

# Anthropology 250—Introduction to Archaeology

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**Course description:** Archaeology is the scientific study of past human cultures by analyzing their material remains. In this introductory course you learn about the methods and theory used by anthropological archaeologists to reconstruct and interpret past life-ways. The course examines the major events in the history of archaeology, the goals of archaeology, and theory of archaeology. You learn about the purpose and process of archaeological research, data acquisition, and the methods used to elucidate archaeological finds. Examples from the archaeological literature are used to illustrate current research and what archaeologists can tell us about reconstructing, interpreting, preserving, and ultimately, learning from the past; however the course does not review *in-depth* the archaeology or prehistory of any particular region of the world. Finally, we learn about the ethical dilemmas and issues of contemporary archaeology.

**Course goals:** This course surveys the major topics of anthropological archaeology. The primary goal is to understand *how archaeologists use material remains to learn about human behavior*. With this in mind, we concentrate on: 1) reviewing the methods used by archaeologists; 2) learning how to interpret behavior from material remains; 3) reconstructing past human life-ways; and; 4) the relevancy of archaeology in the present. Upon completion of the course, a student is able to: 1) describe the nature, structure and historical development of human organizations and relationships; 2) comprehend the role of theory in explaining social phenomena; 3) understand the interpretation of archaeological data; and, 4) assess and evaluate the significance of social phenomena.

**General education requirement:** This course satisfies the General Education Social Science requirement. For anthropology majors, the course fulfills one of the Lower Division Core Course requirements. To receive credit for either requirement the class must be taken as a traditional grade. If you select the class as an elective, you may choose traditional or pass/fail grade. If you are considering transferring this class to other institutions, letter grades transfer more easily.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Required text:** *Archaeology Essentials, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition* by Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn, 2015, Thames & Hudson. The textbook is available at the [University of Montana Bookstore](#), or at online stores, such as Amazon.com or Powells.com. I have placed a copy in the library for library use only; check with the front desk.

## **Grading Policies:**

**Assessment:** Your grade is determined by how well you do on assignments, quizzes, exams and class forums. As this course is presented as an online learning opportunity, you have much flexibility within any particular week on when you can read or view the material. If you have problems viewing the links, please let me know, as they are important sources of learning. There are specific times by which your assignments, quizzes, exams, and class forums must be completed. To succeed in this course, you must

complete them as identified on the schedule. Late assignments, quizzes, exams or class forums are not be accepted, unless you have made arrangements with me.

**Assignments:** There are two written assignments; each serves to reinforce the course goals. Instructions for these assignments are given online. One is due towards the beginning of the class; the other towards the end. Each assignment is worth 100-points (200-points for this component).

**Quizzes:** There are 13 true-false quizzes, each with 10 questions. A total of 130-points are awarded for the quizzes. You have 20 minutes to complete the quiz; most weeks you have a quiz. **You can take any week's quiz twice** (minimum 1 hours apart) and your highest grade is recorded. The questions come from a quiz bank, so you may not get the same question twice.

**Exams:** There are two exams, a midterm and a final, each worth 150-points (300-points total). You have 90 minutes to complete the exam. Both exams include essay and multiple-choice questions. The final exam is cumulative. The exam times are listed in the schedule.

**Mini-assignments:** There are three mini-assignments. You may earn up to 120-points (a maximum of 40-points for each). The first one is Forum 1 where you introduce yourself to the class. The 2nd and 3rd mini assignments are "warm-ups" for the essay questions found on the test. I will pose a scenario with questions for you to answer. You will use your knowledge from the previous weeks to answer the questions.

**Grade determination:** There are 750 points possible in the class; students with 90% or more of the points receive an "A," etc. (whole grades only).

**Incompletes:** An incomplete is considered only when requested by the student. I may give a student an incomplete if you have missed a portion of the class because of documented serious health or personal problems during the session. Students have one year to complete the course; requirements are negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

**Student conduct and plagiarism:** All students are expected to practice academic honesty. Before beginning this class, read the [Student Conduct Code](#). If a student uses someone else's words, phrases, sentences, ideas, or other original material without acknowledging the source, it is plagiarism, a form of academic dishonesty. **It does not matter if it was not intentional!** Academic misconduct also includes, but is not limited to, copying material from another student on a quiz or exam, submitting another person's work as your own, and knowingly allowing another person to copy your work. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or knowingly assists another student in academic misconduct may receive a course grade of "F" and be subject to other University of Montana's disciplinary action.

**Disability information:** Students with disabilities receive reasonable accommodations in this online course. To request course modifications, please contact me as soon as possible. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services [website](#) or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).

**Important dates:** For information about deadlines regarding course changes, see the University's [calendar](#).