ANTH 319 Research Methods in Archaeological & Biological Anthropology

Professor: Dr. Katherine Cook
Email: katherinecook@uvic.ca   **Office:** COR 221
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 3-4pm, or by appointment

Lecture Schedule: TWF 1:30-2:20 COR B250

This course will guide students through the research methods employed by archaeologists and biological anthropologists. How do you start a research project, and what are the keys to designing strong methodologies and interpretations? What is 'enough data', and how do you understand what it means? How are research results communicated to diverse audiences, and what can you do to deal with writer's block or choose where to publish?

Week by week, this course will follow the research process, engaging with designing and managing independent research projects, developing and testing hypotheses, sampling, building and managing databases, presenting data, and communicating findings. It will also explore the integration of new technologies to answer critical questions in these sub-disciplines. This will be complemented by discussions of best practice, realities in job market today, and the ways that research is impacted by political, economic and social developments.

Although there are some lectures, most classes will be framed as a research group: we will talk about research, work through problems, and collaborate. Be prepared to participate in frank conversations about experiences, successes, failures, and everything in between!

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

During the semester, you will:

- Undertake and critically assess research in relation to changing theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches in archaeology and biological anthropology
- Develop effective research design, project management, and communication skills to generate a range of graphical inputs and write for diverse audiences
- Build digital literacy by mastering research technologies
- Cultivate personal and professional integrity and accountability, while also fostering respectful and collaborative partnerships and navigating ethical dilemmas in research

You will also emerge with a portfolio of work that you could use in future applications, or even submit for publication or presentation opportunities!

SCHEDULE

Week of	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
Jan 2-8		Introduction to Course: This thing called 'Research'	Introduction to Research Projects **READ:** Coursepack 1-10 & Booth et al. 2008
Jan 9-15	Research as 'Craft' or 'Design' **READ:** CP 11-14, Crewel 2014 Exercises 2 & 3	What makes good research?	*Research Group:* The Elevator Pitch **Have Completed Exercise 1**
Jan 16-22	The Proposal: Approaches to Grants & Research **READ:** CP 15-20, Exercise #4	Why do a Lit Review? (and how)	Guest Researcher
Jan 23-29	*Research Group*: Proposal Peer Review (Bring Draft)	*Sampling Strategies & Data* **READ:** CP 21-24	*Sampling Strategies & Data* Continued
Jan 30-Feb 5	'Databases for Dummies' A Crash Course **RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE**	Managing Databases, Managing Time **READ:** CP 25-27 &Bernard (2011a); Exercise #5	OPEN 'LAB': Crafting YOUR Database
Feb 6-12	**Research Presentations**	**Research Presentations**	Guest Researcher
Feb 13-19	**READING BREAK**	**READING BREAK**	**READING BREAK**
Feb 20-26	Approaching Analysis: Exploring the data **READ:** CP 28 & Bernard (2011b)	*Tools for Analysing Data*	*Tools for Analysing Data* **DATABASE DUE**
Feb 27-March 5	Analysis to Interpretation: Methods, Data & Theory **READ:** CP 29-32	OPEN 'LAB': Analysis	Research Group: What have you been Analysing?
March 6-12	From Analysis to Interpretation	What Role Does Presentation play?	*Tools for Presenting Data*
March 13-19	*Tools for Presenting Data*	OPEN 'LAB': Presentation	*Research Group:* 3MT **ANALYSIS & PRES. DUE**
March 20-26	Introduction: Communicating Research Findings **READ:** CP 33, Ex #6	Academic Communications **READ:** CP 34-35, Connah (2010), Pyne (2009a)	Academic Communications II
March 27-April 2	General Audiences Communications **READ:** CP 36-38; Pyne (2009b)	General Audience Communications II	No Class: Get Writing!
April 3-9	Digital Communications **READ:** CP 39-41, Suber (2012), Conway (2010)		

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Course pack available from the bookstore.

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance & Research Group Participation	15%
Independent Research Project:	
I. Proposal & Lit Review	15%
II. Database & Critical Reflection	10%
III. Analysis/Presentation & Critical Reflection	10%
Presentation: Research Critique	10%
Final Assignment	40%

Attendance & Research Group Participation: As a small research collective, your attendance, preparation for class, and contributions to the Research Group are important to your experience, and that of others. Your grade will be assessed based on the quantity and quality of your attendance/participation.

Independent Research Project: You will submit three assignments based on your independent research project: I. proposal; II. database; and III. analysis and presentation of research findings. These will be due throughout the course, and the details are contained within the course pack/CourseSpaces.

Presentation: You will also be responsible for giving one 10-minute presentation that critically assesses a research project in archaeology, biological anthropology or bioarchaeology. Pick a project that you love, that inspires you, or even one that you hate – as long as you can tell the class about what makes it successful and/or unsuccessful. A sign-up sheet will be available at the beginning of the semester. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a presentation date.

Final Assignment: The final assignment will be the cumulative result of your independent research project. You will submit polished versions of the work that you have produced throughout the semester, in addition to two pieces of original writing. See course pack for details.

COURSESPACES

CourseSpaces.uvic.ca will be used to post course information, announcements, additional material and grades. The discussion board will also be used to for additional opportunities to engage.

Powerpoint slides for lectures will be posted on CourseSpaces, but my lecture notes will not be distributed. If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get notes from another student.

LATE POLICY

Assignments will lose 5% a day per day late, to a maximum of two weeks. Each component of the Independent Research Project must be submitted in order to pass the course.

ON COMMUNICATION:

Please come to office hours or set up an appointment to discuss grades, assignments or any other concerns in person.

When emailing, please put the course code and brief description in subject line, and ensure your full name and student number is in the email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Although some of the assignments and labs for this course may be completed in groups, it is <u>extremely important</u> that your work represents you own ideas, understandings and writing. If you have any concerns about this issue, please do get in touch before submitting an assignment!

Please also familiarise yourself with UVic's policy on Academic Integrity:
http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

EQUITY POLICY STATEMENT:

"The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members" [Senate resolution, January 13, 1999].

As part of our commitment to equity, the Department of Anthropology has established an Equity Committee. If you have concerns regarding equity issues in the classroom, you may contact a member of the Equity Committee or the Chair of the Department. The Department Secretary can provide you with the names of the current members of this committee.