

ANTHROPOLOGY 341
“Archaeological Method and Theory”
University of Massachusetts, Boston
Spring 2014

SCHEDULE

Tues / Thurs 9:30 am – 10:45 am (lecture) McCormack, 1st Floor, Room 415 (M/1/415)
Tues / Thurs 11:00 am – 12:15 pm (lab) McCormack, 1st Floor, Room 503 (M/1/503)

INSTRUCTOR

Professor: Stephen Silliman
Office Location: McCormack Hall, 4th Floor, Room 439 (M/4/439)
Contact Information: 617-287-6854, stephen.silliman@umb.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:00-3:30 pm, or by appointment
Website: www.faculty.umb.edu/stephen_silliman/html/Courses/Anth341.html
Teaching Assistant: Eric Fahey, eric.fahey001@umb.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

PURPOSE

Anthropology 341 is a combined lecture and laboratory course that introduces the techniques and analytical approaches used in contemporary archaeology. The course begins by considering archaeology’s history, theories, and methods. Following this, the course concentrates on systematic procedures used to collect and process material remains from archaeological sites. Many of the techniques have been developed in geoscience, biology, or chemistry, and their principles and archaeological application will be stressed in class and lab. Our emphasis will then shift to interpretive models advanced by archaeologists to understand the nature of past societies and the dynamics of long-term social change. To accomplish these goals, the course emphasizes both quantitative and qualitative data. In the final class periods, we will explore current theoretical and ethical debates in the relationship between archaeology and its sociopolitical context.

PREREQUISITES

Anthropology 107 or equivalent, or approval of instructor

READINGS

These required textbooks are available at the campus bookstore or online at various retailers.

Johnson, Matthew (*AT* in syllabus)
2010 *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction*, 2nd edition. John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
Praetzellis, Adrian (*DtD* in syllabus)
2003 *Dug to Death: A Tale of Archaeological Method and Mayhem*. AltaMira Press.

This additional textbook is available digitally via the course website (instructions for accessing are below):

Hayden, Brian (*PH* in syllabus)
1997 *The Pithouses of Keatley Creek*. Case Studies in Archaeology, Harcourt Brace.

Additional syllabus readings can be found here with the login “student” and password “SillyArch01”:
http://www.faculty.umb.edu/stephen_silliman/coursematerials/anth341/articles/. All readings, whether digital or textbook, are mandatory and should be completed for the day assigned. In addition, you will be responsible for information provided in handouts, slides, films, or lectures. You will also need a metric ruler, protractor, and calculator (the one in cell phones is fine) for some lab activities. Please consult the syllabus for those days. You will also be expected to take notes and/or fill out worksheets for lab exercises.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

24%	Exam 1, in-class (March 6)
24%	Exam 2, in-class (April 24)
42%	Seven take-home projects, worth 6% each (see syllabus for due dates)
10%	Completion of lab tasks and class participation, including repatriation debate

Scale

100.0-92.5%	= A	92.49-89.5%	= A-	89.49-87.5%	= B+
87.49-82.5%	= B	82.49-79.5%	= B-	79.49-77.5%	= C+
77.49-72.5%	= C	72.49-69.5%	= C-	69.49-67.5%	= D+
67.49-62.5%	= D	62.49-59.5%	= D-	59.49-00.0%	= F

POLICIES

Classroom Respect and Lab Etiquette

I intend for this course to well serve students from diverse backgrounds, to treat the diversity of students as a resource and benefit, and to address students' learning needs both inside and outside of class. Similarly, I intend to be respectful of gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, culture, and perspective. Keep in mind that the instructor and students may diverge in opinions or beliefs and that a healthy exchange of ideas may involve debate, as well as evidence and critical thinking.

In the laboratory, neatness counts. Keep your work area tidy and clean up after yourself. Any personal items brought into the lab must be taken out with you or disposed of appropriately. Students must handle all artifacts and other demonstration materials with great care and return them to their proper places. You must also be considerate of others using the lab, both your fellow students and other researchers, and not remove, rearrange, or otherwise disturb materials or papers left on the counters and tables. In addition, do not eat or drink at the lab tables when sensitive materials are present to prevent damage to laboratory specimens, artifacts, teaching objects, or archaeological samples.

