Current Archaeology

Course Requirements:
Garbage Project- 20 %, Mapping Project- 20 %, Quiz’s- 10%; Mid-Term 25%; Final 25% --Total: 100%.

Class Aims and Objectives:

This class is aimed at investigating current research issues in modern archaeology. Archaeology is viewed as an integral part of the broader field of anthropology. As such, archaeology can be thought of as the 'past tense' of cultural anthropology. While taking this class will not make you an archaeologist, ANTH 380 will give you an in-depth preparation for understanding contemporary issues in world archaeology. We will draw from academic research and methods centering on issues ranging from prehistoric to historic context conducted in various parts of the world. This class will also give you an in-depth understanding into various methodologies utilized in archaeological field schools, CRM, and other archaeological firms. To meet our goals, we will incorporate class lectures, discussion, video clips, field trips and hands-on projects. You are encouraged to take charge of your education and participate in all of these activities.

The first of two assigned projects is entitled “The Garbage Project” and is to be carried out over the course of the semester. This project will introduce you to archaeology in action and teach you the foundations of observation and classification. The project will also expose you to basic archaeological work that includes processing archaeological materials. You will be required to submit your findings in a written report at the end of the semester.

The second project is a mapping project. You are required to develop a sketch map of a particular region located on the campus. This exercise will assist you in developing landscape observation skills and interpretation and representing them two-dimensionally. The final sketch map and associated documentation will be turned in with your midterm.

Required reading:

Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. 2004 Archaeology - Theories, Methods and Practice. London: Thames and Hudson. (5th ed) *****later editions are acceptable******

Additional required readings will be posted on WEBCT. Please note these readings are subject to testing.

We need to setup a weekend meeting at an archaeological site. This will make up for Class 1
Course Schedule (subject to change-readings subject to change):

**Class 1** Postponed- Make up on a weekend

**Class 2**

Labor Day- No Class **Class 3**

**Introduction to the Class**

*Archaeology as Anthropology*

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn 2004: Preface and Introduction Webct

**Class 4**

The Origins of Archaeology History of the Discipline: Processual and Post-Processual Archaeology


**Class 5**

Constructs: The Nature of Archaeological Data Topics: The Forms, Determinants, Structure, and Approaches to Archaeological Data and Data Gathering.


**Class 6**

Archaeological Data and Contexts

Class 7

Advances in Archaeological Survey Methods
Site Reconnaissance, Surveys & Excavations


Class 8

Mid-term

Class 9

Archaeological Excavation


Class 10

Dating and Chronologies and Social Archaeology: How were they Organized?

Readings: Renfrew & Bahn *Chapter 4* and *5*

Class 11

Environmental Archaeology 1
Topics: Foundations; Functionalism; Paleoenvironments Reading: Renfrew and Bahn - *Chapter 6* and *7* Topics: Taphonomy; Paleobotany; Osteology; Zooarchaeology; Geoarchaeology

Class 12

Ethnoarchaeology and Technologies

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 8 and pp. 166-169. Masters of Fire- Available on WebCT

Video: Dhodo Morning; From Holy Land to Holy Land
Class 13 The Archaeology of Death

Readings: Renfrew and Bahn – Chapter 11

Class 15 Cognitive Archaeology: What were they thinking?
Ideological and Symbol Systems Topics: Recognizing and Analyzing Symbols; Abstract and Depictive Material Symbols; Writing; Notation, and Measurement Systems; Worldview; Ideology and Cultural Change

Reading: Renfrew and Bahn- Chapter 10

Class 15

Future of the Past & Who Owns the Past?
Ethics and Archaeology


Class 16 Final Exam:

Academic Honesty:
Courtesy and respect for people, their ideas, and their work is expected of all participants in the teaching, learning, and research enterprise. Cheating on exams, copying another’s work, representing someone else’s work as your own, or helping someone else to do any of these things show a lack of respect and will not be tolerated. Further details about the California State University San Marcos’s policy on academic misconduct can be found at: (http://www.csusm.edu/academic_programs/catalog/).

ADA Statement:
Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disabled Student Services (DDS). This office is located in Craven Hall 4300A, and can be contacted by phone at (760) 750-4905, or TTY (760) 750 4909. Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with the Department Chair during his or her office hours in order to ensure confidentiality.