

ANTHROPOLOGY 3360

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Fall Semester 2026

Location: RBN 4034

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:20

Dr. Thomas H. Guderjan

Office: CAS 136

903-566-7418; tguderjan@uttyler.edu

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9AM-4PM

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

There will be 2 lectures and/or discussion meetings each week. The lectures and case studies will complement but not duplicate the readings. Attendance is mandatory and 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 7 *biweekly papers*. The bi-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 and the highest 6 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.

GRADE SCALE:

A= 90-100; B= 80-89; C= 70-79; D= 60-69; 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:
August 25	Introducing Archaeology and Jobs in Archaeology
Sept 1	What we know about the human past in 2 lectures
Sept 8	History of Archaeology, 20th Century Thought in Archaeology
Sept 15	Tom's Nickel tour of the Philosophy of Science & Shifting Paradigms and Shifting Models
Sept 22	Finding the Past
Sept 29	Digging the Past
Oct 6	Dating the Past
October 13	Ceramics in the Archaeological Record
October 20	Stone Tool Analysis
October 27	Bioarchaeology
November 3	Studying Environments and People
Nov 10	Cultural Resource Management.
Nov 23-27	Thanksgiving Week No Classes
Dec 1	Case Study in Research Designs: Blue Creek
Dec 7-11	Finals Week

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