

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** ANTH 350    **TITLE:** Introduction to Archaeology and World Prehistory    **C-ID:** ANTH 150

**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

**Recommended Preparation:**

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science

**CSU GE:**

CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions

**IGETC:**

IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Basic methods and theoretical approaches used to reconstruct the past and developments in human history and prehistory; human origins, peopling of the globe, origins of agriculture, classical and historical archaeology, ancient civilizations, maritime archaeology, ethics and legal concerns regarding cultural heritage, conservation and preservation.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Recognize the way that archaeological research leads to generally accepted conclusions and the integration of new research data with the building of a body of scientific knowledge.
2. Apply basic archaeological methods and theoretical approaches used to reconstruct the past.
3. Explain the evolutionary development of hominin species and their associated cultures and artifacts.
4. Discuss the development of agriculture and urbanization and the formation of state societies.
5. Communicate archaeological knowledge of world prehistoric and historic sites including classical and historical archaeology, and ancient civilizations.
6. Apply new technology, including but not limited to: hardware, software, GPS, dating methods, protein residue analysis, stable isotope analysis.
7. Explain ethical and legal issues pertaining to cultural artifacts and human remains.
8. Identify and interpret techniques and tools required for survey, site location, data collection and recording and interpretation, mapping, excavation.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

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

1. Organize a timeline of hominin prehistory, from earliest evidence, over 7 million years ago, to present cultures, including earliest use of stone tools, approximately 2.6 million years ago and developing technology.
2. Identify the processes, concepts and methods in archaeological research and the archaeologists they are associated with and apply to current research.
3. Analyze the cultural and ecological processes in the origins of plant and animal domestication and identify major centers of domestication.
4. Name, describe, and analyze the technology used to date archaeological sites and artifacts and other processes used to analyze diet and protein residue, with emphasis on limitations of methods.
5. Compare and contrast theories of the origins of state societies and complex civilizations of the world.
6. Evaluate scientifically responsible and ethical methods of archaeological retrieval, preservation and curating relative to local, state and federal laws including but not limited to: NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) and CRM (Cultural Resource Management).
7. Discuss the development of art, symbolism, religion, and social complexity.
8. Compare and analyze ancient cultures regarding politics, gender roles, economics and trade networks.

## 6. COURSE CONTENT:

### Lecture Content:

1. Introduction to Archaeology and World Prehistory
2. Science and scientific method, distinguishing pseudoarchaeological theories from scientific theories, the structure of archaeological inquiry
3. Archaeological processes: hypothesis creation and testing, survey and site location, data collection and recording, interpretation, publication
4. Archaeological theories and the archaeologists who created them.
5. Techniques and tools: excavation, survey and mapping, GPS (global positioning system), geoarchaeology
6. Technology for dating and chronology: radiocarbon, potassium-argon, argon-argon, thermoluminescence, fluorine analysis, electron spin resonance dating, etc.
7. Technology for diet reconstruction: stable isotope, strontium, protein residue analysis, analysis of floral and faunal components to sites.
8. Human origins, taphonomy
9. Experimental archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, bioarchaeology
10. Hunter-gatherer archaeology: prehistoric sites, global and local
11. Archaeology of food production: domestication of plants and animals and major sites of domestication worldwide.
12. Peopling of the world: migrations and developing populations world wide.
13. World Prehistory
14. Classical archaeology of Greece and Rome
15. Egyptian archaeology
16. Mesoamerican and South American archaeology
17. Archaeology of other world regions: Asia, Africa, Europe, etc.
18. Ecology and artifacts: ceramic, metallurgy, corrosion, identification and characterization, classification
19. Historical and industrial archaeology
20. Maritime archaeology
21. Ethics and legal concerns: NAGPRA, CRM, destruction of cultural heritage, conservation and preservation
22. Fieldwork opportunities: Archaeological Fieldwork Bulletin produced by Archaeological Institute of America, online: [www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/afob](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/afob) opportunities for field schools and volunteering.
23. Careers in archaeology

## 7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Field Trips
- D. Other (Specify): Instructional Methods also include: -Internet presentations -DVD presentations -student presentations

## 8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

### Writing Assignments:

The students could be assigned any of the following work:

- A. Answering chapter study guide questions
- B. Answering exam essay questions
- C. Learning vocabulary definitions and pronunciations
- D. Taking notes during lectures or presentations
- E. Outlining specific sections of the text or answering essay questions in outline form

### Reading Assignments:

The students could be assigned some or all of the following reading assignments:

- A. Keeping up with weekly reading assignments
- B. Reading and commenting on selected reading handouts
- C. Searching the Internet for supplemental material on a class topic

### Other Outside Assignments:

Some or all of the following outside assignments could be assigned to students:

- A. Visit a local museum to view and report on artifacts relevant to class material
- B. Visit and or participate in a local archaeological excavation if possible

C. Attend and take notes of a public lecture on a topic relevant to class materials and report back to class

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work
- C. Exams/Tests
- D. Field Trips
- E. Homework
- F. Oral Presentation
- G. Papers
- H. Projects
- I. Quizzes
- J. Research Projects
- K. Written examination

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Renfrew, Colin & Bahn, Paul. *Archaeology Essentials*, 4th ed. Thames and Hudson, 2018
- B. Renfrew, Colin & Bahn, Paul. *Archaeology, Theories, Methods & Practice*, 7th ed. Thames and Hudson, 2016

**Origination Date:** August 2020  
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**Course Originator:** Michele Titus