

OXFORD COLLEGE
Spring 2015

ANTHROPOLOGY 204Q

Introduction to Archaeology

Pierce Hall 109
MoWe 2:30-4:10

(ANTH_OX 204Q-02A1 OPUS course # 5533)

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Office Hours: by appointment only (times available M-Th and most Fridays)

INQUIRY INTO ARCHAEOLOGY

This course asks the fundamental questions:

- *What is culture, and how does archaeology help us to understand our cultural identity?*
- *What is material culture and how does it shape our social identities and interactions?*
- *How does archaeology investigate and explain very long-term prehistoric changes (over centuries and millennia) in societies?*
- *How does archaeology as a field of inquiry relate to the arts, humanities, and other social and environmental sciences?*

As an INQUIRY course, you will be introduced to ways of thinking about, identifying, and solving diverse research problems in archaeology.

You will also delve into the broader concern about why archaeology is important to investigating your place and heritage in society, along with your own potential for agency in society. How does the material world—with both durable and fleeting features—shape, constrain, and support your awareness and choices in your life?

Anthropology 204: Introduction to Archaeology will facilitate exploration of introductory level archaeological case studies, material culture analysis case studies, and practical exercises studying principles of stratigraphy and archaeological association. Key kinds of evidence will be documentation from museum displays, archives, texts, archaeological excavations, ethnographic observations of the relationships between human beings and material culture, and simulated archaeological deposits. Methods of communication will focus on expository writing and small group in-class discussions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

***Archaeology: The Basics, 1st or 2nd edition, by Clive Gamble.
Routledge.***

REQUIRED E-COURSEPACK:

Additional REQUIRED readings are posted as an *e-coursepack* (in the form of a downloadable zipped file) on Blackboard.

REQUIREMENTS:

Grades are based on INQ essays, a final INQ project, and a final reflective essay, along with participation in in-class discussions, assignments and peer evaluation activities.

The requirements will be weighed for your final course grade in the following way:

ATTENDANCE:	15%
INQ ESSAYS (4 BEST OUT OF 5):	60%
Final INQ Project:	20%
Final Reflective Essay (due Apr 30):	5%

**This course will be graded on a +- basis. There is no curve.
The grade cut-offs are as follows:**

**A ≥ 93; A- ≥ 91; B+ ≥ 89; B ≥ 82; B- ≥ 80; C+ ≥ 78; C ≥ 72; C- ≥ 70;
D ≥ 62; D- ≥ 60; F < 60**

This is to maintain a standard of excellence in achievement for the highest grade, while allowing for opportunity to improve.

The graded Inquiry Essays, the Project, and the Final Reflective Essay are MANDATORY. A failure to complete any of these will result in a failing grade for the course.

Unless you have a valid excuse that you present to me beforehand, all exam and due dates must be strictly adhered to. RARE EXCEPTIONS are granted under the following conditions: you have a valid, documented medical or family *emergency*.

If you require special arrangements through Disability Services, or if you otherwise know ahead of time that you have a major schedule conflict, contact me as soon as possible to schedule an alternative exam. Be prepared to provide documentation.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All Oxford students are bound by the [Oxford College Honor Code](#). The two most relevant Honor Code violations are cheating on exams and assignments and plagiarism. The standard penalty for a first cheating or plagiarism violation is an F in the course. However, other violations, such as giving false information to an instructor, may also lead to penalties that are just as serious. The [Oxford College Honor Code](#) outlines the details of possible violations; how suspected violations are reported; the procedures of investigation; your rights and responsibilities if you are accused of a violation by the Honor Council investigators; and the consequences of the full Honor Council finding that you have committed an Honor violation. Moreover, the Honor Code provides a detailed definition of plagiarism.

In fewer words: Read the Honor Code, carry out and support honest work by yourself and your classmates, ask the instructor or Honor Council leaders when you are unsure, and do not cheat or plagiarize.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

Of course I have full respect for religious practice and the personal, family, and community obligations that go with it. Please be prepared to share with me if you are going to miss any scheduled class activity due to observance of a religious holiday. And please let me know as soon as possible in the semester if any scheduled exam or other due date conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe. This way, we can make alternative arrangements early!

KEY DATE TO REMEMBER:

INQ Essay 1:	MONDAY Jan 26th @ 9 am on SafeAssign
INQ Essay 2:	MONDAY Feb 9th @ 9 am on SafeAssign
INQ Essay 3:	MONDAY Feb 23rd @ 9 am on SafeAssign
INQ Essay 4:	WEDNESDAY Mar 4th @ 9 am on SafeAssign
INQ Essay 5:	MONDAY Mar 30th @ 9 am on SafeAssign
Final INQ Project:	MONDAY Apr 27th in class
Final Reflective Essay:	THURSDAY Apr 30th @ 5 pm (SafeAssign)

SYLLABUS

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION
ANY CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND ON THE BLACKBOARD PAGE

PART I: ARCHAEOLOGY AS THE STUDY OF THINGS IN OUR LIVES

Archaeology and Things

WEDNESDAY Jan 14

Web Resources: Nippur Deluge Tablet Exhibit <http://carlos.emory.edu/content/two-each-nippur-deluge-tablet-and-noahs-flood>
Nippur Deluge Tablet Photographs
<http://www.penn.museum/collections/object/97591>
Wikipedia Sumerian Creation Myth page
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumerian_creation_myth
Nippur Deluge Tablet Translation <http://etcsl.orinst.ox.ac.uk/cgi-bin/etcsl.cgi?text=t.1.7.4#>

Archaeology: Culture and Material Culture

WEDNESDAY Jan 21

e-coursepack: 01 – Hitchings & Lee – Air Conditioning in Singapore
INQUIRY EXERCISE 1: BATHROOMS AT OXFORD

Ideas, Culture, Things, and Society

MONDAY Jan 26

e-coursepack: 02 – Lavenda & Schultz – Chapter 1
03 – Lavenda & Schultz – Chapter 2
04 – Goldschmidt - Chapter 4
05 – Goldschmidt - Chapter 5

DUE: INQ Essay 1 on SafeAssign (by 9 am)

The Logic of Culture and Its Things

WEDNESDAY Jan 28

e-coursepack: 06 – Leach – 2-3-13
INQUIRY EXERCISE 2: BRING A THING – ANYTHING REALLY - TO THIS CLASS!

