

# INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS | FALL 2019  
DEPT. OF HISTORY | DEPT. OF HUMANITIES & PHILOSOPHY  
CRN 15654: HIST 2343 | CRN 15730: HUM 2000



**INSTRUCTOR:**  
**DR. JOEY WILLIAMS**

**Office:** LAN 205G

**Hours:** Tues., 2-3:30, Wed., 1-3,  
Thurs. 2-3:30, or by appt.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to drop in person	Aug. 30
Last day to drop online	Sept. 2
Project #1 due on D2L	Sept. 20
Midterm exam	Oct. 15
Fall break	Oct. 17
Project #2 due on D2L	Nov. 2
Presentations (1st group)	Nov. 19
Presentations (2nd group)	Nov. 21
Presentations (3rd group)	Nov. 26
Site report write-up due	Nov. 26
Thanksgiving break	Nov. 28
Final exam	Dec. 11

Liberal Arts North, Room 222 | Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-1:45 PM

**Course Description:** This course examines the history, theory, and methods of archaeology. Students will examine how the discipline has contributed to knowledge of pre-historic and historic people and cultures throughout the world.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students in this introductory course will engage with the methods, techniques, and ideas central to archaeological research. Successful students will attain the following learning outcomes:

1. Understand the theoretical and methodological foundations of archaeology;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the archaeological record in multiple world regions;
3. Apply their knowledge of archaeological techniques to the analysis of common, contemporary assemblages of artifacts;
4. Analyze an important archaeological site and its artifacts through research, writing, and presentation;
5. Understand the ethics surrounding the preservation of cultural heritage.

**Transformational Learning Objectives:** The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered institution committed to transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. This course addresses three of the university's transformative learning goals: Discipline Knowledge, through coverage of materials and ideas core to archaeology, a discipline closely linked to both History and Humanities; Problem Solving, by requiring oral and written analysis of cultural artifacts; Global & Cultural Competencies, through the analysis of cultures from a variety of eras and locations.

**Course Resources:** This class relies heavily on a textbook. You will need this book for regular chapter readings, images, and in-class discussions:

**Renfrew, C. and P. Bahn. 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practices*. 7th edition. London: Thames and Hudson. ISBN: 9780500292105**

Used copies are available online for around \$40. Abbreviated "RB" in the schedule.

Additional assignments will be provided as PDFs on our course website or as links to videos, museum collections, etc. You will need a working internet connection and a computer for this course. Please also plan to bring blue books/green books for exams.

**Assignments & Grading:** There are 1000 points available in this class, that way your grade is easily calculated. The points are distributed between several different assignments:

Projects	20%	200 pts. (100 pts. each)
Site Report	25%	250 pts.
Midterm exam	25%	250 pts.
Final exam	30%	300 pts.

**Projects:** You will be required to complete two different project assignments. These will be illustrative of the concepts we discuss during the preceding weeks. These may require group work, and each will have a different written component to turn in.

**Site Report:** Every student is required to prepare and present a **10 minute presentation** on an archaeological site. A list of suggested sites will be assigned, but you are encouraged to investigate other options. You must prepare slides and a handout for your presentation, and submit a 4-5 page report on the site with a bibliography.

**Midterm exam:** This test will cover the first eight weeks of class (weeks 1 – 8). You will be required to complete both short answer and longer essay questions. You will have a significant choice in what questions you answer.

**Final exam:** The final exam will focus on material from weeks 10–16, but will incorporate topics from the midterm also. The questions will include both short answer, artifact and site identification, and longer essay questions. Like the midterm, you will have significant choice in what questions you choose to answer.

