

# **Anthropology 13: Introduction to Archaeology**

**Section 2 (43708) Fall 2022  
San José State University  
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

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| <b>Instructor:</b>               | Viviana Bellifemine Sanchez-Chopitea         |
| <b>Office Location:</b>          | Clark 463                                    |
| <b>Email:</b>                    | viviana.sanchezchopitea@sjsu.edu             |
| <b>Zoom Office Hours:</b>        | Thursdays 4:45-5:45 or by appointment        |
| <b>Class Days/Time:</b>          | Tuesday and Thursday 13:30-14:45 (in-person) |
| <b>Classroom:</b>                | WSQ 04                                       |
| <b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b> | Area A3                                      |

## **Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and grades can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) or [Canvas](#) to learn of any updates.

## **Course Description**

Catalog: How archaeologists invent their own version of the past, illustrated with compelling Old and New World discoveries from early prehistory to the present. How archaeological sites are discovered, excavated and analyzed; how facts are tested and fictions unmasked.

This course is an introduction to the facets and methodologies of the practice of archaeology. The course explores the theoretical currents of thought on the nature and practice of the archaeological discovery and interpretation of human culture. In this context it will address the processes of cultural formation and change. Current methods and issues will be addressed in a theoretical and practical manner, including exploration, surveys, recovery, cataloguing, dating and interpretation, in addition to legal and ethical issues in the management of cultural resources.

## GE Area A3 Learning Outcome (GELO)

- 1. locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way, including through library research; and integrate research findings into oral and written arguments through appropriate citation and quotation;
- 2. use a range of rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view;
- 3. identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the contexts of arguments; and
- 4. use inductive and deductive logic to construct valid, evidence-supported arguments and draw valid conclusions

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbooks

T. Douglas Price & Kelly Knudson, 2018. *Principles of Archaeology*. Second Edition (earlier edition acceptable). Thames and Hudson. ISBN: 13:9780500293362 (Required)

Rathje, William and Cullen Murphy, 2001. *Rubbish: The Archaeology of Garbage*. The University of Arizona Press. ISBN: 978-0-8165-2143-2 (Required)

### Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format will be available on the course Canvas page.

## Course Requirements

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)

**NOTE:** “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.” [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](#) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

## Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Passing grade for this course is C- or better (see [https://www.sjsu.edu/general-education/docs/GE%20Guidelines\\_June\\_2022.pdf](https://www.sjsu.edu/general-education/docs/GE%20Guidelines_June_2022.pdf) (Links to an external site.)).

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

- **Two Exams:** Midterm and Final (each exam = 100pts). Exams are multiple choice and short answer oriented.

***Failure to take any exam will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work***

- **A Term Paper:** (150 pts). A research paper (of 1500 words, approximately 6 pages double spaced) of original work is required for this class. The paper itself is worth 100 points. Additionally, a one page proposal (10 points), and citations draft (10 points), first draft and peer-review are components of this assignment, contributing to a total of 150 points.

**Papers will not be accepted after the deadline (unless previously arranged with the instructor), or with a Turnitin score greater than 15%.** “Turnitin” is a feature built in Canvas that highlights and calculates a similarity score based on fragments that have been copied from other sources (websites, books, articles, student papers, etc.). Check your “turnitin” score when you submit your assignment to Canvas, therefore, it is advisable not to wait until the last minute. Build in some extra time to be able to revise your work. Academic dishonesty, cheating or intentional plagiarism indicated by a high “turnitin” score will result in an automatic grade of F (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>, you are responsible for knowing the content of this document, no exceptions).

