

# Introduction to Archaeology

Anthropology ANP 203  
Monday/Wednesday  
3:00 PM - 4:20 PM  
146 Giltner Hall

**Instructor:** Katy Meyers Emery

**Office:** E-24 McDonel Hall

**Contact:** meyersk6@msu.edu or @bonesdonotlie

**Office Hours:** 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Monday

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Wednesday

Or by Appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Susan Kooiman

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**Contact:** kooimans@msu.edu

**Office Hours:** 12:45 - 2:45 PM Wednesday

## **Course Description**

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of human behavior in the past, and is the only method for learning about the majority of human behavior in the past. This course will provide you with a basic introduction to archaeology and will cover archaeological methods and theory, the history of archaeology, identification and interpretation of artifacts, and promote the appreciation of archaeological work today.

Through this course, you should learn what archaeology is and why it is important to our understanding of the past. You will also gain an appreciation for how archaeologists conduct their research, and how they draw conclusions about the past.

Lastly, this course will have in person and online components. We will be using Wordpress for some of the writing components for this course, and it is your responsibility to stay up to date with the website as well as the face to face components. The course website will include all readings and some advice for taking the course. Desire2Learn (D2L) will also include access to the readings and will be used for communication.

## **Course Objectives**

In this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history and development of the discipline
2. Identify differences between artifacts and features, and use this evidence to form basic interpretations of archaeological sites
3. Explain archaeological methods and approaches that aid in interpretation, and apply these to examples
4. Gain appreciation of archaeological resources and articulate importance to modern populations through analog and digital methods

## **Texts**

Kelly, Robert L. & David Hurst Thomas (K&T)

2013 Archaeology: Down to Earth, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cengage.

Other articles and texts will be provided through Desire 2 Learn (D2L). Please check online for these materials. They will be listed in the syllabus. If you have trouble accessing a text, please alert the instructors prior to the due date. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to everything you need to succeed in this course. Technical issues do happen and as long as you alert us we will do our best to fix the problems.

## **Course Requirements**

**Reading:** All readings are mandatory for the class, and must be completed prior to the due date. Our in class lectures are going to cover new material and be based on activities. You are responsible for covering your out of classroom readings prior to the class they are assigned.

**Participation (20 points):** While there is no attendance grade, participation will be graded based on completion of minute writing assignments, quizzes and other in class activities. You will receive 2 points per activity completed. While there are only 20 points possible, there are more than 10 opportunities to get class credit. Any participation assignments completed beyond 10 will be added to score as extra credit with a maximum of 4 extra credits (that means two extra activities).

You will also need a pen or pencil for in-class assignments, please bring your own!

**Out of Class Assignments (30 points):** You will be expected to complete a number of digital and in person assignments throughout this course, and these will be posted online as blog posts. The assignment is due at 3:00 pm EST of the day that it is listed as due in the syllabus- you always have the option to bring it into class or submit it on dropbox on D2L, however it must be before the deadline. You will receive 3 points per assignment if completed. All assignments can be found online on D2L.

**Midterm Exam (40):** The midterm exam will be conducted at the middle of the semester and completed in class. You will have 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete the exam, which will be made up of 30 multiple-choice questions worth 1 point each and your choice of two short answer questions worth 5 points each.

**Final Research Paper (50):** You are required to write a short research paper on any archaeological controversy of interest to you – the paper will be due on the final day of class to be submitted either in class, or by 5 pm to the dropbox on D2L. You will be required to submit a proposed topic as part of the Storify assignment due February 11, and you will submit an outline for the paper on March 18. These will help you prepare for the essay and count towards assignment, not paper credit. Information on writing an archaeology research paper will be provided online, but you are encouraged to contact your instructor or TA if you need help. You must use academic resources and proper citation for this paper- we expect a minimum of five peer-reviewed or book citations. See all details on D2L.

The paper must 4 double spaced pages in length, 12-point font in Times New Roman or Cambria, standard size margins, and page numbers must be included. You must include a cover page that states your name and paper title- do not put your name anywhere else on the document. This allows us to flip the cover page and grade your papers anonymously.

