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### Anthropology 240 Essentials of Archaeology

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# ESSENTIALS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

## (ANTH 240 - 01 (44204)) CC BY-NC-SA

Timothy Pugh

Fall 2020

MW 10:45-12:00

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**Course Objectives:** *Essentials in Archaeology* introduces the concepts and methods that archaeologists use to obtain reliable data and interpret that data. We will discuss the “who, what, why, and how” of archaeological research. The purpose of the course is to encourage students to think like an archaeologist. We will consider a variety of materials—readings, videos, data sets, and other open education resources that will help us to obtain a complete picture of archaeology.

The course begins with a discussion of the history of archaeology and its basic goals. We then move to artifacts and sites, excavation, and the importance of context. Next, we will consider dating methods from those based upon style to those based upon the decay of radioactive materials. After learning these basic methods, we will move to middle range theory regarding tool production, social organization, diet, bioarchaeology, exchange, and symbolism.

**Requirements:** Course grades will be determined as follows:

Participation (5%)

Project (12%)

Video Assignments (18%)

Mid-Term Exam (30%)

Final Exam (30%)

**Required Readings and Videos:** All readings and videos are available as Open Educational Resources. Students are expected to read the materials by the assigned date. In the *Tentative Schedule* listed below, required readings are listed to the right of the date that they are to be read. Several of the documentaries are from recent work at Jamestown. The point of the Jamestown videos is to broaden coverage of Historical Archaeology.

**Lectures:** Lectures will take place on Blackboard Collaborative Ultra and students are expected to attend. Some of my lectures will be based upon course readings, but I do not “lecture from the book.” The readings and videos are meant to prepare you for lectures and to broaden your education experience. These videos are made for the

general public—not for young scholars such as yourselves—so I will not lecture about these easy to understand materials.

**Participation:** I will occasionally give unannounced quizzes to make sure students are doing the readings and to discern whether they comprehend the materials presented in class. I may also give in-class assignments. Quizzes can occur at any time during the class hour (hint: be on time and don't leave early). There will be no make-up quizzes or late in-class assignments.

**Projects:** Students will a project that will compose a substantial portion of the course grade. The project will provide students practical experience corresponding with materials presented in lectures and readings. You will be given a set of data and your task will be to interpret that data. Late projects lose one letter grade per day.

**Videos Projects:** Students will watch three Time Team videos—these are separate from videos assigned as weekly course resources. All of these videos concern archaeology conducted by archaeologists from the UK, which will add that perspective to the course.

You will write essays (with specific instructions) about each video. Videos may be assigned randomly and you must watch and write about the video that you are assigned. The project videos will also be “on the table” for exams. These videos will help students to visualize archaeological practice and are assigned in lieu of additional readings. Students will write 500 word summaries in their own words. The summaries will describe the questions that the archaeologists in each program attempt to answer and the methods used to answer those questions. In the process, define three technical terms used in the program—do not repeat technical terms that you used in a previous assignment. Underline the technical terms that you define. If you wish, you may also use 50 of the 500 words to question the validity of the findings and suggest alternative explanations. Do not plagiarize in any form. All assignments must be submitted to blackboard. Do not attach files. Paste the text into the space provided and make certain that you can observe the plagiarism checker.

**Exams:** There will be a mid-term and a final exam. These exams may include multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank, identification, and essay questions.

# Tentative Schedule

## Unit 1: Introduction and Methods

### Aug 26, 31: Introduction to Archaeology

In this section, we will consider the history of archaeology and archaeology as a discipline that stands at the intersection of the sciences nor the humanities.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeology00coli> Read Chapter 1

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNxCHeFCGKY> Brian Fagan's thoughts on archaeology

### Sept 2, 9: Archaeological Data

This section considers the most basic archaeological data: artifacts, features, and sites.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeology00coli> Read Chapter 2

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk261CZaCKg> Otzi

### Sept 14, 16: Archaeological Survey (Finding Sites)

In this section, we will consider how archaeologists find archaeological sites. Consider the various methods and how they might be used together.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeology00coli> Read Chapter 3

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxXGEPg2yak> LiDAR Video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiPS9MIfecE> Drone transect over a site  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDgwWpftatw> GPR Video (turn your sound off)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXrV1Nv6HRU> Magnetometer Videos

### Sept 14 Video Project 1 Due by 10 pm

Watch this Time Team video and write a 500 word summary describing its research design in your own words. The summaries will describe the questions that the archaeologists in each program attempt to answer and the methods used to answer those questions. In the process, define three technical terms used in the program. If you wish, you may also use 100 of the 450 words to question the validity of the findings and suggest alternative explanations. Do not plagiarize in any form. All assignments must be submitted to blackboard. Do not attach files. Paste the text into the space provided and make certain that the plagiarism checker functions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VOF2U3SYjc> Time Team Sutton Courtenay

### Sept 21, 23, 29: Excavation

In this section, we will consider how archeologists excavate and why they use particular methods.

