



## ANTH 1302: Introduction to Archaeology

Fall 2025

Sul Ross State University

Lecture: MW 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Room: Morelock Academic 00206



Course Instructor: Dr. Bryon Schroeder  
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Office Hours: MW 9-10 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*) truly unique.

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

- 1.) The students will be able to describe and understand the primary objectives of archaeological 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.

### **2025 Core Curriculum.**

**Social Responsibility:** *intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.*

SLO: The student will develop principles of social responsibility for living in a diverse world, including the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

### **Course Goals and Objectives:**

This course introduces students to the historical development, methods, related terms, and relevant archaeology studies, providing a solid foundation for those considering a professional career in archaeology or anthropology, or anyone interested in past cultures and how archaeologists study them. The content is designed for non-specialists, offering an accessible approach. By understanding basic concepts, students can gain valuable insights into the research opportunities within the discipline and the significance of the past.

### **Required Text:**

Traces: <https://textbooks.whatcom.edu/tracesarchaeology/>

**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	800 - 720	A	4.0
89 – 80	719 - 640	B	3.0
79 – 70	639 - 560	C	2.0
69 – 60	559 - 480	D	1.0
59 and below	479 and below	F	0.0

Assignments	Date	Points	% of Grade
Lab	Wednesday starting 9/13	450 (50 x 9)	56.3
What is Archaeology? Paper (x 2)	TBA Finals week	100 (50 x 2)	12.5
TESTS (x 2) Midterm and Final	In-Class Tests	200 (100 x 2)	25.0
Attendance	GO TO CLASS	50	6.2
<b>800 total points</b>			<b>100.00</b>

## **Assignments:**

**What is Archaeology to you?** Over the course of this class, we will examine what archaeology is and how it came to be as a separate discipline. I want to see how your perception of the discipline changes. This assignment will be split into two parts. PART 1: I will assign the first week of classes, and I want to know what you think about archaeology. PART 2: We will revisit the assignment during the last week of classes and go over the same questions again. This paper is a handwritten answer to multiple questions that will be given out in class.

**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. *The first lab is on Wednesday, 9/13, IN CLASS.*

**If you miss a lab, you are responsible for rescheduling.**

**Tests:** There are two tests for the course, one for the midterm and one for the finals.

**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 (6.2%), it is critical that you are in class and engaged, and it will profoundly impact your overall grade.

## **Library Information:**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer **FREE** resources and services to the SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website at [library.sulross.edu/](http://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](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or by phone (432-837-8123). Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you 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.

### **Use the AI to think with you, not for you!**

This course assumes that work submitted by students (process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, final works) will be generated by themselves, not through Language Learning Models or other sources of Artificial Intelligence. This policy indicates the following constitute violations of academic honesty: **a student has another person/entity do the work of any substantive portion of a graded assignment for them, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, and/or using generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT).**

### **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 [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) or [ronnie.harris@sulross.edu](mailto:ronnie.harris@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 2025

Week 1 8/25 - 8/27	Class 1: <i>Syllabus/Introduction to Archaeology</i> Class 2: No Class <b>(Assignment 1)</b>	<b>Reading</b> None
Week 2 9/1 - 9/3	<b>Class 3: Labor Day No Class</b> Class 4: The History of Archaeological Inquiry – <i>What is Deep Time?</i> <b>(Assignment 1 DUE)</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 3 9/8 - 9/10	Class 5: North American Archaeology – <i>The Mound Builders and Beyond</i> Class 6: The Anthropological Approach – <i>North American four-field methods and Basics</i>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 4 9/11 - 9/13	Class 7: Data Collection – <i>The Science of Archaeology</i> Class 8: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 5 9/15 - 9/17	Class 9: How Old is it? – <i>Absolute dating and ordering time.</i> Class 10: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 6 9/29 - 10/1	Class 11: Site Formation – <i>The sands of time</i> Class 12: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 7 10/6 - 10/8	Class 13: That Belongs in a Museum – <i>Managing Finds Curation and Collections</i> Class 14: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 8 <b>Midterm</b> 10/13 - 10/15	Class 15: Test Review Class 16: <b>TEST 1 (In-Class)</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 9 10/20 - 10/22	Class 17: What's for Dinner – <i>Domestication of Plants and Animals</i> Class 18: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 10 10/27 - 10/29	Class 19: Experimental and Ethno-archaeology <i>Frames of Reference for the Past</i> Class 20: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 11 11/3 - 11/5	Class 21: Basics of Bioarchaeology <i>Understanding Past Population Genetics and Health</i> Class 22: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 12 11/10 - 11/12	Class 23: Understanding Social Complexity <i>Social stratification and inequality</i> Class 24: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 13 11/17 - 11/19	Class 25: The Intangible Past <i>Symbolism/Death/Ideology/Art</i> Class 26: <b>In-Class Lab</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 14 11/24 - 11/26	Class 27: Multiple Perspectives <i>Who owns the past?</i> <b>Class 28: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 15 12/1 - 12/3	Class 29: The Private Sector – <i>Careers in the Past</i> Class 30: Future of Archaeology – <b>(Assignment 1 Revisited DUE)</b>	<b>Reading</b>

**Final**

**YOU DO HAVE A FINAL EXAM**

**DATE = TBA**

\*Grades are due Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> @ noon