**Final Exam (60):** The final exam will be conducted at the end of the semester and completed in class. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam, which will be made up of 35 multiple-choice questions worth 1 point each, 15 true/false questions worth 1 point each, and choice of two short answer questions worth 5 points each.

**Due Dates:** Due dates are not negotiable. All assignments are to be submitted on their specific due date. If you know ahead of time that you are going to be away from a computer when an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to submit it before the due date if you don't want to be penalized. Only under extreme (and documented) circumstances will students be allowed to submit assignments after the due date without being penalized or submit alternative work to makeup lost participation points.

**Turning in Assignments on Dropbox:** You are allowed to turn in assignments on the dropboxes found on D2L. Please note that each dropbox will close at the deadline, so no late turn-ins can be made by dropbox. Also, if you submit it to the incorrect dropbox folder it will not count. Finally, name each file with your last name to make the assignment easy to retrieve. Digital submission is not available for all assignments, it will be specified if you need to print and bring it to class with you.

**Honors Option** is available for students in the Honors College. For this course, the honors option will consist of an essay critique or an alternative but substantial project about a fictional archaeologist and archaeological site. For details and specifics about what needs to be completed, please contact the instructor. In order to do the Honors Option, you must alert the instructor by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Evaluation:**

Participation	20 points
Out of Class Assignments	30 points
Midterm Exam	40 points
Final Research Paper	50 points
Final Exam	60 points
Total Points Possible	200 points

**Grading Scale:**

4.0 = 90-100%	3.5 = 85-89%
3.0 = 80-84%	2.5 = 75-79%
2.0 = 70-74%	1.5 = 65-69%
1.0 = 60-64%	0.0 = <60%

**Contact Policy:** Email is the main way to contact your instructor and TA. We will do our best to respond to your emails within 24 hours. Please include the course number (ANP203) within your email subject line and your name at the end of each email (for Twitter contact include #anp203). We will only respond to emails that include the course number and your name. Make sure your message is explicit and clear. You can also contact your instructor through Twitter for quick replies to questions and concerns. Twitter may be used throughout the course for other purposes- while having an account isn't required it can help you with the course and contacting us.

**Katy Meyers Emery:** [twitter.com/bonesdonotlie](https://twitter.com/bonesdonotlie) or @bonesdonotlie

**Technical Issues:** As with any course that has online components, there is a chance that we may have technical issues. It is your responsibility to make sure that we are aware of the technical issue and that assignments are still turned in on time. If for any reason you cannot post a blog online or have other issues, you need to email the assignment to us with an explanation of the problem. Technical issues are not a reason to hand material in late.

**Respect Policy:** In this classroom we have a general policy to respect one another. This means that we, as your instructors, will use the class time as productively as possible, will reply to emails and requests in a timely manner, and will turn in your grades within two weeks of the material being turned in. In return, you, as our students, will productively use the class time we have to ask questions, add to discussions, and complete in class activities, and will not use cell phones or misuse computers by doing non-course related activities on them.

**Note on Plagiarism:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask your instructor or see the guide to plagiarism in the Pre-Week One folder on D2L. It is your responsibility to know university policies and definitions regarding plagiarism.

**Students with Disabilities:** Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

## **Class Schedule**

### **Week 1**

#### **January 12: Course Introduction**

Assignment Due: None

Reading Due: None

#### **January 14: Who are the Archaeologists?**

Assignment Due: Fictional Archaeologists Assignment (Online on D2L)

Reading Due:

- Hall, Mark A. 2004 Romancing the Stones: Archaeology in Popular Cinema. *In* European Journal of Archaeology 7(2): 159–176. (Online on D2L)
- K & T Chapter 1, Pp. 2-3: Introduction

### **Week 2**

#### **January 19     No Class- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

#### **January 21     History of Archaeology, Part I**

Assignment Due: None, but begin preparing assignment due for January 28

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 1, Pp. 3-16
- Hirst, Kris 2014 History of Archaeology: The Series. About.com. *Electronic Document*: <http://abt.cm/1vRRCyL>

### **Week 3**

#### **January 26: History of Archaeology, Part II**

Assignment Due: None, but begin preparing history assignment due for January 28

Reading Due:

- Berger, Asa 2014. Chapter 7: Archaeological Theory and Material Culture. *In* What Objects Mean: An introduction to material culture. California: Left Coast Press. Pp. 93-103.

