Course Information Available on Canvas: https://canvas.ucsc.edu

Contacts:

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Office Hours: Tues / Thurs 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Course Description:
This course provides an introduction to how archaeology is used to tell stories about the past, especially that part of the human past beyond the scope of written history. Readings, lectures, section discussions and activities, and out-of-class exercises explore the practical and social dimensions of archaeology. We begin with a basic orientation, seeing how American archaeology developed historically as a discipline, and the contrast between popular images of archaeology and its real social and political context today. We then explore how archaeologists work--how they gather data and how they reconstruct social behavior and cultural meaning from material remains. Next we examine how these methods are used to study fundamental aspects of human society and culture, including human ecology and subsistence; social relations and identities; production and exchange; symbolism and ideology; and the relationship between power, social inequality and the state. We also discuss some of the professional and ethical problems affecting the practice of archaeology today and the conservation, protection, and control of cultural resources.

Daily Plan:
We will cover approximately one Unit (see workbook) per day, a week’s worth of material on the normal academic year schedule. Each day will include 2 lectures and 1 discussion section with short breaks in between. Each lecture (see sample below) will run approximately 1:10, with a short break. Additionally, we will hold a discussion section (1 hour) at the end of class each day to do hands on activities and discuss the course material in greater detail. All lectures will be held in Soc Sci 1 Room 145, and the discussion section meetings will occasionally be held in Soc Sci 1 Room 317.

Sample Schedule
Lecture 1 9:00 -10:10
Break 10:10 -10:15
Lecture 2 10:15 -11:25
Break 11:25 -11:30
Discussion Section 11:30 -12:30
Course Requirements:
(1) Mandatory attendance and active participation in lectures and at discussion sections. In addition to discussing assigned readings, lectures, and Workbook and Study Guide materials, several interactive learning activities, completed both in and out of class, will require you to attend class to receive detailed instructions and to report on your observations. [10% of grade]

(2) Timely and satisfactory completion of ALL assignments (see workbook). Each completed workbook assignment must be turned in by the next class meeting. Late assignments will not be accepted or graded. [30% of grade]

(3) An in-class midterm examination. You must take this exam during the scheduled time; no alternative or make-up exams will be scheduled (except for students requiring disability accommodations). [30% of grade]

(4) An in-class, comprehensive final examination. You must take this exam during the scheduled time; no alternative or make-up exams will be scheduled (except for students requiring disability accommodations). [30% of grade]

Academic Integrity. All students enrolled in this course are expected to follow the University's standards of academic integrity. Violation of these standards includes cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty is a major infraction of the University's Code of Conduct and may result in failing the course, formal disciplinary review in your College, and suspension or dismissal from the University. Students in this course are expected to complete their own work, and to avoid plagiarism by proper and appropriate citation of sources (readings, lectures, videos) in all written work. If you need more information on what constitutes plagiarism or on due process in academic dishonesty cases, please contact your instructor/TA or consult UCSC's Academic Integrity Web site (http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/).

Students With Disabilities: If you have a disability that requires special accommodation, please schedule a time to talk with the instructor about your needs. Please do this by THE FIRST WEEK of the class. You must request any DRC approved testing accommodations directly from the instructor during this meeting. Neither the instructor nor the TAs will be able to make last minute DRC accommodations for exams the week of the exams, except in the case of newly diagnosed disabilities. The instructor will need to see your accommodation form from the DRC.

Required Texts available at Bay Tree Books:
1) Renfrew and Bahn - Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods, and Practice (3rd edition)
LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Tues, August 1st - UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

1. Course Introduction

2. The Origins of American Archaeology
   Renfrew and Bahn: Chapter 1
   Workbook: Read Unit 1

Discussion Section – None

Thurs, August 3rd – UNIT 1 (Continued)

3. American archaeology comes of age
   READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 10

4. Case Study: The Moundbuilder Controversy
   WATCH IN CLASS: The Myth of the Moundbuilders

Discussion Section 1 – Garbology Activity, Units 1

WEEK 2

Tues, August 8th - UNIT 2: RECOVERING & INTERPRETING EVIDENCE

5. Survey and excavation
   READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 3
   WORKBOOK: Unit 2

6. Giving meaning to archaeological finds
   WATCH: Tree of Iron (requires a UCSC connection)
   READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 2

Discussion Section 2 – UNIT 2

Thurs, August 10th - UNIT 3: PLACING OBJECTS IN TIME

7. Relative dating methods
   READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 4 pp. 106-115
   WORKBOOK: Read Unit 3

8. Absolute chronologies
   READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 4 pp. 116-141

Discussion Section 3 – UNIT 3
WEEK 3

Tues, August 15th - UNIT 4: ENVIRONMENT & SUBSISTENCE

9. MIDTERM EXAMINATION (COVERS LECTURES 1-8)

10. Reconstructing past environments and human subsistence
    READ: Renfrew and Bahn: Chapters 6, 8
    WORKBOOK: Unit 4

Discussion Section 4 – Unit 4

Thurs, August 17th - UNIT 5: SOCIAL RELATIONS AND IDENTITIES

11. Households, families, and communities
    WATCH: "Out of the Past: The Hearth"
    READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 5
    WORKBOOK: Unit 5

12. Case Study: The Archaeology of American Slavery

Discussion Section 5 – UNIT 5

WEEK 4

Tues, August 22nd - UNIT 6: PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE

13. How archaeologist study economic relations
    WATCH: "Out of the Past: Artisans and Traders"
    READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 7
    WORKBOOK: Unit 6

14. Case Study: The Archaeology of West Africa and the Slave Trade

Discussion Section 6 – UNIT 6

Thurs, August 24th - UNIT 7: SYMBOLISM, IDEOLOGY, AND WORLDVIEW

15. Thinking and believing: the archaeology of ideology
    READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 9
    WORKBOOK: Read Unit 7

16. Case Study: Colonial American ideology

Discussion Section 7 – UNIT 7

WEEK 5

Tuesday August 29th - UNIT 8: POWER, SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND THE STATE

17. Political centralization and the origins of the state
    WATCH: "Out of the Past: Power, Prestige, and Wealth"
    READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Review Chapter 5

18. Case Study: Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe
Discussion Section 8 – UNIT 8

Thurs, August 31st - UNITS 9 & 10: THE FUTURE OF THE PAST

19 Archaeology and Heritage in the 21st Century
   READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 11
   WORKBOOK: Unit 9

20. Conservation and Stewardship
   READ: Renfrew and Bahn-Chapter 12
   WORKBOOK: Unit 10

Discussion Section 9 – Final Exam
   FINAL EXAMINATION (COVERS LECTURES 1-20 AND ALL DISCUSSION SECTIONS)