



ARCHY 205 Principles of Archaeology

Denny 403, Monday & Wednesday, 9:40-11:50am

What is this course about?

Anthropology studies humanity, from its biological origins to the diversity of its present-day expressions. And while biological anthropology can tell us of human evolution, and sociocultural of our current and historically recent cultural diversity, it is archaeology which allows us to reach back into the furthest depths of human history—before written records, and where memories become hazy.

Be it the pyramids of Giza or the socio-politics of the Incan state, archaeology allows us unparalleled access into the complexities of the human condition. In this course, we will examine the principles which guide archaeology and its complex and sometimes uncomfortable history.

When are my office hours?

David Carlson (davidrcn@uw.edu)

Room: Denny 400K

Time: Mondays 2:00-4:00pm or by appointment.

Why is this course important?

Archaeology often plays a “hidden role” in the day-to-day operation of the modern world. It is involved in everything from decisions about when and how to build new buildings, to the operation of National Parks, to the politics of indigenous sovereignty. Archaeology has wider political implications, and the choices made in how to do it ripple far beyond the intellectual interests of archaeologists. As business persons, citizens, workers, students, and human beings, you will find that archaeology can have unexpected effects on your daily lives, and the more you know how it operates, the better you can make decisions about how you use archaeological knowledge.

More generally, Americanist archaeology is part of anthropology, and to understand the development and explanatory power of anthropology, you have to have working knowledge of archaeological reasoning!

Finally, archaeology is fun! I believe that it is one of the most challenging and interesting areas of research available today, and I hope to share some of this interest with you!

What should you be able to know and do at the end?

- You will understand some of the basic ways the material world helps us create, understand, and experience our identities and histories.
- You will be able to describe some of the politics surrounding archaeology, and the ethical and epistemological issues that result from this.
- You will have a sense of the breadth of archaeological research, the kinds of questions archaeologists ask, and the methods they use.
- You will have a basic understanding of the role archaeology plays in American daily life, from policy decisions to urban development.
- You will develop your own opinion about the value and importance of archaeology!

What are the course policies?

- Course material is available on Canvas. Make sure you check the Canvas website at least once per week; new material will be posted one week ahead of time. I have posted some of the “big” assignments ahead of time.
- Please be respectful of other people in the course. Remember, if you must offer a critique, critique

the idea or the position, not the person.

- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me (davidrcn@uw.edu). If you do not feel comfortable contacting me, you can email my supervisor, Sara Gonzalez (gonzalsa@uw.edu).
- If you must miss an assignment, please contact me **before** the assignment is due. In most cases, I will have you do extra credit. However, for certain circumstances I can provide alternative assignments that do not use up your extra credit opportunities. These include, but are not limited to, some University events, longer-term illnesses, and immigration issues/problems. Let me know if you have questions!
- Please avoid calling or texting in class. If you must do so, please step outside. If you are using a laptop, please use it only for taking notes; other activities, like Facebook and Youtube, can not only negatively impact your learning but that of those sitting around you.
- I am not planning on posting lecture slides online (save for special circumstances/accommodations), so be sure to take good notes. I also recommend making a friend or two!

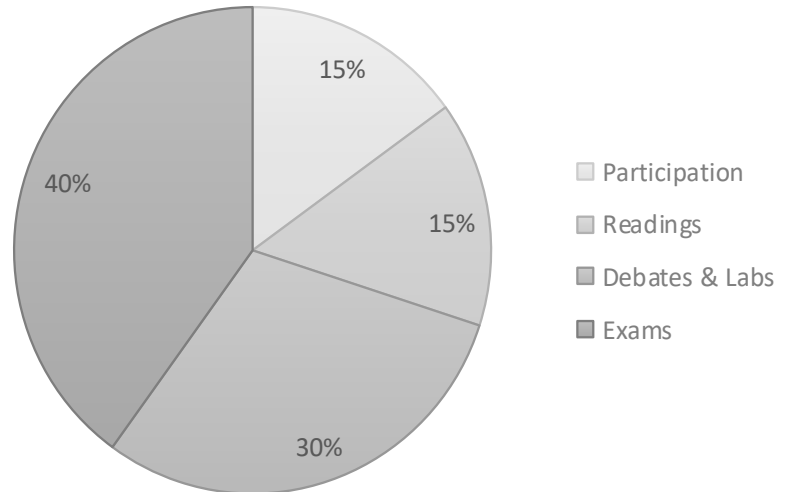
Are there any required texts?

Yes and no. There is not a textbook for this course. However, I will be posting readings online each week for you to read. Each reading is an excerpt from a book, paper, or textbook that introduces relevant concepts and case studies. Each reading has a quiz associated with it, and both should be completed by the day and time listed on Canvas.

How are you graded?

Here are the kinds of assignments in this course. Details about particular assignments will be released throughout the quarter.

- **Participation** evaluates your participation in in-class activities.
- **Online Reading Quizzes** evaluate how well you took notes on readings.
- **Debates & Labs** are more or less self-evident! You may turn these in up to one day late, with a 50% grade penalty.
- **Exams** are also self-evident!
- **Extra Credit** is available later in the quarter.



Content Notices

There is a small chance that some content in this course may be triggering for students who suffer from PTSD, anxiety issues, or other trauma-centered conditions. While I do not expect to use much, if any, such content, I have created a Content Notice webpage on the off chance that I do. The page is linked below and throughout the Canvas website, and will be updated when I update each week's assignments.

URL: http://davidrcarlson.net/archy205/content_notices.html

Who is your instructor?



David Carlson is a PhD Candidate and graduate student in the Department of Anthropology who is researching the role racism and labor relations played in the daily material lives of first-generation, early 20th century Japanese American sawmill town workers at Barneston, Washington. When not working on his dissertation, he plays video games and reads more on politics than is probably good for his mental health.

Additional Information

Disability Accommodations

The Disabled Student Services (DSS) Office coordinates academic accommodations for enrolled students with documented disabilities. Accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis and may include classroom relocation, sign language interpreters, recorded course materials, note taking, and priority registration. DSS also provides needs assessment, mediation, referrals, and advocacy as necessary and appropriate. Requests for accommodations or services must be arranged in advance and require documentation of the disability, verifying the need for such accommodation or service.

Contact DSS at: 448 Schmitz, Box 355839, (206) 543-8925 (Voice/TTY), uwdss@u.washington.edu.

Academic Honesty Statement

Through the duration of this class, you are expected to treat your fellow students, teaching assistants, and instructor honestly and with respect. You are expected to produce your own work for the class. Written exercises should be original and must properly credit intellectual sources used. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated. If you are unsure as to what constitutes academic honesty, go to the following campus web site. This site outlines the disciplinary actions that are required when a case of dishonesty is identified.

Website: <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/conduct/index.html>