

1-2004

ANTH 250.01: Introduction to Archaeology

John E. Douglas

University of Montana - Missoula, john.douglas@umontana.edu

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INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY: SPRING 2004

Professor: **John Douglas**; Office: Social Sciences 233; Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1-2, Friday 11-12, or by appointment;; Tel: 243-4246; E-mail: John.Douglas@umontana.edu.

Teaching Assistant: Eileen Flannigan; Office: SS 216; Message telephone: 243-5865. Office hours: _____; E-mail: Eileen.Flannigan@umontana.edu.

Purpose: Archaeology is the study of material culture to make inferences about human behavior. Anthropological archaeologists apply these inferences to increase our understanding of all human societies: contemporary, historic, and prehistoric. This class surveys the issues and questions that motivate archaeologists to examine material culture, as well as the techniques used by archaeologists. Case examples illustrating goals and techniques are examined. Students who satisfactorily complete this course will gain an understanding of the goals and methods of contemporary archaeology as well as the challenges facing archaeology.

Required text: Renfrew, Colin, and Paul Bahn, 2000, *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice* (Second or Third edition). Thames and Hudson, New York. A copy of the second edition is on two hour reserve at the Mansfield Library main desk.

Course requirements: There are no prerequisites. Students are responsible for all assigned materials: lectures, videos, slides, and readings. **Class attendance is crucial to gain mastery of the material.**

Grade Determination: There are four exams, each worth 100 points. Each exam covers about a fourth of the course's lecture material and readings. All regular tests and the final will consist of true-false and multiple-choice questions. Students must bring a sharpened, soft pencil and scantron sheet (pink, 1/3 sheet size, available in the bookstore) to take the exam. **Objective midterm exams will not be available at any time other than their scheduled class time.** Students who miss tests may take the comprehensive short answer/essay exam in the final period or you may petition to arrange a short answer/essay makeup exam covering the same material as the missing test, at the discretion of the T.A. An optional comprehensive essay final can be taken to substitute for a missing or a low test score. This optional final cannot lower your grade. *A single extra credit assignment* (to be announced) can be completed to increase your point total up to 15 points; it is due on April 9. The final grade is based on a 400-point scale: 4 tests@ 100 points each = 400 (plus any additional points from the extra credit assignment). Grades are based on a straight point system:

360 points (90%+) = A
240-279 points = D

320-359 points = B
less than 240 points = F

280-319 points = C
more than 239 points = "Pass"

Other issues:

Drops: Please note that February 13 is the last day to add or drop a course without penalty, and March 9 is the last day to add, drop, or change grading option with signatures and fees.

Disability Accommodations: When requested by the student, learning disabilities recognized by Disability Student Services (DSS) will be ameliorated with any reasonable accommodation: copies of notes, special testing environment, extended testing time, and special forms of the tests.

Incompletes: An incomplete will be considered only when requested by the student. At the discretion of the instructor, incompletes are given to students who missed a *portion* of the class because of

documented serious health or personal problem during the semester. Students have one year to complete the course; requirements are negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Topic	Readings
26-Jan	M	Introduction	
28-Jan	W	Historic perspectives	Chapter 1
30-Jan	F		
2-Feb	M	Formation Processes	Chapter 2
4-Feb	W		
6-Feb	F	Survey and Excavation	Chapter 3
9-Feb	M		
11-Feb	W		
13-Feb	F		
16-Feb	M	<i>President's Day Holiday</i>	
18-Feb	W	Test 1	
20-Feb	F	Chronology	Chapter 4
23-Feb	M		
25-Feb	W		
27-Feb	F	Social Archaeology	Chapter 5
1-Mar	M		
3-Mar	W		
5-Mar	F		
8-Mar	M	Environmental Reconstruction	Chapter 6
10-Mar	W		
12-Mar	F	Test 2	
15-Mar	M	Subsistence and Diet	Chapter 7
17-Mar	W		
19-Mar	F	Technology	Chapter 8
22-Mar	M		
24-Mar	W		
26-Mar	F	Trade and exchange	Chapter 9
	M-F	<i>SPRING BREAK, MARCH 29-APRIL 2</i>	
5-Apr	M		
7-Apr	W		
9-Apr	F		
12-Apr	M	Test 3	
14-Apr	W	Art and religion	Chapter 10
16-Apr	F	(Extra Credit Assignment due)	
19-Apr	M	Bio-archaeology	Chapter 11
21-Apr	W		
23-Apr	F	Explanation in Archaeology	Chapter 12
26-Apr	M		
28-Apr	W		
30-Apr	F	Whose Past?	Chapter 14
3-May	M		
5-May	W		
7-May	F		
14-May	F	FINAL PERIOD: Test 4, 10:10-11:00; Comprehensive essay exam, 11:10-12:10	

Summer school:

There are three exams, each worth 100 points. Each exam covers about a third of the course's lecture material and readings. Tests consists of true-false, matching, multiple-choice and short answer questions. Students who miss tests may petition to arrange a short answer/essay makeup exam covering the same material as the missing test at the discretion of the instructor.

A single extra credit assignment can be completed to increase your point total up to 15 points (see page 3).

