

ANTH 201/CLAS221
Principles of Archaeology

Winter 2012

Location: PAS 1229
Tuesday / Thursday 12.30 – 1.50 p.m.

Dr. Russell Adams
Office Location: PAS 2015
Email: rbadams@uwaterloo.ca
Office hours: Tuesday 11.00 a.m-12.00 p.m.
Thursday 2.00-3.00 p.m.
(or by appointment)

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Course Description

Archaeology is the study of past cultures and societies through their material remains. In this class we will explore different varieties of archaeology and examine the theories, methods and techniques used by archaeologists in investigating, reconstructing, preserving and in general learning about the past.

This course is therefore geared towards providing the background and necessary tools for anthropologists and archaeologists to investigate the material remains of the past. We will NOT be studying ancient societies or world archaeology in any detail, but rather we will be focusing upon the way that archaeologists reconstruct the past in practical terms.

As part of this course we will focus upon the development of archaeology, from its roots in the distant past, the rise of antiquarianism, and the development of archaeology as a distinct discipline in the late twentieth century. The course will therefore focus upon specific developments in both theory and methodology which have contributed to the contemporary practice of archaeology.

Course Format

The course will include a combination of lectures, discussion and films. It will also require extensive reading, four (4) practical assignments, a written report, a mid-term and a final exam (time to be determined by the university).

Required Text

Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn. *Archaeology: Theories, Method and Practice*. (5th ed.) Thames and Hudson, 2008. (656 pages).

A personal copy of the textbook is available on reserve at the Dana Porter Library, Call number: UWP7288 (3 hour use).

Additional required readings will supplement the text for some sections, and will be assigned during the term, and placed on the course homepage for easy access.

Learning Goals

By the end of the course you should be familiar with the main concepts and theories regarding the practice of archaeology. You should understand the development of archaeology as a distinct discipline as practiced by scholars of the humanities and social sciences. You should be able to describe basic archaeological skills, such as how to locate, record, investigate and analyze archaeological sites and data, and be familiar with the use of the distinct vocabulary of archaeology. You should also be able to discuss and articulate the role and importance of archaeology to modern human societies and politics. Finally you should understand and be able to discuss the professional values and ethics of archaeology, and its role in preserving the archaeological record.

Learning Assessments (in date order)

Assessment	Date/Due Date	Percentage Final Grade
Assignment 1	Thursday, January 19	5%
Assignment 2	Tuesday, February 28	5%
Assignment 3	Thursday, March 8	5%
Assignment 4	Tuesday, March 27	5%
Written report	On (or before) Tuesday, March 20	20%
Mid-term exam	Thursday, February 9	20%
Final exam	To be announced (set by university)	40%

There is no mark for attendance, but in order to do well in the course you will need to attend lectures, keep up with reading and complete assignments. The learning assessments are intended to both re-enforce the class content and also allow continuous assessment with multiple opportunities to succeed.

The mid-term will cover material up to the date of the exam. The final exam (time and place to be set by the university), will examine your knowledge of all material in the course, but with a larger emphasis upon the material since the mid-term, and general themes, which will allow you the opportunity to integrate what you have learned throughout the course.

The practical assignments and term paper must be handed in by the end of class on the due dates. I will post detailed written instructions for these assignments on the course web page and discuss them in class.

Check the course home page on a regular basis for updates to lectures and class announcements.

Handing in assignments

ALL assignments are to be handed in as computer generated printed copies, in class on the due date. *Electronic submissions will not be accepted* (emails or attachments to emails).

Extension policy

Extensions will only be granted for unavoidable delays due to health, family circumstance etc., if I have notice prior to the due date. If you anticipate a delay, it is in your best interest to contact me as soon as possible to discuss an extension. I reserve the right not to accept late submissions without a negotiated extension, or to deduct points on a scale of 10% per day late.

Percentage and Letter Grade Equivalents

The following is my equivalency of percentages to letter grades.

