

Sul Ross State University
SYLLABUS
ANTH1302
Introduction to Archaeology
Spring 2016

Instructor: Samuel Cason

Office location: Ferguson Hall, Room 114F (Center for Big Bend Studies)

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Required Texts: 2008 Wendy Ashmore *Discovering Our Past: A Brief Introduction to Archaeology (Paperback)* ISBN-13: 978-0078034916; ISBN-10: 0078034914

Course Description: This course will provide an overview of Archaeology, a subdiscipline of Anthropology. We will begin with a discussion of the context of archaeology amidst the various other anthropological subdisciplines (Cultural, Linguistics, Physical,). Progressively, we will discuss methods, theory, and examples of archaeological investigations with an emphasis on West Texas.

Goals and Objectives—Students will acquire background knowledge in the following areas:

- The questions that archaeology seeks to answer
- history of archaeology and the development of theories
- field and laboratory methods
- a survey of different types of archaeological literature
- introduction to a variety of current, ongoing investigations
- the importance of critical thinking and the application of the scientific method
- exploration of hunter gatherer lifeways and comparison of modern peoples with the archaeological record
- an inventory of the fundamental archaeological materials encountered by archaeologists in West Texas and what they tell scientists about human behavior.
- first-hand experience with archaeological sites in the Big Bend

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Grading: Students' final grades will be based on five components, consisting of two equally weighted exams spread over the semester, compilation of class notes, outlines of assigned readings, and participation.

Component	Percent of Final Grade
Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25
Notes	20
Reading Outlines	20
Participation	10
	100

Attendance policy: Three absences will be allowed, and students will be required to obtain notes and/or an outline of topics from fellow students and the instructor. Students' final grade will be deducted $\frac{1}{2}$ a letter grade for each absence beyond the allowance. However, if you find yourself with an emergency where you need more than three days, you need to consult with you instructor to work something out. Punctuality will be required, and excessive late arrivals or premature departures will result in a reduction in the student's final grade.