

## **Introduction to Archaeology (3240:100-001)**

Spring 2012

Instructor: Prof. Timothy Matney  
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Class Meetings: MWF 11:00-11:50am  
Classroom: Shrank South 145

### **Course Description**

Archaeology is the study of the human past through its material remains. It is an interdisciplinary undertaking involving the cooperation of scholars from both the humanities and the sciences. Archaeology is best known for its detailed excavations of prehistoric and historic places, but archaeologists also regularly use written records, oral histories, geological and geographical data, and a host of specialist studies of plant, animal, and human remains to build a rich description of previous human achievements. The goal of such an undertaking is to better understand earlier human lifeways and the course of human social development. The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the basic vocabulary and concepts of archaeology and with how archaeologists interpret the “dry bones” of the distant (or not-too-distant!) past using minute fragments of artifacts and features that they recover in the field. A principal goal of this course is also to help students develop independent critical thinking skills by providing them with analytical tools for evaluating presentations of archaeology in popular media.

### **General Education**

This course satisfies the General Education requirement in the Social Sciences, Set 7: Science/Technology/Society.

### **General Teaching Objectives**

This course has three fundamental objectives:

1. Help students analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view;
2. Teach students fundamental principles, generalizations and theories;
3. Teach students factual knowledge.

### **Required Textbook (either edition is acceptable)**

Robert L. Kelly and David Hurst Thomas (2010) *Archaeology*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. ISBN 978-0-495-60291-0.

Robert L. Kelly and David Hurst Thomas (2013) *Archaeology*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning. 6th edition. ISBN 978-1-111-83140-0.

### **Notes on Registration, Enrollment & Dropping Classes**

Effective in fall 2011, a new withdrawal policy is now in force at the University of Akron. Details can be found at: <http://www.uakron.edu/ogc/UniversityRules/pdf/20-05.1.pdf>. The last date to withdraw from this course is February 26.

### Disabilities Accommodation

If you require accommodation you should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at 972-7928, as well as make arrangements with me during the first week of the semester.

### Requirements & Grading

Your grade in this course is determined by the following:

Reading comprehension quizzes	12 quizzes @ 10 pts. each = 120 points
Mid-term exam: "Exodus Decoded" critical viewing/ writing exercise	= 80 points
Final exam	= 100 points

The weekly quiz will cover the readings assigned for that week. There will actually be a total of 14 quizzes given during the semester, but I will drop your two lowest scores. No make-up or late quizzes will be given. You need to be in class on-time, as many quizzes will be given at the start of class.

Your course grade is based on a 300 point scale. The following point scale is used to determine your grade.

A	(93%)	279-300 points	C	(73%)	219-230 points
A-	(90%)	270-278 points	C-	(70%)	210-218 points
B+	(87%)	261-269 points	D+	(67%)	201-209 points
B	(83%)	249-260 points	D	(63%)	189-200 points
B-	(80%)	240-248 points	F		188 or fewer points
C+	(77%)	231-239 points			

Extra credit. There will occasionally be opportunities for students to earn extra credit points by attending outside lectures, visiting relevant museum exhibits, etc. These opportunities will be announced in class and usually require a short written report to be produced. Waiting for extra credit opportunities is not a good strategy and you should concentrate your efforts on preparing for the quizzes and exams.

### Attendance policy

Attendance in class is required as part of university and departmental policy. It also makes common sense as you will be expected to know the material covered in class meetings and discussions, not just what is in the textbook.

### Late work policy

Late work is not accepted. An excused absence is given only if you can present me with an appropriate written excuse from your doctor for emergency purposes. In other words, please do not schedule to have your teeth cleaned during my class hours, but if you or your children are sick enough to require emergency medical treatment, you will not be penalized for missed assignments. Funerals of family members and friends are also acceptable excuses for missing class. Please talk to me at least two weeks in advance to arrange for any other type absence (e.g., weddings, etc.). There are no exceptions to this rule.

### Respecting the Classroom Environment

Disruptions during class will not be tolerated as such behavior detracts from the learning environment in the classroom and are rude to your fellow students and to me. There will be absolutely NO cell phone use in the class. This means no phone calls and no texting. Personal correspondence should be conducted on your own time. If I see you using a cell phone, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the day. You will not be permitted to make up any graded work missed as a result. Repeat offenses will result in your expulsion from the class and a course grade of 'F' on your transcript.

I understand that cell phones are useful in rare emergency situations, so please make specific arrangements with me beforehand if you need to keep you cell phone on vibrate for emergency purposes.