The Logic of Art

MONDAY Feb 2

e-coursepack: 07 – Gell – Chapter 1
08 – Gell – Chapter 2

Culture and Art: From the Mundane to the Extraordinary **WEDNESDAY Feb 4**

e-coursepack: 09 – Derby – The Evil Eye
10 – Gaitán Ammann – With a Hint of Paris in the Mouth

PART II: POWER, THINGS, AND AGENCY

The Archive of Our (Intertwined) Lives **MONDAY Feb 9**

e-coursepack: 11 – Foucault – Historical *a priori*
12 – Foucault – Archaeology of Ideas

INQ Essay 2: Due on SafeAssign (by 9 am)

The Archaeology of Knowledge **WEDNESDAY Feb 11**

e-coursepack: 13 – Agamben – What is an Apparatus?

INQUIRY EXERCISE 3: Bring an Art Object or Digital Image of an Art Object to Class

Case Study 1: Things and Culture in the Neolithic **MONDAY Feb 16**

e-coursepack: 14 – Hodder – Life at Çatalhöyük

Case Study 1, cont. **WEDNESDAY Feb 18**

Gamble: Chapter 1 & Chapter 4

Case Study 2: Pots, Hospitality, and Society **MONDAY Feb 23**

e-coursepack: 15 – Bowser – Ceramic Style and Social Agency

INQ Essay 3: Due on SafeAssign (by 9 am)

Case Study 2, cont. **WEDNESDAY Feb 25**

Gamble: Chapter 5

e-coursepack: 16 – Gosselain – In Pots We Trust

Case Study 3: An Egyptian Tomb **MONDAY Mar 2**

e-coursepack: 17 – Reeder – The Tomb of Niankhkhnum and Khnuhotep

ROUNDTABLE: Things and Culture
WEDNESDAY Mar 4

Be prepared to discuss your INQ Essay 4

INQ Essay 4: Due on SafeAssign (by 9 am)

MONDAY Mar 9 & WEDNESDAY Mar 11 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

PART III: THE PAST REACHES OUT TO US AND GRABS US

Dealing with Pasts, Pastness, Otherness, and the Future

MONDAY Mar 16

Gamble: Chapter 2

e-coursepack: 18 – Holtorf – Chapter 1

19 – Holtorf – Chapter 2

Poetry and the Past

WEDNESDAY Mar 18

e-coursepack: 20 – Nilsson Stutz – On the Past and Poetry

The Archaeology of the Past

MONDAY Mar 23

e-coursepack: 21 – Nilsson Stutz – The Dead in the Past

The Archaeology of the Past

WEDNESDAY Mar 25

e-coursepack: 22 – Lovecraft – Under the Pyramids

23 – Lovecraft – The Shunned House

24 – Lovecraft – The Call of Cthulu

IN-CLASS INQ EXERCISE – ARCHAEOLOGY AND REFLECTIONS OF OUR MATERIAL EXISTENCE

ROUNDTABLE: The Materiality of Past, Present, and Future

MONDAY Mar 30

Be prepared to discuss your INQ Essay 4

INQ ESSAY 5: Due on SafeAssign (by 9 am)

PART IV: ARCHAEOLOGY, DIVERSITY, AND COMPLEXITY

The Evolution of Cultures

WEDNESDAY Apr 1

Gamble: Chapter 3

e-coursepack: 25 – Marcus – Social Evolution

26 – Johnson & Earle – Evolution of Societies

Case Study 1: Neanderthals as Hunter-Gatherers

MONDAY Apr 6

e-coursepack: 27 – Henry et al – Tor Faraj Rockshelter
28 – Bar-Yosef & Vandermeersch – Moderns & Neandertals in the Levant

Case Study 2: Prehistoric Sedentism and Domestication

WEDNESDAY Apr 8

Gamble: Chapter 6
e-coursepack: 29 – Schmidt – Gobekli Tepe
30 – Molleson – The Bones of Abu Hureyra

Case Study 3: The Institutionalization of Social Inequality

MONDAY Apr 13

Gamble: Chapter 7
e-coursepack: 31 – Earle – The Nature of Political Power
32 – Stein & Özbal – Ubaid and Uruk Expansion

Case Study 4: What, If Anything, Is Civilization?

WEDNESDAY Apr 15

Gamble: Chapter 8
e-coursepack: 33 – Algaze – The Sumerian Take-Off

Work on Final INQ Project

MONDAY Apr 20

Work on Final INQ Project

WEDNESDAY Apr 22

FINAL INQUIRY PROJECT Due in Class

MONDAY Apr 27

Final Discussion – Agency in the World ... and the Past's Agency on that World

FINAL REFLECTIVE ESSAY Due THURSDAY Apr 30 by 5 pm on SafeAssign