

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with the theories, methods and practice of archaeology. Archaeology provides us with a window on both cultural and physical human evolution. As such, it is one of the few disciplines that will achieve a long-term perspective on these topics.

The archaeological record is the only path to understanding this long-vanished history, but reconstructing the past is not without hurdles. Indeed, it is not sufficient to address questions such as: what do we want to know about ourselves, we also need to build the analytical tools to achieve such a goal. During the course of the semester, we will explore the principles of archaeology, outline what specifically makes it a science, and finally investigate multiple lines of attack for extracting knowledge from the archaeological record.

Our text book is David Hurst Thomas and Robert Kelly's *Archaeology, Down to Earth*, Thomson (3rd edition) ISBN 0-495-00858-3.



COURSE SYLLABUS

Module 1- THE SEARCHERS: *Careers in archaeology*
 A short history of archaeology:
 The pioneers
 The recent past

Readings: Thomas and Kelly chapter 1

Module 2- THE QUEST: *What changed?*
 Why did things change?
 Asking the right questions
 Ethics in Archaeology

Readings: Thomas and Kelly chapter 2

Module 3- FRAMES OF REFERENCE: *Site Formation processes*
 Ethnoarchaeology

Readings: Thomas and Kelly chapter 7

Module 4- WHERE?

Surveying and finding sites
Excavating and cataloging

Readings: Thomas and Kelly chapter 3-4

Module 5- WHEN?

Absolute dating
Classification and relative chronology

Readings: Thomas and Kelly chapter 5-6

Module 6- WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

Geoarchaeology and stratigraphy
Climate reconstruction

Readings: Thomas and Kelly chapter 2

Module 7- ANALYSES

What technology?
Lithic Analysis
Ceramic analysis
What did they eat?
Archaeozoology
Archaeobotany
Who were they?
bioarchaeology
Social organization and gender role

Readings: Thomas and Kelly chapter 8-10

Module 8- WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

Cognition, art and religion
Whose past?

Readings: Thomas and Kelly chapter 11-13

~~~~~

**A few notes you should read:**

Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Access Center (970) 351-2289 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

You are responsible for attending the class. I will not share my notes; therefore, if you miss a lecture you do so at your own risk. Keep in mind that all exams will strongly emphasize the lecture materials, and that we will have hands-on lab exercises throughout the semester.

Your course grade will be based on two written exams, the aforementioned lab exercises. Each exam will count for 25% of your final grade. You can already mark your calendar for the final exam. It will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM. The midterm will take place on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

The class exercises and assignments will count for 50% of your total grade. They will be graded using the following scale:

**Subjective Evaluation**

Excellent work:

Good work:

Average work:

Less than satisfactory work:

Missing assignment or highly unsatisfactory work:

**Grade**

A (100 pts)

B (85 pts)

C (75 pts)

D (65 pts)

F (50 pts)

I will forgive the worst score among your assignments, but ALL other scores will count towards your final grade. No make-up exam will be given *under any circumstances* unless you have a written note from your Academic Advisor or appropriate health-related documents explaining your absence. In which case, the make-up exam will be different from the one given in class. Your final grade will use only straight letter grades and will not include + or -.

| Score (pts) | Grade |
|-------------|-------|
| <60         | F     |
| 60 to 69    | D     |
| 70 to 79    | C     |
| 80 to 89    | B     |
| 90 to 100   | A     |

In the exams, or all matters related to the course, you will be expected to follow the UNC honor code. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the class.

My office is located on the second floor of Candelaria, in room 2263. My office hours are on T 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, and R 1:00 PM-2:00 PM or by appointment. If you need to reach me at any other time, my phone number is (970) 351-2761 and my email address: [frederic.sellet@unco.edu](mailto:frederic.sellet@unco.edu)