

Anthropology 302
Archaeological Method and Theory
Section 001: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30–10:45am

Fall 2009
Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Ragan
Room: TETC 153

Course Objective:

In order to understand how archaeologists interpret the past, you need to know what they are reacting to and against, and how our ability to collect information has affected the kinds of questions we can meaningfully answer. This course will examine the methods used to locate and collect archaeological evidence in the field and analyze it in the laboratory, as well as the theoretical frameworks that have been used to translate these fragmentary findings into an understanding of human activity in the past.

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
9/1	Introduction: digging deeper	R&B Preface, Intro
9/3	Looking back	R&B Ch. 1
9/4–10	What is the evidence?	R&B Ch. 2
9/15–17	Recovering context: survey and excavation	R&B Ch. 3
9/22–24	How old is it?: dating techniques	R&B Ch. 4
9/29–10/1	Social archaeology: who were these people?	R&B Chs. 5, 13: Oaxaca
9/29	Essay 1 due	
10/6–8	Environmental archaeology: setting the stage	R&B Chs. 6, 13: Kakadu
10/13–15	Subsistence: zooarchaeology and archaeobotany	R&B Chs. 7, 13: Khok Phanom Di
10/20–22	Technology: getting a handle on their tools	R&B Chs. 8, 13: Calusa
10/22	Paper proposal due	
10/27–29	Trade: networks down the line	R&B Chs. 9, 13: York
11/3–5	Cognitive archaeology: higher culture	R&B Ch. 10
11/3	Essay 2 due	
11/10–12	Bioarchaeology: the ancestors themselves	R&B Ch. 11
11/17–24	Seminar: explaining the past	R&B Ch. 12; J Chs. 1–10
11/17	Paper draft due	
	THANKSGIVING	
12/1–8	Presentations	
12/1	Essay 3 due	
12/8–10	Public archaeology: whose past?	R&B Ch. 14; J Chs. 11–12

The traditional recorporation ritual and summing up will be held during the scheduled exam time—
Monday, December 14th, 8:00–10:30am. **There is no final exam.**

Texts

Renfrew, Colin, and Paul Bahn **(R&B)**

2008 *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*, 5th ed. New York: Thames and Hudson.

Johnson, Matthew **(J)**

1999 *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Additional short readings available in the library or on-line
will be assigned for discussion during the semester.

Quizzes based on the readings will make up a significant part of your grade.

This syllabus is subject to change.

Instructor's Office Hours: Room HH 380; Monday–Friday 11am–noon; or by appointment; phone 410-548-4502; e-mail earagan@salisbury.edu.

Attendance

It is **VERY** important that you attend class. Tuesday classes will generally be lecture, which will not be a regurgitation of the texts; Thursday classes will generally be in a seminar format, where you will be graded on your participation in discussion. (A Thursday absence will receive a zero for that day's class participation grade.) Those of you who have unusual circumstances affecting your attendance—serious illness, personal crises, etc.—should contact me as soon as possible, so consideration can be given if appropriate. Unless there are strongly extenuating circumstances, **if you miss 6 classes, you will receive an automatic F** for the course.

Electronics in the classroom

Please feel free to bring laptops or recording devices to lectures, but turn off your cellphone or set it to vibrate—and if you *must* text during class, don't let me see it.

Grading

Grading will follow SU policies for the 2009–2010 academic year. The final grade for the course will be based as follows:

Reading quizzes	20% of final grade
Class participation	10% of final grade
Take-home essays (3, 10% each)	30% of final grade
Paper draft	5% of final grade
Presentation	15% of final grade
Research paper	20% of final grade

IF YOU DO NOT TURN IN AN ASSIGNMENT, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE COURSE.

Grade scale: A = 100–90; B = 89–80; C = 79–70; D = 69–60; F = 59–0

Late Assignments and Make-up policy

Life is full of deadlines; it is important to learn how to meet them. If circumstances will prevent you from turning in an assignment on time, you should discuss your situation with me **before** the due date. Assignments will lose a **letter grade (10%) for each day** (including weekends) they are late. **Assignments more than five days late will not be accepted and YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE COURSE.**

Academic Integrity

The best learning environment is one based on mutual respect and trust. However, the desire to achieve a good grade without doing the necessary work or tight schedules tempt some students to cheat on exams or to represent the work of others as their own. **Plagiarism and cheating** are acts of academic dishonesty, and will be prosecuted as such. Instances of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Plagiarism: presenting as one's own work, whether literally or in paraphrase, the work of another author.
- Cheating on exams, tests, and quizzes; the wrongful giving or accepting of unauthorized exam material; and the use of illegitimate sources of information.
- Turning in the same paper for multiple courses.
- Unsanctioned collaboration with other individuals in the completion of course assignments.