Likewise, there will be NO laptop computer use in the classroom. Laptop use for note-taking only will be allowed for those students with a diagnosed medical need and you will need to arrange this with me beforehand. While using a laptop computer has the potential for enhancing student note-taking, most students in my experience use it to surf the internet, email friends, or work on non-course related materials during class. If you have tasks other than archaeology that you would rather be working on, please have the courtesy to pursue these other activities outside of the classroom.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of information, wording, organization, or ideas from another person. Whether the original source is public (e.g., a newspaper, book, journal article, internet site) or private (e.g., a classmate's paper), you need to indicate your indebtedness to it. Where you repeat the exact language of your source, you must treat the borrowed material as a quotation and place it within quotation marks with an appropriate citation at the end. However, by merely changing a few words or the word order or by paraphrasing, you do not avoid plagiarism. In all cases, you should cite your source. There is nothing wrong in acknowledging an intellectual debt to someone. (This statement itself is adapted from a handout by the Department of English at Trenton State College).

In this course, the penalty for any plagiarism on an exam or other assignment is an automatic grade of 'F' for that exam or assignment. Extensive or repeat plagiarism will result in a course grade of 'F' on your transcript and the filing of charges of Academic Misconduct with University authorities. Your case will furthermore be referred both to the Departmental Chairperson, and to the appropriate Dean within the College of Arts & Sciences for disciplinary actions. For further information on the University's policies, see the "Academic Dishonesty" section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin*.

### **Exit Exam Policy**

"As part of University-mandated assessment of student learning, you are required to complete an assessment instrument for this course. The result of this assessment will *not* form part of your course grade. Instead, it will be used in faculty evaluation of students' progress in reaching department-wide learning objectives. That is, it will be used in ongoing assessment of student learning. Assessment will occur in the last two weeks of classes (i.e., before finals week). You must take this assessment to receive a course grade." (Departmental policy statement)

### **Syllabus**

This syllabus does not represent a formal contract. I will make every effort to cover all the material listed below, but I reserve the right to make changes, as necessary, to this syllabus at any time. Students are responsible for any changes in the syllabus that are announced in class.

*IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE THE READINGS PRIOR TO CLASS.*

### **Week 1 (Jan 9 - 13)**

Topic: Course introduction and expectations  
Archaeology as anthropology, history and science  
Scope and goals of archaeological research  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 1

### **Week 2 (Jan 16 - 20)**

*No class on Monday, January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*  
Topic: Nature of archaeological data

Archaeological reasoning  
“Low-level” and “high level” theory in archaeology  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 2

**Week 3 (Jan 23 - 27)**

Topic: Reconnaissance and surface survey, geophysical survey, aerial and satellite imagery  
Sampling in archaeology  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 3

**Week 4 (Jan 30 – Feb 3)**

Topic: Archaeological excavation  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 4

**Week 5 (Feb 6 - 10)**

Topic: Stratigraphy, site formation processes  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 5

**Week 6 (Feb 13 - 17)**

Topic: Dating techniques, chronologies, seriation  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 6

**Week 7 (Feb 20 - 24)**

Topic: Classification of archaeological data  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 7

**Week 8 (Feb 27 – Mar 2)**

*No class on Friday, March 2. Prof. Matney is lecturing at Brown University*

Topic: Experimental archaeology  
Analogies, pre-modern toolkits, recreating past technologies, living museums  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 8

**Week 9 (Mar 5 - 9)**

Topic: “Exodus Decoded”: video, worksheet & discussion  
Reading: none

*There are no class meetings the week of March 12-16 for spring break.*

**Week 10 (Mar 19 - 23)**

Topic: Paleofaunal and paleobotanical analysis  
Easter Island  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 9

**Week 11 (Mar 26 - 30)**

*No class on Friday, March 30. Prof. Matney is lecturing at Musée du Louvre in Paris*

Topic: The analysis of human remains in archaeology  
The archaeology of death: aDNA analysis  
Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 10

**Week 12 (Apr 2 - 6)**

Topic: Power and ancient social systems  
Social organization, gender, religion; Anasazi video

Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 11

**Week 13 (Apr 9 - 13)**

Topic: Ideology and the “Archaeology of the Mind”  
Ancient symbolism

Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 12

**Week 14 (Apr 16 - 20)**

*No class on Friday, April 20. Prof. Matney is lecturing at SAA conference in Memphis*

Topic: Historical archaeology  
Public consumption of archaeology – “The Mummy” & the Discerning Consumer

Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 14

**Week 15 (Apr 23 - 27)**

Topic: Ethics, heritage, and Cultural Resource Management  
Archaeology’s future

Reading: Kelly/Thomas, ch. 15-16

FINAL EXAM – as scheduled for final exam week