Read: none—continuing with Chapter 3

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNdFDzQzqPk> Putting in a unit  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcT1vGyJzyg> Very basic excavation  
Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w\\_TJS5j01M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w_TJS5j01M) Stratigraphy  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXZLDGu4T8I> Context  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mhla7OJ8sN4> Jamestown Excavation I  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuTGyvH4fcg> Jamestown Excavations II

## Sept 29 Video Project 2 Due by 10 pm

Watch this Time Team video and write a 500 word summary describing its research design in your own words. The summaries will describe the questions that the archaeologists in each program attempt to answer and the methods used to answer those questions. In the process, define three technical terms used in the program. If you wish, you may also use 100 of the 450 words to question the validity of the findings and suggest alternative explanations. Do not plagiarize in any form. All assignments must be submitted to blackboard. Do not attach files. Paste the text into the space provided and make certain that the plagiarism checker functions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkP7Z8U9BEA> Time Team Llygadwy, Wales

## Sept 30: Oct 5 Chronology (Dating sites)

In this section, we will consider how archaeologists consider site chronologies with emphasis on stratigraphy and absolute dating methods.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeologytheor00renf> Read Chapter 4  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wDThHiVGqs> Typology made fun  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qBjGtlXnD4> Dating Basics  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YofOli3Wc-E> C-14 Cheat sheet

## Oct 7, 14: Materials Analysis

This section will consider the production of various types of artifacts.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeologytheor00renf> Read Chapter 8  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Df8A1SD2B4> Hammer Percussion  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Vbiw8lwmKk> Pressure Flaking  
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPyTZ59mzq0> Ceramic Analysis

## Oct 19: Exam 1

## Oct 21, 26, 28: Social Organization

In this section, we will consider evidence for and models of ancient social organization.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeologytheor00renf> Read Chapter 5

## Sept 26 Video Project 1 Due by 10 pm

Watch this Time Team video and write a 500 word summary describing its research design in your own words. The summaries will describe the questions that the archaeologists in each program attempt to answer and the methods used to answer those questions. In the process, define three technical terms used in the program. If you wish, you may also use 100 of the 450 words to question the validity of the findings and suggest alternative explanations. Do not plagiarize in any form. All assignments must be submitted to blackboard. Do not attach files. Paste the text into the space provided and make certain that the plagiarism checker functions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoGGMnxnFB0> Time Team Warriors

## Nov 2, 4: Bioarchaeology

In this section, we will consider what can be discerned through the study of human remains and their contexts.

Read:

[https://www.academia.edu/24311969/Parker\\_Pearson\\_M.\\_The\\_Archaeology\\_of\\_Death\\_and\\_Burial](https://www.academia.edu/24311969/Parker_Pearson_M._The_Archaeology_of_Death_and_Burial)

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eltxiCI9rsE> Cannibalism at Jamestown?

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5bNnnR8lwk> Digging Thornton Abbey Plague Pit

Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bWNF\\_eNwvI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bWNF_eNwvI&feature=youtu.be) The Syphilis Enigma

## Nov 9, 11: Environmental and Diet

This section considers the reconstruction of ancient diets and environments.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeologytheor00renf> Read Chapter 7

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yMauoW8nzo> Simple Flotation

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4lVsyQ0OM> Pollen and Tephra

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myaaVql5PLq> Environmental Archaeology

## Nov 16, 18: Class Project

During these two class periods, I will explain the final project to the class as well as a site called Zapeten. We will also discuss activity areas.

Read: Chapter 1 in The Kowoj : Identity, Migration, and Geopolitics in Late Postclassic Petén, Guatemala. You can find in the Queens College library at:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/qc-ebooks/reader.action?docID=3039689&ppg=24>

Visit this web page: <https://www.itzaarchaeology.com/group-c/>

Instructions: For the class project, you are to examine the data presented on Group C at Zapeten. Pay close attention to the contexts of artifacts in the group—especially associations. Look for concentrations that may reflect activities. On **Dec. 9**, you will turn in a **1200** word report on Group C. You may write it an archaeological report or as a fictional account of person experiencing activities in Group C. The latter will required a couple of hundred more words. In

both cases, your projects will need to focus upon the material culture of Group C when it was occupied by the Kowoj Maya.

### Nov 23, 30: Exchange

This section considers the interactions between social groups with particular attention paid to exchange and warfare.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeologytheor00renf> Read Chapter 9

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV0UtusX8r0> Pocahontas Revealed

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMojTZKbwSw> Easter archaeology?

### Dec 2, 7, 9: Symbolic Archaeology

In this section, we will examine how archaeologists consider how ancient people thought with special attention paid to highly symbolic behaviors such as ritual, religion, and myth.

Read: <https://archive.org/details/archaeologytheor00renf> Chapter 10

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSAeSZ2H1wo> Stonehenge

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYcWs7qJeCI> Maya Ballcourts

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2CDa5zRQR0> What is Goebekli Tepe?

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TBA: Final Exam

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