#### **January 28: Archaeology Today**

Assignment Due: History of Archaeology Mind Map (Online on D2L)

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 2

## Week 4

### February 2: Controversy in Archaeology and Sub-Fields of Archaeology

Assignment Due: Archaeological Controversy

Reading & Video Due:

- Reisz, Matthew 2009. The past is a disputed country. *In* The Times Higher Ed. <http://bit.ly/1DRoVw3>
- Riffe, Jed 2001. Who Owns the Past? Video. *On* Huffington Post: <http://videos.huffingtonpost.com/who-owns-the-past-documentary-517357666>

### February 4: Digging up MSU's Campus with Kate Frederick

Assignment Due: None, but work on your Storify assignment

Reading Due: None!

## Week 5

### February 9: Digging up Mayan Caves with Amy Michaels

Assignment Due: None, but work on your Storify assignment

Reading Due: None

### February 11: Doing Fieldwork, Part I

Assignment Due: Storify a Controversy (due by email to [meyersk6@msu.edu](mailto:meyersk6@msu.edu) by 3pm)

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 3

## Week 6

### February 16: Doing Fieldwork, Part II

Assignment Due: None

Reading and Video Due:

- K&T Chapter 4
- Video: The archaeology training excavation at Dorchester-on-Thames <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJObwFL22g0>
- Video: The Excavation Process- Techniques <http://bit.ly/1v03gaG>

### February 18: Dating Methods

Assignment Due: None

Reading and Videos Due:

- K&T Chapter 5
- Video: Radiocarbon dating [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phZeE7Att\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phZeE7Att_s)
- Video: Thermoluminescence <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6NxycC7Lco>

## Week 7

### February 23: Time, Space and Form

Assignment Due: Seriation Assignment (Handed Out in Class on February 18)

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 6
- Jacobs, James Q. 2000. Reflections on the Style-Function Debate. *Paleoanthropology in the 1990s*. <http://www.jqjacobs.net/anthro/paleo/debate.html>
  - Also bring into class an answer to this question below based on the Jacobs reading: What does this tell us about the importance of choosing a typological method carefully? i.e. functional, morphological or temporal

### February 25: Taphonomy and Ethnoarchaeology

Assignment Due: None

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 7
- Video: Pottery Taphonomy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gg8HzynjEMY>

## Week 8

### March 2: Ethnoarchaeology and Experimental Archaeology

Assignment Due: Ethnoarchaeology Observations

Reading Due: None

### March 4

Midterm

## Week 9

March 9/11: No Class- Spring Break

## Week 10

### March 16: Ceramics

Assignment Due: None

Reading Due:

- Arthur 2014. Beer through the ages: the role of beer in shaping our past and current worlds. *In Anthro Now*. <http://anthronow.com/print/beer-through-the-ages-the-role-of-beer-in-shaping-our-past-and-current-worlds>
- Arthur 2003. Brewing beer: status, wealth and ceramic use alteration among the Gamo of south-western Ethiopia. *In World Archaeology* 34(3): 516-528.

## **March 18: Plants and Animals**

Assignment: Outline of Final Paper

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 8
- Marino 2013. At the crossroads of Botany and Archaeology. *In* Mapping Ignorance. <http://mappingignorance.org/2013/08/01/at-the-crossroads-of-botany-and-archaeology/>
- Day 2013. Botany meets archaeology: people and plants in the past. *In* Journal of Experimental Botany 64(1): 1–12.