In addition, students must respect the instructor and fellow students by turning off all phones before class begins. You are not permitted to take calls during class, nor are you allowed to text message. You may use handheld and laptop computers, but for note-taking only. If you intentionally violate these policies, you will be asked to leave and will receive an unexcused absence. Finally, *do not come and go from the classroom while class is in session unless you have an emergency*. You have enough of a break between the two class sessions to take care of whatever you need to then.

Attendance, Tardiness, and Participation

Attendance is required and rewarded. Participation points will be gained as long as you assist your lab group with exercises and engage with the class. Because hands-on lab sessions are a major part of this course, you will learn most procedures and experiments in pairs or small groups, and your participation is important for the group's effort as well as for your class performance. You also will complete a few in-class exercises during the semester that weigh into this grade. A significant portion of the course lecture material will be found only in Powerpoint presentations and not in the readings, and I do not make these slideshow files available outside of class except just before the exam as a final review guide. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting lecture notes, handouts, or assignments, so please check with the instructor or another student to find out what you missed. Be sure to communicate sooner rather than later with the instructor if you are having any challenges in these areas.

Beyond practical logic, I cannot police your adult lives in a course that you paid for, and I cannot account for all the contingencies that might affect your own personal lives. Therefore, here is the two-part contract. (1) Anyone with perfect attendance from the second day of class to the first exam will receive a bonus of 3

points on their first exam, out of a standard 100%. If you only miss one day, you are still eligible for 1 point. (2) Anyone with perfect attendance from the first class day after the first exam to the second exam will receive a bonus of 3 points on their second exam, out of a standard 100%. If you only miss one day, you are still eligible for 1 point. “Perfect attendance” is as it sounds – no absences at all, whether excused or unexcused. Being on time is expected as well. For every few days that you come to class more than fifteen minutes late, that counts as an absence. This does not mean that you should skip class to avoid being late, though, since you would miss that day’s material. If you can make it to lab at least, you should do that.

Late Assignments and Make-Up Work

All assignments, whether take-home tasks or exams, must be completed by their announced due date and time. Make-up exams will be given only with pre-approval of the instructor for a very limited range of reasons and with documentation of illness or emergency. These are very rare. In the event of a make-up, it will likely differ from the exam administered to the rest of the class. Late assignments will be accepted after the due date, but I highly discourage them since you will lose 0.5 points per day that they are late. These are not class days, but actual ones. After one day, you will be eligible for only 4.5 instead of 5.0 for that assignment; after two days, only 4.0 points; etc. With assignments worth only 5.0 points each, this is 10% (one letter grade) per day. All work not received by the final day of class will be given a zero. For the take-home final, you will lose 1 point (out of 20) per day it is late. If you have any trouble or questions about assignments, talk to the instructor or graduate teaching assistant – sooner rather than later.

Plagiarism and Cheating

According to the University’s *Code of Student Conduct*: “It is the expressed policy of the University that every aspect of academic ... shall be conducted in an absolutely and uncompromisingly honest manner. The University presupposes that any submission of work for academic credit indicates that the work is the student’s own and is in compliance with University policies. In cases where academic dishonesty is discovered after completion of a course or degree program, sanctions may be imposed retroactively, up to and including revocation of the degree. Any student who reasonably believes another student has committed an act of academic dishonesty should inform the course instructor of the alleged violation.” Review the *Code of Student Contact* at www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/policies/code/, especially Section VI(a) for constitutes academic dishonesty. These infractions include various forms of cheating (having someone else do some or part of your work for you, having access to unauthorized materials during or before exams, or submitting work you completed for another course without prior approval of all instructors involved) and plagiarism (submitting as one’s own another author’s published or unpublished work – such as material from a journal, Internet site, newspaper, encyclopedia – in whole, in part, or in paraphrase, without fully and properly crediting the author). For any assignment in which I catch intentional plagiarism or cheating, you will receive a ZERO and will be reported to the Dean of Students. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or how to cite sources, consult with the instructor or here: www.umb.edu/academics/vpass/undergraduate_studies/writing_proficiency/advice_students/.

