

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

ANTHROPOLOGY 140 – INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course is an introduction to the field of archaeology; its concepts, theories, data and models that contribute to our knowledge of the human past. The course will provide an introduction to archaeological field methods of survey and excavation; categories of data and dating techniques; analysis; cultural resource management and professional ethics. Major developments in history will be examined using archaeological evidence. The relevance of archaeological research to contemporary society will also be addressed.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Anthropology and its subfields
- 2) Historical development of archaeology
- 3) Types and categories of archaeological data
- 4) Different theoretical approaches to archaeology
- 5) Methods of archaeological survey and excavation
- 6) Interpreting and analyzing archaeological data and reconstructing past behavior
- 7) Dating techniques and environmental reconstruction
- 8) Origins of human culture
- 9) Origins of food production, settled life, and rise of social complexity
- 10) Development of Old and New World civilization
- 11) The prehistory of North America and San Diego County
- 12) Cultural resource and heritage management
- 13) Cultural sequences
- 14) Archaeology and modern society
- 15) Ethics and community relations

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Define the goals of archaeology and explain the field's placement within the broader discipline of anthropology.
- 2) Explain how archaeological methods of finding, dating and analyzing sites and artifacts provide insights into past human behavior.
- 3) Apply archaeological method and scientific theory in analyzing cultural sequences and the process of cultural change.
- 4) Evaluate competing explanatory models for major developments in human history such as the origins of agriculture and the rise of complex civilization.
- 5) Synthesize information from multiple sources into an accurate understanding of the human past, while differentiating between evidence-based and fantastical explanations.
- 6) Gain an understanding of the origins and nature of human cultural diversity in the past, and of its relevance to contemporary society.
- 7) Recognize archaeology's multiple responsibilities—to the public, to descendent communities and to science, in preserving archaeological resources and respecting cultural patrimony.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, including:

- 1) One or more written exams (objective and essay questions)
- 2) Written final exam (objective and essay questions)
- 3) Term paper/project involving field or library research

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Smart classroom
- 2) Learning Resource Center (library)

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Small and large group discussion
- 3) Guest speakers
- 4) Individual and group projects, structured in-class exercises
- 5) Library materials and Internet exploration; other technology-related instruction

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments from the text and a selection of short articles.
- 2) Research projects such as archaeological site reports.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Required texts.
 1. Kelly, R.L. and D. H. Thomas. *Archaeology: Down to Earth*. 5th ed. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning, 2014.
 2. Fagan, B.M. *Ancient Lives: An Introduction to Archaeology and Prehistory*. 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2011.
- 2) Supplemental:
 - a. Selected articles on current archaeology topics.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Summarize the major goals and theoretical approaches of archaeology, and explain archaeology's role as a subfield of anthropology.
- 2) Given a particular research question, identify and select appropriate archaeological techniques and methods that best address the research problem.
- 3) Explain how environmental, demographic and social forces have shaped major developments in human history.