) must be included from within the six labs. I encourage you to choose your labs strategically so that you will not be unable to complete the two-lab-per-group requirement if an unforeseeable circumstance arises. If students are unhappy with one of their lab grades, they may replace it by turning in one lab from the same group as the lab grade they would like to drop- please note that this option is only available for one lab grade and is only available for remaining labs (new labs will not be created for students who wish to do this at the very end of the course-so plan ahead!).

Group A	**Group B**	**Group C**
Stratigraphy	Reburial/ Ethics	Ceramics
Settlement Patterns	Nationalist Archaeology	Lithics
Social Stratification	Looting	Osteology
Garbology	Cultural Heritage Destruction	Faunal
		Paleoethnobotany

Pro Tips:

Group A labs:
The best answers will go beyond a summary of the data and tell a story about what happened in the scenario. Data should be used to support your argument. Creativity is always welcome- as long and it can be supported by the data (no pseudoarchaeology!).

Group B labs:
These assignments are designed to address the impact of archaeology on communities and the ways in which archaeology is used to further an agenda. Take notes during discussions, so that you can summarize both sides of an issue. After your summary, pick a side and argue it. Opinions are encouraged for Group B write-ups, but please be sure they are shared respectfully.

Group C labs:
Being an archaeologist is like being a detective. If you get stuck, start by summarizing what is known about the materials you are looking at. Then try to answer the questions. As with Group A labs, the best answers will go beyond a summary of the data and tell a story. Feel free to include photographs (if you would like to take them with your phone) that help support your argument. Any photographs should be included at the end of your assignment and will not count toward your page count. The photos are just for fun, so be careful not to let photography distract

you from the overall goal of the lab assignment!

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to adhere to the academic integrity policy laid out in the University at Albany's Undergraduate Academic Regulations:
http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html
Plagiarized assignments will not be accepted and may result in disciplinary action.

It is understood that for lab activities students will often work in groups. However, lab assignments that are turned in for credit must reflect each individual student's work. If you are unsure how to properly cite a source for any assignment, talk to the instructor.

Electronic Devices
Computers may be used for note-taking and for in-class assignments where specified. Students may use cell phones to take photos of artifacts and ecofacts for Group C lab assignments they intend to submit. Use of computers or cell phones for non-class activities will result in a deduction of participation points.

Schedule of Class & Lab Topics and Readings
"Chapters" are from our textbook *Archaeology: A Brief Introduction*
All other readings will be available online on Blackboard

Week 1 (June 20 - 24): **Archaeological Approaches**

Monday, June 20	
Lecture: What is Archaeology?	**Reading:** N/A
Lab: What is culture? (In-class)	
Tuesday, June 21	
Lecture: History of Archaeology	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 1
Lab: Nationalist Archaeology (Group B)	Archaeology, Chapter 2
Wednesday, June 22	
Lecture: Reconstructing the Past	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 3
Lab: Ceramics (Group C)	
Thursday, June 23	
Lecture: Archaeological Classification	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 5
Lab: Stratigraphy (Group A)	Stratigraphy Lab Assignment
Friday, June 24	
Lecture: Finding and Assessing Sites	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 6
Lab: Remote Sensing (In-class)	

Week 2 (June 27 – July 1): **Culture, Context, and Interpretation**

Monday, June 27	
Lecture: Archaeological Excavation	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 7
Lab: Looting (Group B)	***Lab Assignments from Week 1 Due****
Tuesday, June 28	
Lecture: Ancient Technology	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 8
Lab: Lithics (Group C)	
Wednesday, June 29	
Lecture: Settlement Archaeology	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 12
Lab: Settlement Patterns (Group A)	Settlement Pattern Lab Assignment
Thursday, June 30	
Lecture: Ancient Environment	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 10
Lab: Paleoethnobotany (Group C)	
Friday, July 1	
Lecture: Origins of Agriculture, Diet, & Feasting	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 11
Lab: Faunal Analysis (Group C)	***Presentation Topics Must be Approved****

Week 3 (July 4 - 8): **Sites and Settlement Patterns**

Monday, July 4	
No Class- Happy Independence Day!	
Tuesday, July 5	
Lecture: Emergence of Inequality	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 4, p. 69-85
Lab: Social Stratification (Group A)	Social Stratification Lab Assignment
	Lab Assignments from Week 2 Due*
Wednesday, July 6	
Lecture: The Archaeology of Death	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 13: p. 270-278
Lab: Reburial/Ethics (Group B)	
Thursday, July 7	
Lecture: The Study of Ancient Cities	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 9
Lab: Video (In-class)	
Friday, July 8	
Lecture: Trade and Culture Contact	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 13: p. 278-297
Lab: Garbology (Group A)	

Week 4 (July 11-15): **Archaeology Today**

Monday, July 11	
Lecture: Conflict and Collapse	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 14
Lab: Osteology (Group C)	***Lab Assignments from Week 3 Due****
Tuesday, July 12	
Lecture: Archaeology of Intangibles	**Reading:** Archaeology, Chapter 4: p. 85-90
Lab: Cultural Heritage Destruction (Group B)	
Wednesday, July 13	
Lecture: Archaeology in the 21st Century (Archaeometry, Digital Archaeology)	**Reading:** N/A
Lab: TBD	
Thursday, July 14	
Lecture: Seeing the Future in the Past	***Student Presentations**
Lab: Student Presentations	
Friday, July 15	***Student Presentations**
Lecture: Preserving the Past, Careers in Archaeology	***Lab Assignments from Week 4 Due**** Note: All replacement labs must also be received by this time
Lab: Student Presentations	