Student Referral and Special Needs

The University of Massachusetts is committed to compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other relevant state and federal legislation. If you have a special need pertinent to the class, you must inform the instructor as soon as possible. You must work out a solution at least one week in advance and have documentation from the Ross Center for Disability Services (CC-2-2100; 287-7430; www.umb.edu/academics/vpass/disability). Every effort will be made to accommodate your situation. In addition, if you are having trouble with course material, please discuss these issues with the instructor. If you may not pass, I may refer you to the Student Referral Program, which may be able to assist you. Finally, if you are having difficulties in your personal life – such as poverty, hunger, homelessness, or domestic violence – that might be affecting your academic performance and could use the assistance of the U-ACCESS program, please seek their help: www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/uaccess. This is a free and invaluable resource for UMass Boston students.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	LECTURE	LABORATORY	READINGS
1/28, Tu	Introduction	n/a	AT: Preface, Ch. 1
1/30, Th	History of archaeology	Tour campus laboratories	AT: Ch. 2 PH: Ch. 1
2/4, Tu	History of archaeology	Visit Grossman Gallery exhibit	AT: Ch. 5, 7
2/6, Th	Survey	Reading maps Bring calculator and protractor	PH: Ch. 2 DtD (through p. 42) Take Home #1 Assigned
2/11, Tu	Survey	Sampling	DtD (pp. 43-98)
2/13, Th	Excavation	Recovery methods Be prepared to handle some dirt	PH: Ch. 3 DtD (pp. 99-140) Take Home #1 Due
2/18, Tu	Excavation	Discuss <i>Dug to Death</i>	PH: Ch. 4 DtD (pp. 141 to end)
2/20, Th	Dating methods	Stratigraphy	Web: Mills and Vega-Centeno Take Home #2 Assigned
2/25, Tu	Dating methods	Seriation	Web: Holdaway (pp. 117-140)
2/27, Th	Dating methods	Radiocarbon and artifact dating Bring calculator	Web: Holdaway (pp. 140-158) Take Home #2 Due
3/4, Tu	Paleoenvironments	Soil and sediment analysis Bring calculator and plan to handle dirt	Web: Foster and Cohen
3/6, Th	FIRST EXAM	FIRST EXAM	
3/11, Tu	Paleoethnobotany	Plants, pollen, charcoal	PH: Ch. 6 Take Home #3 Assigned
3/13, Th	Zooarchaeology	Comparative faunal anatomy	Web: Landon PH: Ch. 7
3/18, Tu	SPRING BREAK		
3/20, Th	SPRING BREAK		
3/25, Tu	Zooarchaeology	Faunal identification, analysis	Web: Kirch and O'Day Take Home #3 Due
3/27, Th	Bioarchaeology	Osteology, paleopathology	Web: Larsen
4/1, Tu	Lithic analysis	Stone tool demonstration	Web: Banning PH: Ch. 5
4/3, Th	Ceramic analysis	Ceramic identification	Web: Carpenter and Feinman
4/8, Tu	Historical archaeology	Artifact analysis	AT: Ch. 11
4/10, Th	Spatial analysis	Campus study	Web: Lock Take Home #4 Assigned
4/15, Tu	Symbolism and ideology	Imagery, symbolism, landscape	AT: Ch. 6
4/17, Th	Gender and sexuality	Cemetery analysis	AT: Ch. 8

			Web: Rubertone Take Home #4 Due
4/22, Tu	Ethnoarchaeology and analogy	Film: "Secrets of Lost Empires"	AT: Ch. 4 Take Home #5 Assigned
4/24, Th	SECOND EXAM	SECOND EXAM	
4/29, Tu	Ethnoarchaeology and analogy	Discussion of projects	AT: Ch. 9, 10 Take Home #5 Due
5/1, Th	Representation and narrative	Analyzing representation	Web: Spector Web: Yamin Take Home #6 Assigned
5/6, Tu	Explanation, interpretation	Film: "Who Owns the Past?"	AT: Ch. 3, 12 PH: Ch. 8
5/8, Th	Repatriation debate	Repatriation debate	Web: Thomas Web: Riding In Web: Clark Web: Meighan & Zimmerman
5/13, Tu	Ethics, politics, and conclusion	n/a	AT: Ch. 13 Web: Silliman and Dring Take Home #6 Due Take Home #7 Assigned
5/20, Tu	<i>Classes over</i>		Take Home #7 Due