

Anthropology 2060 (A2)
INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Fall Semester, 2009
Grande Prairie Regional College
Monday; Wednesday: 10:00 – 11:20 hrs

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This course is designed as an introduction to the sub-discipline of archaeology within the larger discipline of anthropology. Emphasis in this course is on the reconstruction of past societies from archaeological evidence (e.g., artifacts, settlements patterns) and the explanation of cultural evolution. The main theoretical and methodological approaches of the sub-discipline are presented in detail. Through lectures and lab analyses the major goals of the discipline, methods for the collection of data, procedures of analysis, and interpretive techniques will be investigated. Additional topics addressed in this course include the construction of archaeological models for human prehistory and the application of archaeological knowledge. The impact of Western world views on the interpretation of archaeological materials will also be addressed in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Mid-Term Exam (25 points).....	October 21
‘Exit’ Exam (25 points).....	December 7
Term Work [250 points]:	
<i>Daily media presentation</i> and discussion (10 points x 4 = 40 pts)	
.....	<i>starts</i> Sept. 16
<i>Daily text chapter section presentation & discussion</i> (20 points x 4 = 80 pts)	
.....	<i>starts</i> Sept. 16
Virtual reality tours (30 pts) – (a) museums; (b) archaeological sites/digs...	
.....	<i>start</i> ASAP
Lab assignments (50 pts).....	<i>to be announced</i>
‘Garbage’ project (50 pts).....	<i>to be announced</i>

[**Total points are 300**; your total points will be converted to a percent (%) grade to determine your letter grade, for example, 225/300 = 75% = B]

REQUIRED TEXTS

[other materials will be distributed on an as-needed basis]

Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn, 2007, Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods and Practice. Thames & Hudson: New York.

You are of course encouraged to read beyond the assigned course book(s). Check out popular magazines, academic books and journals and other sources for coverage of topics discussed in this course: such materials are available in the GPRC library, on the world wide web, through inter-library loans, and elsewhere.

SEMESTER EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice questions, true/false + justified, glossary terms/concepts to define, and/or short answer questions -- based on all lecture and text materials.

PLEASE NOTE:

☛ A missed exam unfortunately will not be accommodated - *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency. No make-up exams unless it's an emergency.

⇒ What the many course assignments (250 points of your course grade) entail will be discussed in detail as classes get underway and as the course progresses. *You will be provided with instructions and relevant information with plenty of lead time.*

Please note that plagiarism detection software may be used in this course, and students may be required, individually or collectively, to submit key assignments/components in electronic form.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all your work is at a level appropriate to your year in college/university studies. Always spell- and grammar-check your work; always keep a hard copy or disk copy of your work as back-up. There is writing help on campus, and if in doubt you are always welcome to ask me, your instructor, for clarification. Poor spelling, grammar and organization always interferes with the clear communication of ideas and you *will* lose marks if your over-all communication is ineffective.

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged; the same applies to your participation in class discussions. *Be an active participant in your education!*

Late assignments (or any applicable assignment/course components) will result in an automatic loss of 5 marks (of the value of the work) PER DAY, up to and

including the day of a late submission, unless immediate or prior arrangements, based on exceptional circumstances, have been made. Documented personal or family emergencies, of course, will be accommodated.

WEEKLY TEXT/LECTURE SCHEDULE

Please Note: Refer to the table of contents of the text for the chapter title and chapter content. Lectures will not strictly follow the book sequence but you will still be responsible for the contents of the chapters for each particular week – especially in light of the daily/weekly text chapter presentations! The chapters and weeks will overlap, giving you the chance to get ‘caught up’ or to read ahead, as the case may be. Also please note that lecture content will include material that does not appear in the text – so this is a ‘heads up’ on why it’s important to attend class on a regular basis!

September (7), 9 -- overview of the course, archaeology as a sub-discipline of anthropology, and discussion of the semester’s work **Labor Day, Monday September 7**

September 14, 16 -- Renfrew and Bahn (R & B), Introduction and Chapter 1: the aims of archaeology, theory approaches, history of archaeological endeavors

September 21, 23 -- Cont’d; R & B, Chapter 2: the nature of the archaeological evidence

September 28, 30 -- Cont’d; R & B, Chapter 3: surveying and excavations of sites and features, techniques and methods

October 5, 7 -- Cont’d; R & B, Chapter 4: chronology, dating the evidence

October (12), 14 – Cont’d; R & B, Chapter 5: social archaeology; the organization of communities and societies **Thanksgiving, Monday October 12**

October 19, 21 -- Cont’d; R & B, Chapter 6: environment and climate, subsistence, and diet

October 26, 28 -- Cont’d; R & B, Chapter 7: technology, tools, trade, and exchange

November 2, 4 -- Cont’d; R & B, Chapter 8: cognitive archaeology, symbolization, the thought patterns of peoples

November 9, (11) -- Cont’d; R & B, Chapter 8
Remembrance Day, Wednesday November 11

November 16, 18 – Cont`d; R & B, Chapter 9: explanation and change in the archaeological record, theories of change

November 23, 25 -- Cont`d; R & B, Chapter 9

November 30, December 2 -- Cont`d; R & B, Chapter 10: archaeology, public responsibilities, nationalism, archaeology for political purposes, ethics in fieldwork, issues in the preservation of the past; review and preps for the ‘exit’ exam

December 7 -- Cont`d; the ‘exit’ exam!

[classes end December 7, 2009]

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Range	Description
A+	4.0	95 - 100	<i>Outstanding</i>
A	4.0	85 - 94	<i>Excellent</i>
A-	3.7	80- 84	
B+	3.3	76 - 79	
B	3.0	73 - 75	<i>Good</i>
B-	2.7	70 - 72	
C+	2.3	67 - 69	
C	2.0	64 - 66	<i>Satisfactory</i>
C-	1.7	60 - 63	
D+	1.3	55 - 59	
D	1.0	50 - 54	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
F	0.0	0 - 49	<i>Fail</i>

Six Ways To Make This Course More Valuable:

- 1. Participate, to engage your learning**
- 2. Question, to enhance your learning**
- 3. Read, to expand your learning**
- 4. Reflect, to measure your learning**
- 5. Apply, to transfer your learning**
- 6. Innovate, to adapt your learning**