

OXFORD COLLEGE
Spring 2014

ANTHROPOLOGY 204Q

Introduction to Archaeology

Language Hall 101
MoWe 2:30-4:10
(ANTH_OX 204Q-02A1 OPUS course # 5327)

Professor: Dr. Aaron Jonas Stutz
e-mail: astutz@emory.edu
phone: 770-784-8349
Office: Language Hall 2nd Floor Offices
Office Hours: by appointment only

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 other social and environmental sciences?

As an inquiry course, you will be introduced to ways of thinking about, identifying, and solving real research problems in archaeology. You will also delve into the broader concern about why archaeology is important to society.

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 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.

You will explore the importance of archaeology in bringing new interdisciplinary perspectives to the social and environmental sciences, emphasizing:

- the interrelatedness of technology, sociopolitical organization, economics, demography and health, and cultural beliefs and values
- long-term human impacts on the environment
- a global comparative perspective on major sociopolitical and economic changes usually not addressed by History, including origins of agriculture, the prehistoric origins of sociopolitical inequality, and the origins of early states

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Archaeology, 6th Edition (2013), by Robert L. Kelly & David Hurst Thomas. Cengage. ISBN-13: 978-1111829995.

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 2 written in-class exams, participation in in-class assignments and peer evaluation activities, take-home reflections and a response paper, and a final reflective essay. The exams will cover material introduced in the readings and in class.

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

IN-CLASS INQ EXERCISES:	8%
Peer-Evaluation Exam Exercise:	2%
Inquiry Essays:	30%
Inquiry Archaeological Survey Reports:	30%
Final INQ Essays (due May 5):	30%

This course will be graded on a +- basis. There is no curve. At the end of the semester, Dr. Stutz will determine the grade-percentage cut-offs. The critical A/A- and A-/B+ cut-offs will be chosen at a whole percentage point level so that an A or A- is required on at least one exam for an overall course grade of A. This is to maintain a standard of excellence in achievement for the highest grade, while allowing for opportunity to improve.

The graded Inquiry Essays, and Reports are MANDATORY. A failure to complete any one 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:

Final Essays Due: MONDAY May 5th @ 8 am (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, CULTURE, AND OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

What is Archaeology?

WEDNESDAY Jan 15

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 1

Archaeology: What is Real and What is Metaphor?

WEDNESDAY Jan 22

e-coursepack: 1 – Holtorf – Chapter 1
2 – Holtorf – Chapter 2
3 – Foucault – Historical *a priori*

INQUIRY EXERCISE 1: BRING A THING – ANYTHING REALLY - TO THIS CLASS!

The Archaeology of Knowledge

MONDAY Jan 27

e-coursepack: 4 – Foucault – Archaeology of Ideas

INQUIRY EXERCISE 2: Texts as Material Culture – The Archaeology of the Archaeology of Ideas

Ideas, Culture, and Society

WEDNESDAY Jan 29

e-coursepack: 5 – Agamben – What is an Apparatus?

What is Culture?

MONDAY Feb 3

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 2
e-coursepack: 6 – Lavenda & Schultz – Chapter 1
7 – Lavenda & Schultz – Chapter 2

INQUIRY EXERCISE 3: What Does Archaeology Have to do with Culture?

What is Material Culture?

WEDNESDAY Feb 5

e-coursepack: 8 – Garrow & Shove - The toothbrush and the axe
9 – Gaitán Ammann - With a Hint of Paris in the Mouth

INQUIRY EXERCISE 4: BRING ANOTHER THING TO THIS CLASS!

Culture, Material Culture, Agency, Apparatus, Power, & Identity

MONDAY Feb 10

e-coursepack: 10 – Hitchings & Lee – Air Conditioning in Singapore

INQUIRY ESSAY ON THINGS: DUE ON SAFEASSIGN

**An Archaeological Application: Politics and Identity in Chiefdoms
WEDNESDAY Feb 12**

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 11
e-coursepack: 11 – Earle – The Nature of Political Power
12 – Earle – The Long-Term Development of Three Chiefdoms

**PEER-EVALUATED ESSAY EXAM ON CULTURE AND MATERIAL
CULTURE
MONDAY Feb 17**

Peer-Evaluated Exam (1 written essay) will take place in class

PART II: CHIEFDOMS OF SOUTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA

**Chiefdoms in Our Backyard
WEDNESDAY Feb 19**

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 12
e-coursepack: 13 – Hudson – Social Context of Ichisi