***Failure to complete this assignment will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.***

- **Exercises and Projects:** (120pts). A number of exercises will be given throughout the course based on the course readings listed in Canvas or other additional material presented in class and laboratory activities. You will be able to conduct hands-on activities related to processing and dating archaeological material. All in-class written activities are due the same day during class and **cannot be made up**
- **Class participation/discussion:** (80pts). Contribution to the class in the form of questions, comments, ideas, and the sharing of current events related to the field will be also evaluated and considered for the final grade in the class. Student participation is important to promote critical thinking and evaluate the understanding of class material. It provides an indication of your engagement in your own education.
- **Attendance:** (not graded). Attendance is strongly encouraged and expected. Your success in the class depends on your presence during lecture and class activities. I do not provide the PowerPoints of the lectures, hence you are

responsible for obtaining class notes. Missing lectures may result in failing the class. **I do not drop students for non-attendance; you are responsible for your registration status.**

- Dates, topics and other details for all assignments will be provided in Canvas.
- A grade of **Incomplete** will not be given to avoid an F in the class.

#### Assignments and Grade Break-down

|  |            |             |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Exams (2 partial tests, 100 points each) | 200        | 36.4%       |
| Term paper (proposal, sources)           | 150        | 27%         |
| Exercises and Projects                   | 120        | 22%         |
| Class participation                      | 80         | 14.5%       |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>550</b> | <b>100%</b> |

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments. Letter grades will be assigned based on score percentages, as follows:

Grading is as follows:

| A                | B                | C                | D                | F             |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 97-100% = A plus | 87-89% = B plus  | 77-79% = C plus  | 67-69% = D plus  | Below 60% = F |
| 93-96% = A       | 83-86% = B       | 73-76% = C       | 63-66% = D       |               |
| 90-92% = A minus | 80-82% = B minus | 70-72% = C minus | 60-62% = D minus |               |

**IMPORTANT:** Read the syllabus, familiarize yourself with Canvas, and keep up with the reading. Your presence in class is very important, if you miss a day you are responsible to get the notes from a classmate. If you have any questions or issues do not hesitate to contact me or see me during office hours. Do not wait too long to communicate if you are having problems in class or with the class material. Your success in the class depends on your understanding of the material and completing the assignments on time. I strongly encourage you to reach me through email or in person for any questions you may have that are not already addressed in the syllabus or Canvas.

#### Classroom Protocol

- **Regular attendance** is expected and recorded. This course is designed as in-person and not as online. Keep in mind that participation in the class (addressed above) is part of your grade.
- **Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable** unless there is an exceptional circumstance or has been previously arranged with the instructor. Students will be asked to leave the classroom when this occurs on a regular basis since it is disruptive to the class.
- **All electronic devices not necessary for note taking, including laptops, tablets, and cell phones, must be turned off and out of sight during class.**

Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of electronic devices in classroom settings for activities unrelated with the class.

- **Communication:** I will answer all emails during regular working hours (Monday through Fridays from 9am-6pm. Aloud 24 hours for a response, I I will not answer emails during the weekend or holidays, or after the official closing of the semester. Make use of office hours (or make an appointment) to chat about more complex (or any) issues. **For all concerns regarding your grade, please see me before the last day of class. Grades cannot be changed after grades are submitted (last official date of the semester).**
- **All assignments are due the date specified in the Canvas schedule** unless the date has been officially changed by the instructor or there is a compelling and verifiable reason. **All written assignments are to be submitted through Canvas or as indicated by the instructor. Unexcused late written assignments will not be accepted after two weeks and will be subject to heavy penalties. All assignments are due before the last day of class.**
- **In-class activities/assignments/exercises cannot be made up.**
- **Assignments described as mandatory (exams and term paper) are required to pass the course regardless of other accumulated points.**
- **Make-up exams** will be given only if 1) you know in advance that you are unable to attend due to an important and verifiable reason and have arranged in advance with the instructor for an alternative date prior to its scheduled date, 2) if any reason arises beyond your control you need to notify the instructor before class by email and provide a verifiable reason (note from physician/nurse, etc.) for the absence. Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up test (or turn in a late assignment).
- **The Final Exam cannot be made-up. You must take the Final Exam at the scheduled time or earlier with the approval of the instructor.** [University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)
- After the end of semester there will be no changing of grades or any further grade negotiation. Canvas keeps you updated on your current grade; it is up to each student to calculate what is needed for the desired goal.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.

