

ANTHROPOLOGY 1: RESEARCH DESIGN

ANTH 5302

Anthropology—Fall 2026

Sul Ross State University

*Lecture: Tues, 1:00 p.m. – 3:50
p.m.*

Online synchronous



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Office Hours: online, Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or by appointment.

***This document should be considered tentative, and subject to change as needed ***

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar provides a detailed overview of developing research designs in anthropology. The course covers philosophy of science, the scientific method, research designs for academic and cultural resource management projects, Western and non-Western research, community engagement, public outreach, and different forms of dissemination. The objective of this course is to prepare students to develop their own research design as part of their MA project. The emphasis in this course will be on the anthropological subfield of archaeology.

This class provides master's (and advanced undergraduate) students with a background in the complex array of archaeological research topics and methods, including artifact curation and analysis, data management, statistical methods, GIS, and overall project design and implementation. The primary objective of the class is to introduce students to the types of questions archaeologists ask and how they attempt to answer them through theory and practice. Students should come away from the class with a better idea of: 1) what type of research they are interested in pursuing, and 2) how to design and execute an effective research program for their chosen topic.

Important considerations:

I do not offer extra credit. You must turn in your assignments on time. Use of generative AI in assignments will lead to failing grades on assignments, and possibly in the course.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOS)

- 1) Describe common topics archaeologists research and the methods they use to do so,
- 2) Describe an effective archaeological research program from theoretical beginnings to project implementation and publication of results,
- 4) Identify research topics of interest to the student for thesis/dissertation projects.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This course aims to familiarize students with the historical development, methods, associated terms, and current objectives of research in archaeology/anthropology. This approach provides a foundation for students pursuing anthropology or its subdisciplines but is taught with the non-specialist in mind

REQUIRED READINGS:

Required textbook (Free to download)

Pollard, A. Mark, Ruth Ann Armitage, and Cheryl A. Makarewicz, 2023, *Handbook of archaeological sciences*. John Wiley & Sons.

A DOWNLOAD LINK WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COURSE BLACKBOARD.

Additional readings (pdf articles) will be assigned on the Blackboard webpage for this class and students will be instructed on how to access this material.

Students will also be expected to find articles for our discussions using the SR library website.

GRADING

Your grade in this class is based strongly on your willingness to attend lectures, be attentive, take notes and study them. Lecture materials are structured using the textbook, but the book does not cover all materials in lecture and is not a good substitute for being in class. Missing class, interrupting class, falling asleep in class or playing on your phone are the quickest way to damage your grade. If you must miss a class please inform me well ahead of the expected date so I may try to accommodate you, but do not expect me to account for extensive absences.

There are **4,000 points total** in the course, and no extra credit.

I will NOT take attendance. But being in class and participating is good idea.

Discussion/attendance (1,000 total points, 25 %): A significant portion of your grade requires reading assigned material and engaging with your instructor and other students in class discussions. Not doing the reading will significantly hamper effective discussion, and clearly this portion of your grade requires your attendance in class.

Projects (2,000 total points, 50 %): Over the semester you will undertake a primary research project relative to your subject of interest, as well as additional projects to be decided upon as the course progresses. Your final project entails identification of a subject of interest, identification of primary research questions, theoretical background and project design, and research implementation.

Final Paper (1,000 total points, 25 %): You will write one 3,500 word paper (excluding title, header, and references) as a final component of your research project, which will simulate bringing your project to a publishable state. Your paper must follow specific formatting requirements that I will provide, and your paper must cite a minimum of five peer-reviewed academic sources, two of which may be assigned readings. You must use the Society of American Antiquity style guide for citations.

This is the conversion between point percentages and standard letter grades:

Score	Grade
<59.9%	F
60-62.9%	D-
63-66.9%	D
67-69.9	D+
70-72.9%	C-
73-76.9%	C
77-79.9%	C+
80-82.9%	B-
83-86.9%	B
87-89.9%	B+
90-92.9%	A-
93-100%	A

CLASS POLICIES AND RESOURCES

TECHNOLOGY

You will be using Blackboard in this class to access materials. During class you are encouraged to take notes by hand, since studies indicate improved comprehension of materials. However, you may take notes digitally on a laptop or tablet. Surfing the internet is a distraction to yourself and others and is prohibited. Cell phones must be silenced or turned off and put away during class. This is required not only to improve your learning experience but those around you.

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 at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or 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.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

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 him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.

Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer 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 by 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/find-and-borrow/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. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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 may not use generative AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment. 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 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.

Core Curriculum Statement

The following statement is required for a core curriculum course, and certainly applies to anthropology:

- Personal Responsibility. Students will develop principles of personal responsibility for living in a diverse world; to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Social Responsibility. Students will develop principles of social responsibility for living in a diverse world, to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Counseling

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/srsu). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.



Almost no one knows what anthropologists do. This image was generated by Bing AI from the prompt “a photograph of anthropologists doing research”. When you finish this class you will be able to do better.

Tentative Class Schedule Fall 2026

Week 1	8/25	Class 1: Introduction to Class <i>Introduction and review of the syllabus</i>
Week 2	9/1	Class 2: dating, project planning discussion

Week 3	9/8	Class 3: research methods, project planning
Week 4	9/15	Class 4: radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology, project implementation
Week 5	9/22	Class 5: lab photo methods, project implementation
Week 6	9/29	Class 6: data management, project implementation
Week 7	10/6	Class 7: stats, project implementation
Week 8	10/13	Class 8: GIS, mapping methods, project implementation
Week 9	10/20	Class 9: proxies for climate change, biological and geological, project implementation
Week 10	10/27	Class 10: mass spectrometry, ZooMs, lipids, etc., project implementation
Week 11	11/3	Class 11: archaeogenetics, population movements, project implementation
Week 12	11/10	Class 12: archaeobotany, zooarchaeology, project implementation
Week 13	11/17	Class 13: inorganics: lithics, binders and pigments, project implementation
Week 14	11/24	Class 14: remote sensing, project implementation
		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15	12/1	Class 15: quantitative analysis, quantification in zooarchaeology, multivariate analysis, big data
		DEAD DAY
Week 16	???	Final project due: date to be determined

December 14: All final grades post to Blackboard.