The final grade is based on a 300-point scale: 3 tests@ 100 points each = 300 (plus any additional points from the extra credit assignment). Grades are based on a straight point system:

270 points+ = A

240-269 points = B

210-239 points = C (or "Pass")

180-209 points= D

less than 180 points = F

more than 210 points = P

Extra Credit Homework Assignment, *Archaeology: Popular and Scholarly Views:*

This extra credit assignment is worth up to 20 points, depending on how well the paper fits the assignment, the quality of the analysis, and the skill of presentation (including grammar and spelling). The paper must be no more than 1,000 words (four double spaced typed pages with standard formatting; you may want to use “word count” under “Tools” on the MS Word tool bar). In addition to the text, you must provide a full bibliographic citing of the articles that you use, and you must attach a **photocopy** (or computer printout, if using web resources) of the **FIRST** page of the four articles that you use. Pages torn out of magazines or journals will not be accepted. **Papers are due on Monday, July 28, in class; papers must be the stated length, typed, stapled, and on-time.** Early papers will be accepted.

Introduction: Your task is to find four articles about archaeology, two from the popular press and two from a scholarly journal. They do not need to be exactly the same topic, but they should share some themes. You need to read and understand these articles, then prepare a short review outlining your articles and comparing and contrasting the approaches taken in scholarly and popular presentations.

What to do:

1. Find two popular articles from the last 13 years dealing with a subject relating to archaeology. These might be from a “popular” science magazine such as *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, *Archaeology*, or *Discover Magazine*, popular weekly or monthly magazines such as *Atlantic Monthly* or *Newsweek*, or newspapers, such as *The New York Times*. The web site, “Anthropology in the News,” <http://www.tamu.edu/anthropology/news.html>, may be helpful in your search.

2. Find two scholarly articles from the last 13 years dealing with similar topics as your popular articles. I recommend four general archaeology journals, *American Antiquity*, *Plains Anthropologist*, *World Archaeology*, and *Journal of Field Archaeology*. All of these journals are available in the Mansfield Library. Early 1990s articles from the journals *American Antiquity* and *World Archaeology* are available as e-journals through the Mansfield Library (using the Jstor database).

3. Write your paper, making sure that you cover the following topics:

Brief summaries of the articles

Compare and contrast popular and academic writing as specifically as possible. Comparisons that you may want to consider include:

voice and language use; how interpretations are backed with evidence and argument; how the goals of the authors differ

How effective are the popular articles in explaining to the public what archaeologists do? Do they capture any of the excitement of archaeology?

How might professional archaeologists reach a larger audience?

4. Be very careful to cite quotations. If you do not put clearly mark the source of sentences taken from the articles, you are committing “plagiarism,” an activity that, *at a minimum*, will result in a reduced grade for this class and notification of the Dean of Students. Please be familiar with the warning in the 2002-2003 University of Montana Catalog, which is reproduced below:

Plagiarism is the representing of another’s work as one’s own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion. (See Student Conduct Code section of this catalog.)

Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording but also ideas. Acknowledgment of whatever is not one’s own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one’s own original work is plagiarism.

Anthropology 250 Summer 2003, Test 1 Study Guide

Exam questions are taken from the lectures, textbook, slide shows and videos. All items on the following list are not guaranteed to be on the exam, nor is the exclusion of an item from this list a guarantee that it will not be on the exam.

Concepts to know

Discovery, methods, and theory
 Culture history
 Processual (new) archaeology
 Post-processual (interpretive) arch.
 Formation processes (cultural and natural/environmental)
 Key positions in archaeological theory from the 19th century to the present
 Natural vs. arbitrary levels
 Horizontal/Vertical Exposure
 Grid systems
 Soil description
 Remote sensing
 Research Design
 Survey
 Environment & preservation
 Relative vs. Absolute dating
 Dendrochronology
 Thermoluminance (TL)
 Radiocarbon dating

- Calibration
- Half-life
- Range of dates
- AMS

 Radioactive decay

Terms to know

Historical Archaeology
 Feature
 Artifact
 Ecofact
 Matrix
 Provenience
 Association
 Prehistory
 Systemic vs. archaeological context
 Primary refuse
 Secondary refuse
De facto refuse
 Cache
 Excavation
 Mapping

Profile

Point provenience (piece plotting)
 Test Excavation
 Magnetometer
 Potassium/Argon dating
 Baulk
 Seriation
 Stratigraphy
 Deflation
 Bioturbation
 Culture/Material Culture
 Context
 Midden

People to know

Michael Schiffer
 Lewis Binford
 Ian Hodder
 John Lubbock
 Charles Darwin/Charles Lyell
 Thomas Jefferson
 C.J. Thomsen
 Jacques Boucher de Perthes
 V. Gordon Childe
 Alfred V. Kidder
 Walter Taylor
 Willard Libby

Places to know

Melos (Island)
 Pompeii
 Catal Huyuk
 Iceman of the Alps
 Ozette Site
 Tomb of Tutankamun
 Sutton Hoo
 Teotihuacan
 Virginia City, Montana
 Guajara, (mouth of Amazon)