

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE, AND EDUCATION**

**INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY
ANTHROPOLOGY 2060 3(2-0-1) UT 45 Hours**

Prepared : November 4, 2003

Prerequisite: Anthropology 1010

Instructor: Laurie Nock

Calendar Description:

Basic principles of archaeology. Introduction to the nature, methods, and theory of anthropological archaeology, i.e. how archaeological remains are located, recovered, and interpreted. Emphasis in this course is on the principles of reconstruction of past societies from archaeological evidence.

Course Description:

(Lecture, Lab)

This course is designed as a comprehensive introduction to the sub-discipline of archaeology within the larger discipline of anthropology. Emphasis in this course is on the reconstruction of past societies from archaeological evidence and the explanation of cultural evolution. The main theoretical and methodological approaches are reviewed. Through lectures and labs the major goals of the discipline and methods for the collection of data, procedures of analysis and interpretation will be investigated. Additional topics addressed in this course include the construction of archaeological models for human prehistory; and the application of archaeological knowledge. The impact of western world view on the interpretation of archaeological will also be addressed throughout this course.

Required Text:

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn

2000 Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice. 3rd edition. New York: Thames and Hudson.

Supplementary readings may be handed out from time to time.

Grade Determination:

Grades will be based on two exams (a midterm and a final). Exam material will be drawn from lectures, assigned readings, handouts and films. Exams will be composed of multiple choice, short answer and short essay questions. Grades of 20% for the lab assignments and 20% for the lab final exam comprise the remaining 40% of your grade. They are marked using the alpha system.

Please note that both the text and lectures are considered core material. Films are used to illustrate material presented in lectures and text, and they are also examination material.

Examination/Assignment	Weight
Mid-term Examination	25%
Lab Assignments	20%

Lab Examination	20%
Final Examination	35%

Absences from Exams:

Un-excused absences from the midterm exam and failure to submit lab assignments will result in a grade of zero for that portion of the course material. In the case of excused absences, weight will be transferred evenly to other exam/assignments. Deferred exam rules will apply to the final exam.

SYLLABUS (subject to adjustments)

Week 1

Topics: Introduction to the course & major objectives.

Lab: Film: *Archaeology: Questioning the Past* (25 minutes).

Week 2 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1.

Topics: Central themes & the value and limits of archaeology; History of archaeology and pertinent theory.

Lab: Introduction and Basic Concepts

Week 3. READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapters 2, 4

Topics: The physical evidence of past human lives & how they come to rest; Dating methods and chronology.

Lab: Soils, Profiles and Processes.

Week 4. READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 3.

Topics: Case Study: Palaeoanthropology, Archaeology & Neanderthals.

Lab: Surveying and Mapping

Week 5 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 5.

Topics: Economy, Social Organization & Politics; Population Distribution Models

Lab: Introduction to Lithic Technology

Week 6 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 8.

Topics: How were tools made and used?

Lab: Lithic Technology – Stone tool analysis & typologies.

Week 7

Topics: Social Organization, Population Distributions; Trade & Exchange

Lab: Ceramic Technology

Week 8 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 9.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Lab: Film: *Iceman* (60 minutes).

Week 9 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 10.

Topics: Craft specialization, prestige & social hierarchies; Palaeonutrition & Palaeopathology.

Lab: Human Osteology and Mortuary Analysis.

Week 10 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapters 7 & 11.

Topics: Mortuary & Landscape Analysis; Ethnoarchaeology, Tools & Technology

Lab: Zooarchaeology

Week 11 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 6.

Topics: Palaeoenvironments & Landscape analysis

Lab: Palynology

Week 12 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapter 12.

Topics: Archaeology's contribution to an understanding of war & cannibalism.

FINAL LAB EXAMINATION

Week 13 READ: Renfrew & Bahn: Chapters 13 and 14.

Topics: Politics, Identity & Prehistory; Prehistory Applied, Summary and Loose ends.