

Archaeology: Window to the Human Past

Instructor: Kasey Diserens Morgan

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Office Hours: By appointment and set hours weekly (actual time TBD)

Course Schedule: Summer Session II (July 1st to August 6th), M, T, W, Th, 2pm to 4pm

Course Overview:

This course will introduce students to the methods and theory of archaeology by exploring how we turn archaeological data into statements about cultural behavior. We will discuss the place of archaeology in the broader field of anthropology and debate issues facing the discipline today. The course will rely on case studies from around the world and from many different time periods to introduce students to the research process, field and lab methods, and essential questions of archaeological anthropology. Students will have the opportunity to work hands-on with archaeological materials through visiting the galleries and working with Penn Museum collections. We will think critically about how the past is used in the present, and what the implications of archaeological work are on the modern communities that live in and around archaeological sites.

Course Structure: The course will be divided into pre-recorded lectures each week (split into 45 minute chunks), and live discussion sessions or lab activities each week unless there is an exam scheduled. These recitations will allow for discussion of reading materials, virtual tours of sites or museums, or activities that showcase the archaeological record and historic materials where possible.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will gain a working knowledge of the field of archaeological practice, theory, and methods.
2. Students will expand their critical thinking skills in discussions about the uses of the past and the practice of archaeology today.
3. Students will learn what kinds of evidence and knowledge can be gained from the material past and how quantitative and qualitative research is done and disseminated.

Major Assignments and Grading:

Student assessment will be based on the following assignments and requirements.

- Participation and Attendance (10% of grade)
 - Lectures will be recorded and posted a week in advance. Participation in the discussions and lab activities is mandatory and will contribute positively to your grade.
- Written responses to readings (10% of grade)
 - When noted in the course schedule, you should produce a set of questions or thoughts in response to the readings that will facilitate the class discussion that week. This is a short written assignment, 250 to 500 words, to be submitted to the instructor on Canvas at least 2 hours prior to the class meeting.
- Exams (30% of grade each)
 - There will be 2 non-cumulative exams throughout the course. I will hold a live review session prior to each exam where you can ask questions. You will also

develop practice exam questions and turn them in so we can go over them at the review session. Each exam will have a combination of multiple choice, identifications, case studies, and short essay questions. The exams will be based on lecture material and readings.

- Final Paper/Site or Object Report (20% of grade)
 - This is a research paper of 6 to 8 pages, focusing on an archaeological site or museum object of your choosing. Please choose a site that is actively being researched or an object that has been actively researched by the museum. The paper will have two parts. Part one addresses what is known about the site/object and the overall history of excavation and study. Part two will address the methods that are being used on the site/object and what we learn from them and how that knowledge increases our understanding of the past. A short paper proposal will be due on July 28th, and I will provide you with written feedback.

Required Texts and Readings:

- Textbook: Robert L. Kelly and David Hurst Thomas, *Archaeology* (7th edition).
- Readings: Additional readings will be posted on the course website and should be completed prior to the day for which they are listed.

Course Schedule:

Meeting	Date	Synchronous or Asynchronous	Lecture Topic	Reading	Assignments
1	1-Jul	Synchronous	Introduction and Museum Tour		
2	6-Jul	Asynchronous	History of Archaeology and Archaeological Theory	Textbook Chapter 1; Lipe 2002	Response Questions 1 due
3	7-Jul	Asynchronous	Principles of Archaeology and Finding a site	Textbook Chapter 2	
4	8-Jul	Synchronous	Preservation Lab Activity	Textbook Chapter 5	
5	12-Jul	Asynchronous	Finding a Site and Digging a Site	Textbook Chapter 3 and 4	
6	13-Jul	Synchronous	Discussion section	McCauley 1979	Response Questions 2 Due
7	14-Jul	Asynchronous	Recovery and Lab Methods, Dating Techniques	Textbook Chapter 6 and 7	
8	15-Jul	Synchronous	Experimental and Ethnoarchaeology, Flintknapping Demonstration and Review Session	Textbook Chapter 8	Create practice exam questions

9	19-Jul	Asynchronous	Paleoanthropology and Bioarchaeology and Health	Textbook Chapter 9 and 10	
10	20-Jul	Synchronous	Ceramics Lab Activity and Discussion Session	Joyce 2008	
11	21-Jul	Asynchronous	Archaeology of Food and Archaeology of Social Relationships	Textbook Chapter 9 and 11	Response Questions 3 due
12	22-Jul	Asynchronous	Archaeology of Political Organization and Archaeology of Trade and Exchange	Textbook Chapter 11; Gotlitko et al 2012	
13	26-Jul		Exam 1		
14	27-Jul	Asynchronous	Historical Archaeology and Archaeology of the Modern World	Textbook Chapter 14; Rathje 1989; Bond 2010	
15	28-Jul	Asynchronous	Archaeology of Ritual and Religion and Museum Archaeology	Textbook Chapter 12; Barker 2010	Paper proposal due
16	29-Jul	Synchronous	Discussion session and lab activity TBD	Shirley 1981, McMahon 2001	Response Questions 4 due
17	2-Aug	Asynchronous	Public and Action Archaeology, Tihosuco Case Study, Cultural Resource Management	Green and Doershuk 1998; Sabloff 2008; Bawaya 2006; Diserens Morgan and Leventhal 2020	
18	3-Aug	Asynchronous	Repatriation and Descendant Communities, Looting, Collecting and Cultural Heritage	Preston 2014; Williams et al. 2016; Parcak 2015; Brodie and Sabine 2018; Textbook Chapter 15	
19	4-Aug	Synchronous	Nationalism and Ethics discussion	Textbook Chapter 16	Ethics Quiz (Response Questions 5) due, create practice exam questions
20	5-Aug		Exam 2		
					Final Papers due via email on August 8th by 11:59PM