ANTHRO-103 - APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Summer 2016 – online – May 31-June 25

Instructor: Jean Hudson (jhudson@uwm.edu)

Office hours: Wed 1-3 PM (Sabin 225) or by appointment; virtual office hours are possible with prior arrangement

Course Description

Archaeology is the study of past human cultures through their material remains, including such things as artifacts, ecofacts, features, and structures. In this course you will be introduced to some of the amazing discoveries that archaeology has made about life in the past, and you will learn some of the secrets of the discipline, in terms of its methods, its history, and its theoretical debates. We will combine readings, lectures, discussions, and applied activities – all online - using “virtual dig” software. The class is designed to give you a more sophisticated understanding of popular accounts of archaeological research as well as a good foundation in the discipline should you choose to pursue it further. The questions that we will study will require you to expand your imagination beyond the modern world and stretch your ideas about the diversity of human life back in time hundreds and thousands of years. This course meets one of the requirements of the UWM Anthropology Major.

Learning Goals

- knowledge of past human cultures & increased awareness of human cultural diversity
- analytic skills in evaluating links between interpretive generalizations & supporting data
- critical & creative thinking, written communication, problem solving

Credit Hours

This is a 3-credit course taught in an intensive 4-week format. Students should expect to spend approximately 30 hours a week on this completely online class, including reading, viewing lectures and films, taking quizzes, working with the virtual dig to complete applied activities, contributing to the discussion forum, and putting together the final project.

GER

This class satisfies Social Science (SS) GER. It teaches you how to: 1) recognize and analyze socio-cultural aspects of human behavior (criteria a) via their material remains; and 2) identify and apply archaeological methods for studying societies (criteria d). One of the aspects of this class that will be assessed for SS GER is your final project, which requires you to integrate multiple types of archaeological evidence to answer questions about Occaneechi society and its responses to change.

Required Readings and Where to Find Them

There is one required text, which should be obtained immediately:

- Archaeology Essentials; by Renfrew & Bahn; 2010 or 2014 edition; Thames & Hudson

You may want to hunt up a new or used copy through an on-line seller. The publisher offers both digital and hardcopy versions. There will be one copy available on 2-hour loan at the UWM library. A typical chapter runs about 30 pages.

The Virtual Dig. We will be using free "virtual dig" software to give you a sense of what it might be like to excavate and interpret an archaeological site. The data are from a real site, occupied by Occaneechi people. The software allows you to excavate the site unit by unit and shows you what artifacts and features were actually found in those units. This class provides some parameters in terms of research design – specific questions you will try to answer, and specific data you
will collect and analyze each week via the Applied Activities, and share via the Discussion Forum. To use this free software successfully you will need the ability to access and update JAVA software on the computer you are using.

**Modular Structure.** This course is structured in weekly blocks that open on Monday morning (Tuesday morning the first week due to the holiday) and close Sunday night (Saturday night the last week due to the end of the 4-week summer session). Each weekly block has 3 modules. You are welcome to schedule the week’s work as best suits you BUT the weekly deadlines are fixed. Be realistic about the Sunday deadline and what it will take to get all the required work done well by that time. Once a deadline is passed there is no possibility of credit for that week’s work.

The “ideal” way to do this intensive 4-week class would be to start reading the first day of the week, take the first quiz that night, repeat that pattern for the second day and the third day. Then you’d have all the chapters read but paced out a bit and you’d be taking the relevant quiz while each chapter was fresh in your mind. On the fourth day complete the Applied Activity and post to the Discussion Forum. On the Saturday or Sunday read through your classmates posts and complete any remaining posts. This approach would minimize stress, make the class more enjoyable, and likely have a positive impact on your grade.

Obviously you could compress any part of this “ideal schedule” – for example you could power through all the readings and quizzes on Monday, enjoy the Applied Activity & Discussion Forum on Tuesday, and check back towards the end of the week to complete the Discussion Forum.

Whatever schedule you choose, plan ahead and give yourself a buffer for the unexpected. Do not leave all your work – or even a majority of it – till the end of the weekly block & the Sunday deadline.

**Grading**

- **25% Quizzes** (focused on readings & lectures)
- **30% Applied Activities** (focused on virtual dig)
- **10% Discussion Forum** (focused on synthesis & sharing data or ideas)
- **10% Final Project** (Occaneechi Powerpoint)
- **25% Final Exam** (a bit of everything)

Grading scale: A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), F (less than 60)

**Quizzes.** There are 11 online quizzes in all, one per module. Each quiz has 10 multiple-choice questions focused on the lecture material and readings for that module. In a typical week you will have 2 or 3 quizzes to prepare for and take before the week ends. There are no make-ups for the quizzes, so watch the deadlines. D2L will drop your lowest quiz when it calculates your course grade.

**Applied Activities.** Each week there are 2 or 3 applied activities. These are designed help you link the text’s discussion of archaeological methods to your excavation and interpretation of our virtual dig. Each applied activity consists of a worksheet you will complete and dropbox. These typically require you to collect and analyze data from the virtual dig. Some may take you an hour or two to complete. There are no make-ups, so watch the deadlines. D2L will drop your lowest applied activity when it calculates your course grade. Often you will need to complete the applied activities for the week before you post to the Discussion Forum.

**Discussion Forum.** Each week you will post to a Discussion Forum, sharing your data and ideas in response to specific questions. Reading & responding to your classmate’s posts will often be part of the required work. A good way to think
about this part of the class is that it simulates the kinds of discussions archaeologists have in the lab as they sort through the results of their fieldwork, or when they relax in the evening together over beverages of their choice. They can happily debate everything from what the potsherds mean to theoretical frameworks to where to dig next.

