

ANTHROPOLOGY 3360
INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Spring Semester 2026

Location: CAS 257

Monday and Wednesday 10:05 – 11:00, plus asynchronous remote day.

Dr. Thomas H. Guderjan

Office: CAS 136

903-566-7418; tguderjan@uttyler.edu

Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday 11:00 -12:00 AM and any other time by appointment. You can email for an appointment any time.

Course Description:

Archaeology is the branch of anthropology that deals with peoples of the past. This course deals with the techniques, methodology and theoretical constructs that are incorporated into archaeology. The focus of this course is to understand how we know, what we know, about the past. A number of case studies will be incorporated into the course to illustrate the application of these concepts. Consequently, while this course does not deal with the prehistory of humanity, a number of related issues will be integrated into the course. This is, for the most part, a lecture-format course. However, some additional teaching media will be used.

Objectives

1. Introduce students to the theoretical and historical background of archaeology.
2. Introduce students to techniques, such as radiocarbon dating, surveys and excavations, commonly used in archaeology.
3. Introduce students to methodologies of contemporary archaeology.
4. To increase students' research and scholarly skills through preparation and presentation of information related to the subject.

Textbook: None-All course material will be provided via CANVAS and in class.

Class:

Lectures will be provided via CANVAS and will be supplemented by readings, films and discussion. The lectures will complement but not duplicate the readings. In general, I will explain methods in class that are also covered in the text then use case studies to illustrate the utility of the particular methods. In general, you are expected to have read appropriate assignments prior to coming to class. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of all deadlines and material discussed in class.

Grading: The course grade will be based on *6 biweekly papers and one research paper*. The weekly papers will be assigned on Wednesdays and due on the following Wednesday. Each will consist of a 2-3 page discussion of a topic to be assigned in class. and the highest 5 grades will be counted towards the final grade. Students are expected to be able to synthesize major concepts and be responsible for specific details presented in class and the textbook. Additionally, each student will write a 10-page research paper on a subject agreed upon in advance.

DATE	TASK	DETAILS	SLO	POINTS
Feb 2	Choose Topic for Research Paper	1 page discussion of student's planned topic	Become able to conceptualize a theme associated with information from the class	10
Mar 2	List of references for research paper	Students compile lists of 10 peer-reviewed references applicable to the research paper topic	(1) Students learn what peer reviewed sources mean and (2) learn to compile literature applicable for research topic	10
Apr 13	Research Paper	10 pages (double space, 12 pt.) paper with at least 10 references	Students learn to demonstrate their ability to understand what scholarly information is, (1) demonstrate their abilities to command and synthesize information and (3) demonstrate their abilities to conduct scholarly research	30
	6 bi-weekly tests (best 5 are counted)	10 pts each	Students demonstrate grasp of course data and are able to contextualize that information.	50
TOTAL				100 pts

GRADE SCALE:

A= 90-100; B= 80-89; C= 70-79; D= 60-79; F= 1-59

The Purposes of research papers include:

Demonstrate your ability to understand what scholarly information is... and ... what is not.

Demonstrate your ability to command and synthesize scholarly information.

Demonstrate your ability to conduct scholarly research.

Attendance & Deadlines: You chose to spend your time and money to take this class. So, I assume you desire to spend them well. Consequently, I will not normally take attendance. Deadlines for all tests and assignments are absolute unless you have conferred with me in advance or have an excuse from the Dean or University. Otherwise, there will be no make-up exams. Written assignments must be turned in by the due date. Unexcused absences for assignment due dates will result in a grade of zero for the assignment.

Classroom distractions: Cell phones, text messages and any other contact with people outside of the classroom are considered to be distractions and will not be tolerated. Likewise, inappropriate activity inside the classroom will also not be tolerated.

PLAGARISM & CHEATING

- It is your responsibility to know and understand the university policy on cheating and plagiarism.
- If you plagiarize or cheat, you WILL receive an F for this course.
- If you plagiarize, your case WILL be referred to the Dean for further action. Penalties may include expulsion.

Make-Up Exams: You may take a make-up exam only if you have made arrangements prior to the exam to do so. Do not ask for a make-up exam if you missed the exam without prior arrangements or have reason for an official absence.

Academic Problems: Feel free to talk with me about any problems you may have with the course. It's usually best to make an appointment to me in my office rather than trying to get an answer to a question or to take care of a problem between classes. Faculty members are expected to provide information at the start of each semester on how the final grade will be determined. I am extremely conscientious about determining student grades, but if you feel that an error has been made, talk with me. If you feel that your concerns have not been addressed, talk with the department chair or the dean of the school in that order.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & STUDENT RESOURCES:

Here are links to the applicable university policies.

- [University Policy](#)
- [Student Resources](#)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week of: **Topic:**

Jan 12 Introducing Archaeology and Jobs in Archaeology

Jan 19 Monday, no class-MLK day; What we know about the human past in 2 lectures

Sept 26 History of Archaeology, 20th Century Thought in Archaeology

Feb 2 Tom's Nickel tour of the Philosophy of Science & Shifting Paradigms and Shifting Models
Student Activity: Choice of Topic for Research Paper

Feb 9 Finding the Past

Feb 16 Digging the Past

Feb 23 Dating the Past

Mar 2 Case Study in Research Designs: Blue Creek. *Student Activity: List of References for Research paper*

Mar 9 - 13 SPRING BREAK

Mar 16 People's relationships to plant and animals

Mar 23 Bioarchaeology

Mar 30 Social and Political Systems of the Past

Apr 6 Studying Environments and People

Apr 13 Cultural Resource Management. *Student Activity: Research Paper Due*

Apr 20 Review of Course

Apr 27 Finals Week: Exam administered upon request.