



ANTH 1302: Introduction to Archaeology



Anthropology Fall 2024
Sul Ross State University
Lecture: MWF 11:00 p.m. – 11:50 p.m.
Room: Warnock Science Building 101

Course Instructor: Dr. Bryon Schroeder
Office: Ferguson Hall Office 114
Phone: (432) 837-8339 (o)
Email: bryon.schroeder@sulross.edu
Office Hours: MW 10-11 am or by appointment.

Course Description:

Archaeologists study everything from million-year-old fossilized remains of our earliest human ancestors in Africa to 20th-century buildings in present-day New York City. This course introduces students to the scientific study of human cultural and behavioral variation—Archaeology. This includes hands-on demonstrations and lectures designed to introduce students to the incredible cultural variation that makes humans (*Homo sapiens*) genuinely unique.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- 1.) The students will be able to describe and understand the primary objectives of archaeology inquiry.
- 2.) The students will describe how archaeologists determine variation in human behavior and apply this to larger research problems.
- 3.) The students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of basic methods used by archaeologists.

Goals and Objectives:

This course will introduce students to the historical development, methods, associated terms, and relevant archaeology studies, providing a solid foundation for those considering a professional path in archaeology or anthropology. The content is tailored to non-specialists, offering an accessible approach. By understanding the basic concepts, students can gain valuable insight into the research potential within the discipline.

Required Text:

2017 Kelly, Robert, and David Hurst Thomas
Archaeology. Seventh Edition. Cengage Learning, Boston.

All additional readings will be assigned on the Blackboard webpage for this class and are noted in the class calendar on the syllabus.

Grades:

Percentage	Points	Letter Grade	GPA Value
100 – 90	750 - 675	A	4.0
89 – 80	674 - 600	B	3.0
79 – 70	599 - 525	C	2.0
69 – 60	524 - 450	D	1.0
59 and below	449 - 375	F	0.0

Assignments	Date	Points	% of Grade
Lab	Every Friday Starting 9/6	600 (50 x 12)	80 %
Archaeology Project	TBA Finals week	100	13.4 %
Attendance	GO TO CLASS	50	6.6 %
750 total points			100.00

Assignments:

Archaeology Project: Archaeology is the study of human behavior. We look for patterns in materials (artifacts) left by past peoples to interpret human behavior that stretches vast periods. To do this, archaeologists use ordinary objects to extrapolate complex behavior. Understanding how archaeologists use these materials to analyze behavior is fundamental to the discipline. For this assignment, you will not be interpreting the behavior of prehistoric peoples but of yourself. Ordinary objects—your trash and material possessions signal status, age, gender, and behavior. You will write a 3-5 page archaeological report on the space you live in focused on what your material possessions signal about you. A detailed rubric will be provided.

Labs: The labs will be conducted in class and are designed to familiarize students with the terms and materials we will use throughout the course. **If you miss a lab, you are responsible for rescheduling.**

Attendance: Your retention and success in any class are related to how often you show up. This class is no different. Although attendance is a small portion of your grade (6.6%), it is critical that you are in class and engaged.

Library Information:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123). No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/texshare or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Use free services such as InterLibrary Loan, ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered at home or via email.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. **Use the AI to think with you, not for you!** Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Classroom Climate of Respect:

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Student Responsibilities Statement

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

ADA Compliance:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Tentative Class Schedule Fall 2024

Week 1 8/26 – 8/30	Class 1: <i>Syllabus/Introduction</i> Class 2: <i>Introduction to Archaeology</i> Class 3: <i>Why do we do Archaeology</i>	Reading None
Week 2 9/2 – 9/6	Class 4: <i>A Brief History of Archaeology Inquiry</i> Class 5: <i>Key Discoveries in Archaeology</i> Class 6: LAB 1	Reading Chapter 1 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 3 9/9 – 9/13	Class 7: <i>The Structure of Archaeological Inquiry</i> Class 8: <i>The Scientific Approach</i> Class 9: LAB 2	Reading Chapter 2 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 4 9/16 – 9/20	Class 10: <i>Anthropological Approach</i> Class 11: <i>Doing Fieldwork (Surveying)</i> Class 12: LAB 3	Reading Chapter 3 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 5 9/23 – 9/27	Class 13: <i>Doing Fieldwork (Square Holes)</i> Class 14: <i>Managing Finds - Curation and Collections</i> Class 15: LAB 4	Reading Chapter 4 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 6 9/30 – 10/4	Class 16: <i>Fundamentals of Geology</i> Class 17: <i>Geoarchaeology and Site Formation</i> Class 18: LAB 5	Reading Chapter 5 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 7 10/7 – 10/11	Class 19: <i>Ordering Time</i> Class 20: <i>Absolute Dating Techniques</i> Class 21: LAB 6	Reading Chapter 6 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 8 Midterm 10/14 – 10/18	Class 22: <i>Archaeology Classifications</i> Class 23: <i>Space and Time</i> Class 24: LAB 7	Reading Chapter 7 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 9 10/21 – 10/25	Class 25: <i>Taphonomy</i> Class 26: <i>Zooarchaeology/Faunal Analysis</i> Class 27: LAB 8	Reading Chapter 8 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 10 10/28 – 11/1	Class 28: <i>The Analysis of Plant Remains</i> Class 29: <i>Experimental and Ethnoarchaeology</i> Class 30: LAB 9	Reading Chapter 9 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 11 11/4 – 11/8	Class 31: <i>Basics of Bioarchaeology</i> Class 32: <i>aDNA Analysis, Isotopes, NAGPRA</i> Class 34: LAB 10	Reading Chapter 10 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 12 11/11 – 11/15	Class 35: <i>Social Reconstruction: Gender and Kinship</i> Class 36: <i>Social Reconstruction: Status and Political Organization</i> Class 37: LAB 11	Reading Chapter 11 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 13 11/18 – 11/22	Class 38: <i>Symbolic Archaeology</i> Class 39: <i>Interpreting Spiritual Sites and Imagery</i> Class 40: LAB 12	Reading Chapter 12 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas
Week 14 11/25 – 11/29	Class 41: <i>Indigenous Perspectives</i> Class 42: No Class (Thanksgiving Break) Class 43: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)	Reading None
Week 15 12/2 – 12/6	Class 44: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> Class 45: <i>Future of Archaeology</i> Class 46: Dead Day No Class	Reading Chapter 14 - Archaeology Kelly and Thomas

Final

TBA

*Grades are due Thursday, December 12th @ noon