

## **SYLLABUS – ANTHRO 103 – APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Instructor:** Jean Hudson (jhudson@uwm.edu )

**Course Website is on CANVAS.**

**Office hours:** Email me to set up virtual office hours.

### **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 and counts towards your SS GER.

### **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 online, semester-long format. Students should expect to spend approximately 9 hours a week on this completely online class, including reading (2 hrs), viewing lectures and films (1 hr), reviewing for and taking quizzes (1 hr), working with the virtual dig to complete applied activities (2 hrs), contributing to the discussion forum (1 hr), and building the final project (2 hrs).

### **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; 3<sup>rd</sup> edition; Thames & Hudson; ISBN: 978-0-500-77252-2

The UWM bookstore has various versions for rent or purchase: <https://uwm.ecampus.com/search-results?terms=archaeology+essentials> . I recommend the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition for best compatibility with our quizzes, although the key content is much the same in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, and even the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition isn't too different.

**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.

**Modular Structure.** This course is structured in **weekly modules** that open on Monday morning (Tuesday morning the first week due to the holiday) and close Sunday night. **When a module closes, you can no longer submit work for that module**, so keep those deadlines in mind when you schedule your work for this class.

**Grading**

- 20% Quizzes** (focused on readings & lectures)
- 20% Applied Activities** (focused on virtual dig)
- 20% Discussion Forum** (focused on synthesis & sharing data or ideas)
- 20% Final Project** (Occaneechi Powerpoint - builds from your Applied Activities)
- 20% 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)

The grading rubric for Quizzes and the Final is % correct out of total possible points.

The grading rubric for Applied Activities and Discussion Forum is detailed in the table below:

CRITERIA	Points Earned
followed directions, on time, complete, demonstrates full comprehension	2
on time but lacking in one or more of the other criteria above	1
nothing submitted on time	0

The grading rubric for the Final Project is detailed in the table below:

CRITERIA	Points possible
followed directions, used the required template, submitted on time and complete	2
used multiple lines of archaeological evidence to answer questions about societal change	2
discussed the role of context in interpretation (compared plowzone, features, burials)	2
noted and evaluated alternative explanations for patterning in data, and included at least one comparison between your excavated samples and those of one or more classmates	2
presentation clear in terms of visuals, spelling, phrasing, meaning, & logic	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

**Quizzes.** Typically there is an online quiz each week, one per module. Each quiz has 10 multiple-choice questions focused on the lecture material and readings for that module. Once you start the quiz you have 10 minutes in which to complete and submit it. It is your responsibility to use a reliable internet connection.

There are **no make-ups** for the quizzes, so watch the deadlines.

Canvas will drop your lowest quiz score when it calculates your course grade.

If you score 90% or better on all non-dropped quizzes you earn the option of not having to take the final exam, and having your total quiz score used as your final exam score; you will get an email from me if you qualify.

**Hot Tip:** A great way to prepare for a quiz is to look at the Learning Goals listed in the Intro document for each module before you read the textbook and view the lectures, and then jot down answers as you go. You are welcome to keep your answer sheet with you when you take the quiz; brief notes are best, so that you can scan them quickly, because the quiz is timed.

**Applied Activities.** Typically there is an Applied Activity (AA) each week, one per module. Each AA consists of a worksheet and/or a powerpoint slide you will complete and submit. Sometimes you will be asked to share an aspect of your results with your classmates via the discussion forum. The AA 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.

Canvas will drop your lowest AA score when it calculates your course grade.

**Hot Tip:** The AA work helps you build your Final Project week by week; careful, thoughtful efforts each week will make wrapping up the project at the end of the semester much quicker and easier. When you are finalizing the project, remember all the hard work you have already done and think about how to make use of it; it is completely appropriate to incorporate data and interpretive ideas that were part of your earlier AA and DF.

**Discussion Forum.** Each week you will post to a Discussion Forum (DF), sharing your data and ideas in response to specific questions posted there. Reading & responding to your classmate's posts will often be part of the required work. Some of the work you do for the Final Project will involve comparing your data with that of others, so careful, thoughtful work here, reading others posts as well as making your own, will pay off later.

A good way to think about this part of the class is that it not only lets you avoid online isolation and enjoy connecting with your classmates, it also 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 to chat over the day's finds. Archaeologists can happily debate everything from what the potsherds mean, to which theoretical frameworks they prefer, to where to dig next. Sharing ideas becomes a habit and makes the work rewarding.

There are **no make-ups**, so watch the deadlines.

Canvas will drop your lowest DF score when it calculates your course grade.

**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 you recorded in the Applied Activities and shared via the Discussion Forum; you will build it slide by slide, week by week. This synthesis will demonstrate your understanding of how archaeological evidence is used to understand past societies.

**Final Exam.** The final exam is online. It will open on Wed Dec.16 at 6:00 AM and close Fri, Dec 18 at 11:59 PM. Once you start it you will have 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 earned the right to opt out of the final exam based on your quiz scores, I will notify you of that via email.

**Bonus Point Activities.** Check Canvas announcements for optional Bonus Point activities.

**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 usually check the forum daily; sometimes another student will know the answer and post a reply before I get there. I am also happy to meet with you virtually - email me to set that up. I am happy to run through the virtual dig software with you - Collaborate Ultra meeting software in Canvas works well for that.

**Canvas Announcements.** Occasionally I will send out a class-wide email, but for most matters of general class importance I post an announcement on our Canvas site. It should be the first thing you look at when you log on.

**University policies may be found at:**

<https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

If you have accommodation needs let me know as soon as possible using ARC protocols so we can set things up.

**Here is a quick overview of the questions we will address each week (module):**

- 1) Introduction to the class and its structure
- 2) What is archaeology and how did it emerge as a social science?
- 3) What kinds of material remains does archaeology study?
- 4) How do archaeologists answer the question “where” with survey?
- 5) How do archaeologists answer the question “where” with excavation?
- 6) How do archaeologists answer the question “when”?
- 7) How were past societies organized?
- 8) How do archaeologists reconstruct past environments?  
Where did past people fit, ecologically? (What did they eat?)
- 9) How were artifacts made, used, and distributed?
- 10) What clues can a human body leave about its past life?
- 11) What did people in past societies think?
- 12) Why did societies change?
- 13) Who “owns” the past? What lies ahead in archaeological research?
- 14) What did we learn from our virtual dig?
- 15) What did we learn about archaeology in this class? (or “review for the final”)

**The detailed weekly schedule is provided in the Class Schedule.**

**Each online module begins with an Introduction document – always read it first.**