## **Week 11**

### **March 23: Bioarchaeology**

Assignment: Bioarchaeology of Gladiators

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 9
- Video: Gladiators: Back from the Dead  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4bn8bhfjil>

### **March 25: Mortuary Archaeology**

Assignment: None

Reading:

- Meyers Emery 2014. Grave Markers: New interpretations of design and decoration. *In* Bones Don't Lie. <https://bonesdontlie.wordpress.com/2014/03/11/gravemarkers-new-interpretations-of-decoration-and-design/>
- Optional: Deetz and Dethlefsen 1978. Death's Head, Cherub, Urn and Willow (1957). *In*, Historical Archaeology. Robert L. Schuyler, ed. Pp. 83-89:  
<http://www.histarch.illinois.edu/plymouth/deathshead.html>
- Rakita and Buikstra 2005. Introduction. *In* Interacting with the Dead: Perspectives on Mortuary Archaeology. Gainesville: Univ. Press of Florida. Pp. 1-11. (D2L)
- Atlas Obscura. A Graphic Guide to Cemetery Symbolism. Atlas Obscura.  
<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/a-graphic-guide-to-cemetery-symbolism>

## **Week 12**

### **March 30: Gender in Archaeology**

Assignment: None

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 10
- Meyers Emery 2013. The Prince is Actually a Female (And Other Gender Misconceptions). *Bones Don't Lie*. <http://goo.gl/ATvVmw>



### **April 1: Ethnicity and Age**

Assignment: None

Reading Due:

- Department of Anthropology 2013. An Anthropological Perspective of Ethnicity and Race. UW Fox Valley.  
<http://www.uwfox.uwc.edu/academics/depts/ant/perspective.html>

## **Week 13**

### **April 6: Reconstructing Social and Political Systems**

Assignment Due: None

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 10
- Baylor University 2014. Beer, beef and politics: Findings at viking archaeological site show power trumping practicality. In Science Daily.  
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/12/141203161035.htm>

### **April 8: Archaeology of the Mind**

Assignment Due: Interpreting Symbols (Print and bring to class)

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 11
- Black 2014. The symbol of the Swastika and its 12,000-year-old history. *In* Ancient Origins. <http://www.ancient-origins.net/myths-legends/symbol-swastika-and-its-12000-year-old-history-001312>

## **Week 14**

### **April 13: Historical Archaeology**

Assignment: None

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 12
- Govaerts 2014. What is historical archaeology? Rogers Archaeology Lab.  
[http://nmnh.typepad.com/rogers\\_archaeology\\_lab/2014/05/historicalarchaeology.html](http://nmnh.typepad.com/rogers_archaeology_lab/2014/05/historicalarchaeology.html)
- MSU 2009. Archaeology program unearths MSU history. MSU YouTube Channel.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fDDhp4DWgU>

### **April 15: No Class- Society for American Archaeology**

Assignment: None, but see #SAA2015 Observations (D2L) assignment

Reading Due: None

## **Week 15**

## **April 20: Public Engagement and Heritage**

Assignment: #SAA2015 Observations

Reading Due:

- K&T Chapter 13
- Amos 2015. In Syria, Archaeologists Risk Their Lives To Protect Ancient Heritage. *In* NPR. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/parallels/2015/03/09/390691518/in-syria-archaeologists-risk-their-lives-to-protect-ancient-heritage>
  - Read article and listen to radio show

## **April 22: Archaeology and Ethics**

Assignment Due: None

Reading Due:

- SAA Executive Board. Principles of Archaeological Ethics. Society for American Archaeology. <http://bit.ly/1r6QonG>
- Beaudry 2009. Ethical Issues in Archaeology. *In* International Handbook of Historical Archaeology. Majewski and Gaimster, eds. Springer. Pp. 17-27.

## **Week 16**

### **April 27: Pseudo-Archaeology**

Assignment Due: Bad Archaeology Assignment

Reading Due: See assignment for reading and video

### **April 29: Pseudo-Archaeology vs. Real Archaeology**

Assignment Due: Final Paper Due by 5pm either by dropbox or handed in to the instructor

Reading Due: None

**Final Exam     May 6, 3:00-5:00 PM**

\*This syllabus is subject to change- however, students will be made aware of any changes prior to the change, and the syllabus will be updated to reflect it.

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