

Archaeological Science: Ancient Human Lives & Landscapes

ARCH 2800

Spring 2019

ESSC 255, T-Th 11-12:20

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341 Environmental Science

Office Hours: T-Th 9-10:30 am or by appointment

Course Description

This course is an introduction to fundamental concepts of archaeology. The field is studied from the perspective of historical ecology, which means that human-environmental interactions are studied over time with a primary focus on the scale of landscapes. The course covers basics of reasoning in archaeology, fundamental sub-fields within the discipline, interesting case studies, and contemporary ethical concerns related to decolonizing the field.

The lecture portion of the class (see lab syllabus from your TA for that portion) focuses on lectures and related readings from the textbook and outside sources (hyperlinked in the course outline). Each lecture focuses on core concepts and contextualization of those into important examples or related to pressing issues and debates in the field. Each week, there are review questions that engage the most recent content. Defining, contextualizing, and evaluating material leads to comprehending the material from each block. Exams will cover content from lecture and external readings.

Labs

The lecture and lab sections for Archaeological Science are separate, with labs being taught by teaching assistants. The lab grade is integrated into the final grade with lecture counting for 70% and lab counting for 30% of the final grade.

Book (required)

Peter Peregrine 2017. *Archaeological Research: A Basic Introduction*. Routledge, New York.

Reading Assignments

Not all of the readings are from the book; some are from outside source hyperlinked in the course outline. Some of the external readings might change (be replaced by new ones during the course).

Exams & Grades

There are five non-cumulative exams in this course, each worth twenty percent of the final lecture grade (which is worth 70% of the course grade). The final grade breakdown is as

follows 90% + of the total points = A, 80 to 89.4% of the total points = B, 70 to 79.4% of the total points = C, 60 to 69.4% of the total points = D, 59.4% and below = F.

All exams are open notebook but not open textbook (which includes external readings). That is, "open notebook" means "notes only."

Advice

There is a lot of information in this class; thus, it is important to be organized and to spend a lot of time with the course material. From lecture, you will know exactly which concepts from class and from the textbook to concentrate on. I strongly advise you take the following steps.

PowerPoint lecture presentations will be posted on Canvas prior to each lecture. Do not consider the PowerPoint presentations to be a comprehensive representation of the class or a substitute for class notes. Slides embody *very little text* and instead rely on diagrams and images. Note-taking is a must in this class.

During the semester (prior to finals week), students may take one of the UNT Learning Center's Learning 101 Workshops (<http://learningcenter.unt.edu/learning101>) and by so doing may drop their lowest test score at the end of the semester. Students must take all five exams in order to drop the lowest one. Please email Dr. Wolverton immediately after attending a workshop.

Students should take notes by hand in a notebook as studies highlight this leads to greater retention of material than taking notes via tablet, phone, or laptop (<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/to-remember-a-lecture-better-take-notes-by-hand/361478/>). If you have trouble taking notes by hand, then prioritize the note-taking Learning 101 workshop.

Rewrite or type your notes after class; this solidifies many concepts and helps identify when your understanding is weak.

Make flashcards of all definitions from the lecture and those identified in class as important from the textbook and memorize solid definitions.

Although I provide test-like questions in class (for the evaluation part of lecture) and identify the important related concepts from the textbook each day, you must come to class to receive these as they will not be part of the PowerPoint presentations posted on Blackboard.

Accommodations: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as

early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Academic Dishonesty: Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Altering a returned test and claiming a grader or scanning machine made an error is also considered cheating. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Remember that you have agreed to follow the UNT Code of Student Conduct. "Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc." Again, the Code of Student Conduct can be found at http://conduct.unt.edu/student_conduct.

Classroom Courtesy: Please follow these guidelines to avoid disrupting the class.

- 1) Turn off cell phones before arriving and do not text in class.
- 2) Do not arrive late or leave early (except for a bathroom break or emergency).
- 3) Do not sleep during class.
- 4) Do not work on other assignments during class.
- 5) Do not talk or whisper to neighbors (except for formal class interaction).

Course Outline & Readings

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| Block 1: Big Picture Principles & Approaches Science, social science, common sense Major geographic & geological principles Historical ecology & ancient landscapes Basic field approaches | Jan 15 to Feb 5 <i>Block 1 Exam, Tuesday Feb 5</i> | Readings Peregrine Chs. 1-5 How Peer Review Works Hominins What is Historical Ecology? |
| Block 2: Artifacts, Resource Use, & Lifeways A brief history of American archaeology Artifact typology/classification Tool production & past lifeways | Feb 7 to 28 <i>Block 2 Exam, Thursday Feb 28</i> | Peregrine Chs. 7-9 Culture History Radiocarbon Dating The New Archaeology Chaîne Opératoire Approach |
| Block 3: Animals, Plants, Environments Zooarchaeology & Archaeobotany Taphonomy: Sampling & Preservation Past Diets & Environments | March 5 to 28 <i>Block 3 Exam, Thursday March 28</i> | Peregrine Ch. 10 Wolverton et al. 2016a Taphonomy Dog Domestication Domestication of Maize |
| Block 4: Cool Case Studies Ancient Landscape Change in Fiji Pleistocene Extinctions & California Condors Lithics in American Deserts Plastics in Denton Mesa Verde Depopulation | April 2 to 18 <i>Block 4 Exam, Thursday April 18</i> | Roos et al. 2016 Wolverton et al. 2016b Carpenter & Wolverton 2017 Ancestral Pueblo Societies |
| Block 5: Heritage Ethics Moral terrains & heritage World Heritage Sites & National Parks | April 23 to May 2 <i>Block 5 Exam, Tuesday May 10:30 to 12:30</i> | Peregrine Ch. 12 Colwell & Joy 2015 Wolverton et al. 2016c |