There are **no** mitigating circumstances to justify academic dishonesty. If you are unclear about what exactly might be considered dishonest, please ask me before turning in your work: **ignorance is not an acceptable excuse**. All violations of the university's Policy on Student Academic Integrity will be reported to the Dean of Students. Those committing minor, "careless" ("running a red light") plagiarism will be given a chance to rewrite their papers and penalized 25% on the grade, **once**; substantial, flagrant, or repeated violations will earn a grade of zero for the assignment and possibly an F for the course. Students who have two or more reported academic integrity violations are automatically reviewed for possible suspension or expulsion from the university.

Writing Across the Curriculum

In conformity with Salisbury University policy aimed at developing writing skills in all courses, students will be required to write three short essays and a substantial research report. These will be graded on the quality of writing (proper use of grammar, syntax, spelling, etc.) as well as on a grasp of the material presented. These should provide a decent evaluation of each student's writing ability.

Reading quizzes

Nearly every week, there will be a ten-question multiple choice/true-false quiz based on the assigned readings. You must take the quiz on the course's MyClasses site, using the lockdown browser. (This browser is pre-loaded in the computer labs, or you can follow the link provided with the quiz to download it onto your own computer.) Feel free to refer to your texts during the quizzes, but since they are timed (10 minutes), you should have already read the assigned material. You may take the quiz at any time between Saturday at 9am and Wednesday at 11pm; grades will be calculated once the quiz has closed, at which point you can check to see how you did. So you can get a feel for how this works, for the first two quizzes only, you will be able to see your grade as soon as you have finished and retake the quiz, if you choose, to improve your grade.

Week 1 (8/31–9/2): NO QUIZ

Week 2 (9/5–9): R&B Preface–Ch. 2

Week 3 (9/12–16): R&B Ch. 3

Week 4 (9/19–23): R&B Ch. 4

Week 5 (9/26–30): R&B Chs. 5, 13: Oaxaca

Week 6 (10/3–7): R&B Chs. 6, 13: Kakadu

Week 7 (10/10–14): R&B Chs. 7, 13: Khok Phanom Di

Week 8 (10/17–21): R&B Chs. 8, 13: Calusa

Week 9 (10/24–28): R&B Chs. 9, 13: York

Week 10 (10/31–11/4): R&B Ch. 10

Week 11 (11/7–11): R&B Ch. 11

Week 12 (11/14–18): R&B Ch. 12; J Chs. 1–10

Week 13 (11/21–25): NO QUIZ

Week 14 (11/28–12/2): NO QUIZ

Week 15 (12/5–9): R&B Ch. 14; J Chs. 11–12

Written assignments

Handwritten papers will not be accepted. Page margins must be 1 inch; the text double-spaced, in 12pt Times New Roman and printed in black. A 4-page paper must be four **full** pages long, or you will be penalized. Formatting that unnecessarily decreases the number of words on a page will also be penalized—you should have about 300 words per page.

Your papers **must be submitted to SafeAssign**, which can be found on the MyClasses site: there is a DRAFT option where you can check your paper for plagiarism without penalty, but you must submit it to the FINAL option for my review. Lateness and failure to submit to SafeAssign will be penalized as described in the section on Late Assignments above. For tips on how to write your paper and the penalties applied for common errors, please take a look at "Writing Anthropology Papers" on your MyClasses page.

Take-home essays

There will be **three take-home writing assignments**, where you will write a **3–4-page** essay on a topic relevant to your readings, class lectures and discussion, and other appropriate sources of

information. The focus should be on analysis and interpretation, with a minimum of space devoted to rehashing facts that would be familiar to me. They will be due on **September 29th, November 3rd, and December 1st**.

Research paper

In order to reconstruct the past, we use a wide variety of techniques and resources, both intellectual and material. We need to be able to choose the correct tool for a particular task, and we need to be able to justify why that tool is more appropriate than the others that are available. Therefore, you will write a **15–20-page research paper** which examines either a) a particular research method or technique or b) a particular theoretical school. You should discuss its development and uses, then analyze its strengths and weaknesses in comparison to available alternatives. A proposal and preliminary bibliography are due by **October 22nd**, and a rough draft of the paper (at least 10 pages long, with bibliography) by **November 10th**. You will share your findings with class in a **15-minute presentation**, after which you should be prepared to take questions from the audience, between **December 1st and 8th**. You should further revise your paper based on the comments you receive—except in exceptional circumstances, **papers that are not substantially revised after the rough draft will receive a D grade**. The final draft is due **December 14th**.