- **All lectures and course materials, including exams, assignments, quizzes, handouts, and exercises, are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission from the instructor.**

## **University Policies**

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Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

### **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

All students must obtain the instructor's permission if they wish to record lectures or distribute materials from the class. [University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

## **Resources**

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The university provides resources that can help you succeed academically. Just look here.

[Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/>

[Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

[Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

[Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

# Anth 13: Introduction to Archaeology

## Fall 2022, Tentative Course Schedule

*Schedule is subject to change with fair notice made available from the instructor by email and class announcements.*

**Table 1 Course Schedule**

| Week | Date       | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines   |
|------|------------|--|
| 1    | Aug 23, 25 | Introduction to the course.<br><b>Module 1: The framework of Archaeology.</b><br>The science of Archaeology and its roots<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 1, 2   |
| 2    | Aug 30, 1  | Introduction to Archaeological theory: Perspectives and paradigms.<br>Pseudoarchaeology: frauds and mysteries<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 1, 2; PDF: Piltdown.   |
| 3    | Sep 6, 8   | Archaeology in the Americas: The myth of the Moundbuilders (video). Contemporary Archaeology: Archaeology and Native Americans. Kennewick Man.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 3, 4; PDF's critical analysis                       |
| 4    | Sep 13, 15 | In-class Debate<br><b>Module 2: Obtaining data.</b> The archaeological record: sites and site formation. Preservation.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 5; PDF's critical analysis  |
| 5    | Sep 20, 22 | What do we do at the field? Surveying, site selection and sampling. Technological applications. Landscape archaeology.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 6   |
| 6    | Sep 27, 29 | What do we do at the field? Excavation. What is an artifact, ecofact, feature? Ethics in fieldwork.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 6; PDF's<br><b>Assignment: Research paper proposal and citations due</b>                       |
| 7    | Oct 4, 6   | What do we do at the lab? Classification, analysis and cataloging of artifacts. Identifying and processing other cultural remains.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 7<br><b>Assignment: Research paper 1<sup>st</sup> draft due</b> |
| 8    | Oct 11, 13 | What do we do at the lab? Chronology. Seriation project. <u>Review</u><br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 8<br><b>Assignment: Research paper peer-review due</b><br><b>MIDTERM</b>  |
| 9    | Oct 18, 20 | <b>Module 3: Interpreting data.</b> Reconstructing past environments: Geoarchaeology. Settlement patterns. Middle Range Theory. Video.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 9; PDF's  |

| <b>Week</b>       | <b>Date</b>               | <b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>  |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 10                | Oct 25, 27                | Reconstructing human activities: Lithic and ceramic analysis. Archaeology of economics (production and trade). Video.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 10, 11; PDF's  |
| 11                | Nov 1, 3                  | Reconstructing human activities: Archaeobotany and Archaeozoology. Diet, hunting strategies, and past environments. Optimal Foraging Theory. The beginning of food production.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 12, 13; PDF's   |
| 12                | Nov 8, 10                 | Reconstructing human populations: Bioarchaeology. DNA and isotope analysis. The Bay Area Project.<br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 14, 15; PDF's  |
| 13                | Nov 15, 17                | The African Burial Ground Project.<br>Reconstructing social identity, social inequality, power and the state.<br><b>Reading:</b> PDF's; Videos   |
| 14                | Nov 22, 24                | Reconstructing social identity, social inequality, power and the state.<br><b>Reading:</b> PDF's; Videos<br><b>Assignment: Research paper due</b><br><b>24<sup>th</sup> THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS</b>   |
| 15                | Nov 29,<br>Dec 1          | <b>Module 4: Archaeology today and the future of the past.</b><br>Preserving and protecting our heritage. Archaeology and the law. Who owns the past? Ethical issues. The significance of Archaeology today. <u>Review</u><br><b>Reading:</b> P&K ch 15, 16; V&C selected readings |
| 16                | Dec 6                     | <b>Project Presentations</b>   |
| <b>Final Exam</b> | <b>Dec 14 (Wednesday)</b> | <b>Final Exam</b><br><b>9:45-12:00</b>   |