A	89 and above	B-	72-74	D+	58-61
A-	83-88	C+	68-71	D	55-57
B+	78-82	C	65-67	D-	51-54
B	75-77	C-	62-64	F	50 and below

Course Home Page

I will maintain a home page for the course on the UW-LEARN system, which you should consult on a regular basis. In addition to the course syllabus, I will post additional readings, instructions for assignments, and copies of presentations used in class (but not notes, so it is important to come to class). You will also be able to track your grades from this page, as they are posted. If you need to contact me by email, do so directly at rbadams@uwaterloo.ca.

Instructor Contact

Please note that in general I am only on campus on Tuesday and Thursday, so in the first instance, I encourage you to contact me by email should you have any questions or course needs. My office hours are on Tuesday 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Thursday 2 – 3pm, and you are welcome to drop by at these times without an appointment. Outside of these times, it is best to contact me to set up a time to meet.

I am available to discuss course material or to guide your reading.
Students with special learning requirements are encouraged to let me know as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity:

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 — Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 — Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 — Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 — Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 — Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (University): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF CLASS TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Wk	Date	Class Topics	Readings and Assignments 5 th edition*
1	Tues. Jan. 3	Introductions, Overview of course A short tour through the early development of archaeology	R&B Chap. 1, 21-35
	Thurs. Jan. 5	The development of contemporary archaeology	R&B Chap. 1, 36-50 (4 th - 36-52)
2	Tues. Jan. 10	The structure of archaeological inquiry	Hawkes 1954 (UW-LEARN)
	Thurs. Jan. 12	The nature of archaeological evidence Assignment 1: Spatial observation exercise	R&B Chap. 2, 51-72 (4 th – 53-74)
3	Tues. Jan. 17	How do you find archaeological sites? Part 1	R&B Chap. 3, 73-106 (4 th 75-109)
	Thurs. Jan. 19	How do you find archaeological sites? Part 2 Assignment 1 due in class	
4	Tues. Jan. 24	Principles of archaeological excavation Stratigraphy and site formation processes	R&B Chap. 3, 107-120; (4 th 110-120) SAA Bulletin 2001 (UW-LEARN) Joukowsky 1980 (UW-LEARN)
	Thurs. Jan. 26	Classification and typology	Ford and Steward 1954 (UW-LEARN)
5	Tues. Jan. 31	Dating methods and chronology: relative dating	R&B Chap. 4, 121-132 Deetz and Dethlefsen Death's Head, Cherub, Urn and Willow (UW-LEARN)
	Thurs. Feb. 2	Dating methods and chronology: absolute dating	R&B Chap. 4, 133-174
6	Tues. Feb. 7	Environmental archaeology; Subsistence and diet	R&B Chap. 6, 231-274 R&B Chap. 7, 275-316
	Thurs. Feb. 9	Mid-term Exam	
7	Tues. Feb. 14	Bioarchaeology	R&B Chap. 11, 429-468
	Thurs. Feb. 16	Film: 'Cannibalism in the Canyon', Assignment 2	
8	Tues. Feb. 21	No class – Reading Week	
	Thurs. Feb. 23	No class – Reading Week	
9	Tues. Feb. 28	Social organization: The nature and scale of society, Assignment 2 due in class	R&B Chap. 5, 177-230
	Thurs. Mar. 1	Technology I: Film: Flintknapping, Assignment 3	R&B Chap. 8, 317-341
10	Tues. Mar. 6	Technology II: Pyrotechnologies (ceramics, metals and glass)	R&B Chap. 8, 341-355
	Thurs. Mar. 8	Understanding trade and exchange in past societies Assignment 3 due in class	R&B Chap. 9, 357-390 (4 th 357-392)
11	Tues. Mar. 13	Cognitive archaeology: Symbolism, art and religion	R&B Chap. 10, 391-428 (4 th 393-428)
	Thurs. Mar. 15	Explaining change in past societies	R&B Chap. 12, 469-504
12	Tues. Mar. 20	Film: Lost Kingdoms of the Maya, Assignment 4 Written Assignment due in class	
	Thurs. Mar. 22	The past and politics	Supplemental reading
13	Tues. Mar. 27	Archaeology and the public, Assignment 4 due in class	R&B Chap. 14, 545-577 (4 th 547-578)
	Thurs. Mar. 29	Course review, final exam prep, evaluations.	

* page editions for the 4th edition where different are listed in brackets