



School of Social Sciences and Humanities

ANTH 203

Introduction to Archaeology

Fall 2026

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Victoria Castillo	OFFICE HOURS	Wed 2:30 pm
OFFICE	A2505	CLASSROOM	A2801
E-MAIL	vcastillo@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Class Tue/Thu 1:00 – 2:20 pm / Lab Thu 1:00 – 3:20
TELEPHONE	867-456-8615	CRN	10058
SSH School office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, sssh@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a general introduction to the field of archaeology as a subdiscipline of anthropology. The concepts, theories and methods of the discipline will be examined, and their application to the study of human pre-history will be discussed. Students will develop an appreciation of how archaeology contributes to the understanding of the history of human societies and basic archaeological laboratory skills

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): None

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Gain an understanding of the basic theories and methods of field archaeology, including survey and excavation, measurement and sampling, stratigraphy and dating, and record keeping
- Have a basic understanding of the models developed in archaeology that may be applied to interpreting the meaning of spatial patterns within and between archaeological sites
- Develop practical skills in archaeological laboratory work, including metric and wear analysis, and floral, faunal, and sediment analysis
- Gain practical skills in the presentation of archaeological data through tables, graphs, statistical summaries, photographs, drawings, and textual descriptions
- Understand the ethical and legal context of the practice of archaeology in Canada and the Yukon.

Delivery format

This course is delivered on campus, face-to-face.

Weekly breakdown of instructional hours

Students will have two hours of lecture and one hour of lab per week. It is expected that students will spend an additional 3-5 hours outside of class on readings and assignments.

EVALUATION

This is a synchronous face-to-face course. The course outline and other relevant materials, including grades, will be posted for viewing or downloading on Moodle. When possible, lecture slides will be posted on Moodle prior to the lecture, but these are considered to be supplementary material and will not provide all material covered in lecture. If the posted notes are inconsistent with information provided in lecture, the information presented in lecture takes precedence. Do not rely on the posted notes alone. Please contact me if you are unable to access these materials.

Active Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Lab Assignments x 5	25%
Lab Exam	20%
Final Exam (not cumulative)	25%
Total	100%

Engagement and Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes and actively participate in class discussions and projects.

Midterm

There is one midterm that consists of multiple choice and short answer questions. The midterm follows the textbook and lectures. A study guide will be provided five days prior to the midterm.

Lab Assignments

There are five lab assignments. These will focus on mapping, zooarchaeology, lithics, pottery and social organization. Students are expected to hand in the lab assignments biweekly, at the end of each topic section. Students are required to attend all labs to complete their assignments.

Lab Exam

There is one lab exam that will involve a timed hands-on examination of archaeological material with associated short answer questions.

Final Exam

The final exam is not cumulative. It will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. A study guide will be provided five days prior to the final.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Renfrew, Colin, Paul Bahn, and Elizabeth DeMarrais. 2024. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*, 9th Edition. Thames and Hudson: London.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Lecture Dates	Topic	Readings in Textbooks
September 1+ 3	Introduction / The History of Archaeology	Introduction / Chapter 1
September 8 + 10	Varieties of Evidence (Archaeological Record)	Chapter 2
September 15 + 17	Survey and Excavation	Chapter 3
September 22 + 24	Dating Methods and Chronology	Chapter 4
September 29 + October 1	Environmental Archaeology	Chapter 6
October 6 + 8	Midterm / Subsistence and Diet	Chapter 7
October 13 + 15	Reading Week	No Readings
October 20 + 22	Technology and Material Culture	Chapter 8
October 27 + 29	How Were Societies Organized	Chapter 5
November 3 + 5	Trade and Exchange	Chapter 9
November 10 + 12	Cognition, Art and Religion	Chapter 10
November 17 + 19	The Bioarchaeology of People	Chapter 11
November 24 + 26	Archaeology and the Public	Chapter 14
December 1 + 3	Exam Review / Lab Exam	
December 15	Final Exam - (in the lab from 1:00-4:00 pm)	

Lab Dates	Lab Topic	
September 3	No lab	
September 10	Introduction to Lab	
September 17	Mapping Lab	
September 24	Mapping Lab	Lab Due
October 1	Zooarchaeology Lab	
October 8	Zooarchaeology Lab	Lab Due
October 15	Reading Week – No Classes	
October 22	Lithics Lab – Flintknapping with Matthew Bossons	
October 29	Lithics Lab	
November 5	Lithics Lab	Lab Due
November 12	Ceramics Lab	
November 19	Ceramics Lab	Lab Due
November 26	Social Complexity Lab (campus) – Completed in Class	Lab Due
December 3	Lab Exam	Lab Exam