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	Aug. 20 & 22	<b>Introduction to Archaeology</b> The goals of archaeology; history of archaeological thought; some important archaeologists	RB, Chapter 1; Reinhard 2014, "The Video Game Graveyard"
2	Aug. 27 & 29	<b>Artifacts, Ecofacts, Sites, and Landscapes</b> Categories of archaeological evidence; formation processes of sites	RB, Chapter 2 Watch: <i>Time Team America: New Philadelphia</i>
3	Sept. 3 & 5 Last day to drop without a grade: Sept. 2nd	<b>Survey &amp; Excavation</b> Finding sites and features; understanding the layout of sites; excavation and recording	RB, Chapter 3; Andrews et al. 2000, "Interpretation not Record: the Practice of Archaeology"
4	Sept. 10 & 12	<b>How To Get a Date in Archaeology</b> Relative and absolute dating; scientific dating techniques; world archaeological chronology	RB, Chapter 4; Pollard 2009, "Measuring the Passage of Time" <b>Project #1: Building a Typology</b>
5	Sept. 17 & 19	<b>The (Dis)Organization of Human Societies</b> Hunter-gatherers; segmentary societies; chiefdoms & states; identity, gender, & individuals	RB, Chapter 5; Sassaman 1998, "Crafting Cultural Identity in Hunter-Gatherer Economies"
6	Sept. 24 & 26	<b>Archaeology and the Environment</b> Geoarchaeology; flora and fauna; human ecology; archaeologies of climate and change	RB, Chapter 6; deMenocal 2001, "Cultural Responses to Climate Change"
7	Oct. 1 & 3	<b>Subsistence and Diet</b> Agriculture; animal resources and domestication; seasonality; diet from human remains	RB, Chapter 7; Rollo et al. 2002, "Ötzi's Last Meals"
8	Oct. 8 & 10	<b>Making Artifacts: Tools and Technology</b> Stone, ceramic, metals, & other materials; understanding technology through ethnography	RB, Chapter 8; Bleed 2001, "Trees or Chains, Links or Branches"
9	Oct. 15 No class Thursday, Oct. 17th	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
10	Oct. 22 & 24	<b>Trade, Exchange, and Contact</b> Ancient economies; production, distribution, consumption, and discard; colonial encounters	RB, Chapter 9 <b>Project #2: Trash Talks</b>
11	Oct. 29 & 31	<b>Cognitive Archaeology, Art, and Religion</b> Ideology and symbolism; cognitive maps; art, representation, power, and the divine	RB, Chapter 10; Kriss 2017, "What the Caves Are Trying to Tell Us"
12	Nov. 5 & 7	<b>Bones, Bodies, and Bioarchaeology</b> Physical remains; population studies; the archaeology of the body	RB, Chapter 11 Watch: <i>Iceman Murder Mystery</i>
13	Nov. 12 & 14	<b>Explaining Cultural Change</b> Migrationist & diffusionist approaches; processualism vs. postprocessualism; entanglement	RB, Chapter 12; Hodder 2011, "Human-Thing Entanglement"
14	Nov. 19 & 21	<b>Case Studies in Archaeology I</b> Site Report Presentations	RB, Chapter 13
15	Nov. 26 Thanksgiving: no class Thursday, Nov. 28	<b>Case Studies in Archaeology II</b> Site Report Presentations	
16	Dec. 3 & 5	<b>Claiming the Stones, Naming the Bones</b> Who owns the past?; archaeological ethics; pseudoarchaeology & popular media	RB, Chapter 14; Pyburn 2007, "Archaeology without Boundaries" Watch: <i>First Peoples: America</i>

**FINAL EXAM: 1:00 to 2:50 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 10th**

**Grading :** Since this course is based on 1000 possible points, your grade is easy to calculate. Record your grades below to keep track of how you are progressing in the class.

Project 1	_____ / 100
Project 2	_____ / 100
Site Report	_____ / 250
Midterm exam	_____ / 250
Final exam	_____ / 300
Total	_____ / 1000

**Scale:** Letter grades are assigned based on the total number of points achieved on all assignments. Here is the breakdown,

895-1000 = A

795-894 = B

695-794 = C

595-694 = D

below 595 = F

You'll notice that this maps on to a standard percentile scale of 90-100% = A if you assume that 89.5% is rounded up, etc.

**Attendance & Participation:** Students are expected to attend each meeting of the course, to remain attentive, and to participate. Students must remain for the entire class period unless special circumstances prevent (please discuss these circumstances with the instructor before class). Participants in the class may not use their cell phones, read newspapers, sleep, or study for another class. Violators of this policy will be told to leave the classroom.

**Late Work:** Assignments or exams will only be accepted after their due date in the case of a serious obligation or emergency. Documentation (doctor's note, court summons, etc.) must be provided before late work is accepted. Except in an emergency, anticipated absences should be discussed with the instructor before the assignment or exam is due. Late assignments must be submitted by the next class period. Missed exams must be rescheduled with the instructor within 48 hours of the original date. A make-up exam will be scheduled within a week of the original exam's date.

See also the University's policy on rescheduling finals: <http://www.uco.edu/academicaffairs/files/policiesandguidelines/4academicstandards/4.4FinalExamsOFFICIAL.pdf>

**Classroom Policies:** A number of policies and procedures govern our classroom. These are,

- Be respectful of other people and viewpoints. Be willing to consider radically different opinions.
- Refrain from using cellphones, listening to music, sleeping, or otherwise distracting or disrupting the class.
- Computers should be used for note-taking only.
- Arrive to class on time and remain in class until the end of the period.
- Failure to attend more than three class sessions will result in the loss of 5% of your final grade, with an additional 1% lost for every additional day absent.

**Plagiarism & Academic Integrity:** UCO subscribes to the Turnitin.com plagiarism prevention service. Students, by taking this course, agree that all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com restricted access reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such assignments. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com website. Turnitin.com is just one of the various plagiarism prevention tools and methods that may be utilized by your instructor during the semester. The UCO Code of Student Conduct describes the process for contesting allegations of plagiarism.

Each student is expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not confined to: plagiarizing; cheating on tests or examinations; turning in counterfeit reports, tests, and papers; stealing tests or other academic material; knowingly falsifying academic records or documents of the institution; accessing a student's confidential academic records without authorization; disclosing confidential academic information without authorization; and, turning in the same work to more than one class without informing the instructors involved. Any student found responsible of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action. To help ensure academic integrity, faculty may employ a variety of tools, including, but not limited to, university-sanctioned Turnitin.com. More information concerning this policy can be found on page four of the UCO Student Code of Conduct located at: <http://www.uco.edu/student-affairs/conduct/forms-and-publications/code.asp>.

**UCO Policies:** See the address below for important dates, contact information, and policies for various aspects of University life. It is recommended that you print or save a copy of this handout for reference. <http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>

**ADA Statement:** The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 309. Students should also notify the instructor of any necessary accommodations by the end of the first week of class.

**This syllabus may be modified by the instructor as needed.**