**Archaeology and Time: Reconstructing the Long-Term
MONDAY Feb 24**

Kelly & Thomas: Chapters 6 & 7
e-coursepack: 14 – Hally – An Overview of Lamar Culture
IN-CLASS INQ EXERCISE – UNDERSTANDING LAMAR POTSDERDS

**People, Politics, and Maize: Back to Southeastern Chiefdoms
WEDNESDAY Feb 26**

Kelly & Thomas: Chapters 8 & 9
e-coursepack: 15 – Riley – Mississippian Agronomic Practices
16 – Wesson – Southeastern Chiefdoms and Storage

**Maize, Mounds, and Gorgets: Putting It All Together
MONDAY Mar 3**

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 13
e-coursepack: 17 – Cobb – Missippian Chiefdoms
IN-CLASS INQ EXERCISE – POLITICS AND IDENTITY, THEN AND NOW

**Everyday Life, Environment, Technology, Identity, Politics, and
Violence in Chiefdoms: Discussion**

WEDNESDAY Mar 5

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 7
INQUIRY ESSAY ON CHIEFDOMS: DUE ON SAFEASSIGN

MONDAY Mar 10 & WEDNESDAY Mar 12 – SPRING BREAK

PART III: SO, WHAT'S ARCHAEOLOGY TO YOU NOW?

Dealing with Pasts, Pastness, Otherness, and the Future

MONDAY Mar 17

e-coursepack: 18 – Lovecraft – Under the Pyramids
19 – Lovecraft – The Shunned House
20 – Lovecraft – The Call of Cthulu

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

Thinking like an archaeologist

WEDNESDAY Mar 19

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 4
e-coursepack: 21 - Trigger – The beginnings of Scientific Archaeology
web reading: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/08/world/europe/08iht-M08C-TURKEY-DIG.html?_r=1
web resource: <http://www.catalhoyuk.com>

Relative Dating: It's Not What You Think

MONDAY Mar 24

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 5
IN-CLASS INQ EXERCISE: STRATIGRAPHY AND ASSOCIATION
INQUIRY ESSAY ON ÇATALHÖYÜK: DUE ON SAFEASSIGN

Making the Archaeological Record

WEDNESDAY Mar 19

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 3
BEGIN INQ EXERCISE: SURVEY OF TOILETS AT OXFORD COLLEGE

Archaeology and Recent Material Traces of Culture

WEDNESDAY Mar 26

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 14
e-coursepack: 22 – Gamble – Chapter 4
23 – Bowser – Ceramic Style and Social Agency
24 – Gosselain – In Pots We Trust

Archaeology, Embodiment, and Materiality

MONDAY Mar 31

e-coursepack: 25 - Gamble – Chapter 5
26 – Rubin - Archaeology and the study of gay leathermen

More than one Archaeology?

WEDNESDAY Apr 2

e-coursepack: 27 - Reeder - The Tomb of Niankhkhnum and Khnuhotep
IN-CLASS INQ EXERCISE: EXPANDING THE SURVEY
INQUIRY REPORT ON OXFORD BATHROOMS: DUE ON SAFEASSIGN

PART IV: ARCHAEOLOGY, DIVERSITY, AND COMPLEXITY

The Evolution of Cultures

MONDAY Apr 7

Kelly & Thomas: Chapter 13
e-coursepack: 27 – Flannery – Social Evolution
28 – Johnson & Earle – Evolution of Societies

Case Study 1: Neanderthals as Hunter-Gatherers

WEDNESDAY Apr 9

e-coursepack: 29 – Henry et al – Tor Faraj Rockshelter
IN-CLASS INQ EXERCISE: WORK ON SURVEY PROJECT

Case Study 2: Prehistoric Sedentism and Domestication

MONDAY Apr 14

e-coursepack: 30 – Schmidt – Gobekli Tepe
INQUIRY REPORT ON OXFORD MATERIAL CULTURE: DUE ON SAFEASSIGN

Case Study 3: The Institutionalization of Social Inequality

WEDNESDAY Apr 16

e-coursepack: 31 – Stein & Özbal – Ubaid and Uruk Expansion

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

MONDAY Apr 21

e-coursepack: 32 – Algaze – The Sumerian Take-Off

Work on Final INQ Essay Assignment

WEDNESDAY Apr 23

Work on Final INQ Essay Assignment

MONDAY Apr 28

FINAL INQUIRY ESSAYS Due

MONDAY May 5 on SafeAssign – by 8 am

Final inquiry essays on:

- ***Material Traces of our Place in the World***
- ***The Archaeology of Cultural Evolution***
- ***What is Archaeology and Who Owns the Past***

Kelly & Thomas: Chapters 15 & 16
e-coursepack: 33 – SAA Code of Ethics