**Final Project.** The final project is a brief powerpoint presentation that uses the data collected from the virtual dig to answer questions about the Occaneechi. Follow the powerpoint template (it is essential to follow the template – this is a structured analysis) using the data previously recorded in the Applied Activities and shared via the Discussion Forum to answer it. This synthesis will demonstrate your understanding of how archaeological evidence is used to understand past societies.

**Final Exam.** The final exam is online and will be open on Sat, June 25, between 6:00 AM and 11:59 PM. Once you start it you will have about an hour to complete about 50 multiple choice questions. The final exam is cumulative; a review lecture/study guide will be available that week.

**If You Have Questions.** There is a discussion forum that is always open for your questions – this is more effective than email when you have a question about the course. Feel free to post your questions about class structure or specific content. I check the forum daily; sometimes another student will know the answer and post a reply before I get there. I will also be available during Wed 1-3 PM office hours if you want to meet in person, or via virtual office hours by appointment. I am happy to run through the virtual dig software with you.

**The D2L News Wall.** Occasionally I will send out a class-wide email, but for most matters of general class importance I post to the News Wall on our D2L site. It should be the first thing you look at when you log on.

**University policies may be found at:** [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf)

**The weekly schedule** is provided on the following pages.
Class Schedule - Overview

Each week includes a block of 3 modules that opens Monday morning and closes the following Sunday night. **Watch your deadlines!** You can pace yourself through the week to suit your schedule, but **everything for the week must be done by Sunday night.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topics &amp; Questions</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Applied Activities &amp; Virtual Dig Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|        |                    | AE=Archaeology Essentials text  
|        |                    | OT=Occaneechi volume (online)   | (To-Do List)  |

**WEEK 1 – MAY 31 – JUNE 5**

| 1 | Introductions & Syllabus  
What is archaeology?  
Why do we do it?  
History of the discipline | AE – Introduction  
AE - Chapter 1 (Searchers) | 1) do the readings  
2) view lecture (What is archaeology?)  
3) take the Module#1 quiz  
4) 1st post to the Week-1 Discussion Forum |
| 2 | Material Remains: Artifacts & Ecofacts  
Features & Sites; Inorganic & Organic; Dry, Cold, & Wet | AE - Chapter 2: What is Left?  
OT – Archaeological Primer  
http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/html/primer/primer01.html | 1) do the readings  
2) complete & dropbox Applied Activity (Archaeological Primer)  
3) take the Module#2 quiz |
| 3 | Research Design  
Finding Sites  
Survey & Excavation  
Our virtual dig | AE - Chapter 3: Where?  
OT - http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/ | 1) do the readings  
2) view lectures:  
   • (Survey & Sampling)  
   • (Excavation)  
3) take the Module#3 quiz  
4) complete & dropbox Applied Activity (Occaneechi Sample & Plowzone Data)  
5) 2nd post to the Week-1 Discussion Forum |

**WEEK 2 – JUNE 6 – JUNE 12**

| 4 | Chronologies  
Dating Techniques | AE - Chapter 4: When? | 1) do the readings  
2) view the lecture (Dating)  
3) take the Module#4 quiz |
| 5 | Virtual Dig – Occaneechi Project | OT - http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/ | 1) complete & dropbox Applied Activities  
   • (Occaneechi Feature Data)  
   • (Occaneechi Powerpoint Slides)  
2) post to the Week-2 Discussion Forum |
| 6 | Social Scales | AE - Chapter 5:  
How were societies organized?  
OT - http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/ | 1) do the readings  
2) view the lecture (Equal or Not)  
3) take the Module#6 quiz  
4) complete & dropbox Applied Activity (Occaneechi Shell & Historic Artifacts) |
### WEEK 3 – JUNE 13 – JUNE 19

| 7 | Reconstructing Ecologies Subsistence | AE - Chapter 6: What was the environment? What did they eat? OT - [http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/](http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/) | 1) do the readings  
2) view the lecture (Ecology & Culture)  
3) take the Module#7 quiz  
4) complete & dropbox Applied Activity (Occaneechi Subsistence) |
|---|---|---|---|

| 8 | Manufacture Use Distribution Characterization (source) | AE - Chapter 7: How were artifacts made? How were they used? How were they distributed? OT - [http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/](http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/) | 1) do the readings  
2) complete & dropbox Applied Activity (Occaneechi Lithics & Ceramics)  
3) post to Week-3 Discussion Forum |
|---|---|---|---|

| 9 | Human Remains | AE - Chapter 8: What were they like? OT - [http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/](http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/) | 1) do the readings  
2) view the lecture (Human Remains)  
3) take the Module#9 quiz  
4) complete & dropbox Applied Activity (Occaneechi Burial Data) |
|---|---|---|---|

### WEEK 4 – JUNE 20 – JUNE 25

2) view lecture (Cognitive Archaeology)  
3) take the Module#10 quiz |
|---|---|---|---|

| 11 | Ethics & Preservation Archaeology & The Public | AE - Chapter 11: Whose past? AE – Chapter 12: Future of Past | 1) do the readings  
2) take the Module#11 quiz |
|---|---|---|---|

| 12 | Occaneechi Project | OT - [http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/](http://www.ibiblio.org/dig/)  
no new readings – for this module that energy goes into sharing your powerpoints & discussion of your interpretations | 1) complete & dropbox your Final Project: Occaneechi Powerpoint  
2) post to Week-4 Discussion Forum |
|---|---|---|---|

Final Exam – open from 6:00 AM to 11:59 PM on Saturday, June 25 – allow about an hour to complete it.