

Introduction to Archaeology

September, 1990

Course Outline

Rebecca Murray

CLASS HOURS:

OFFICE HOURS:

REQUIRED READING: Knudson, S.J. 1978 Culture in Retrospect: An Introduction to Archaeology; Waveland Press, Illinois.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to introduce prehistoric archaeology. It will cover the goals and objectives of the discipline; methods and techniques used in data collection and analysis; and the procedures used to interpret archaeological data. Focus will be directed on the reconstruction of prehistoric lifeways and the development of culture. The course will combine lectures (2 hours/week) with labs (1 hour/week).

COURSE OBJECTIVES: While not a general survey of human prehistory, this course will consider the complex nature of archaeological research. Throughout the course it is hoped that students will:

- a. acquire a working knowledge of terms, methods, and theories used in archaeology.
- b. apply terms, methods, and theories to actual or hypothetical problems.
- c. read and analyze from a critical perspective.
- d. understand the contributions of archaeology to the discipline, Anthropology.
- e. explore interests further through individual study.

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| STUDENT EVALUATION: | Mid - term Exam | 30% |
| | Research Exercise | 35% |
| | Final Exam | <u>35%</u> |
| | | 100% |

Exams will be based on reading assignments, class laboratory materials, and films. The research exercise requires an analysis and interpretation of materials provided in the last lab, to be submitted as an 8 - 10 page paper (typed, double-spaced).

| <u>WEEK</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>ASSIGNED READING</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Introduction | Chapters 1, 28 |
| 2 | Basic archaeological concepts (micro) | Chapters 2-4 |
| 3 | Basic archaeological concepts (macro) Lab: Stratigraphy/Dating | Chapters 5-7 |
| 4 | Survey and Excavation Lab: Mapping/Spatial | Chapters 8-11 |
| 5 | Dating Methods and Techniques Lab: Palaeoenvironments | Chapters 12, 13 |
| 6 | Palaeoenvironmental Reconstruction I Lab: Faunal Analysis | Chapters 14, 15 |
| 7 | Palaeoenvironmental Reconstruction II | Review: Chap. 1-15 |
| 8 | M I D T E R M E X A M I N A T I O N | |
| 9 | Artifact Analysis I Lab: Midden Analysis | Chapters 16, 17 |
| 10 | Artifact Analysis II Lab: Artifacts - material and technical analysis | Chapters 18, 19 |
| 11 | Culture Historical Reconstruction Lab: Artifacts - morphological and functional analysis | Chapters 20, 21 |
| 12 | Economic Reconstruction Lab: Misc. Archaeological Materials | Chapter 22 |
| 13 | Social Structure and Belief Systems Lab: Research Exercise Handout | Chapter 23, 24 |
| 14 | Settlement Archaeology | Chapter 25 |
| 15 | Cultural Process and Explanation Review | Chapters 26, 27 Chapters 16 - 27 |