

# **ANTH 120: Introduction to Archaeology**

University of Tennessee – Knoxville

Spring 2023

(3 Credits)

## **Instructor Information**

Katherine Parker ([kparke38@vols.utk.edu](mailto:kparke38@vols.utk.edu))

Office Hours: In-person (422 Strong Hall) and via Zoom

T/TH 3:30 – 5:00 or by appointment

## **Meeting Times and Location**

Strong Hall Room 105

Tuesday and Thursday 5:40 pm – 6:55 pm

January 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>

## **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to methods and techniques used to identify and date archaeological cultures, reconstruct past lifeways and describe cultural evolution. Throughout the course, we will discuss the history and basic concepts involved in doing archaeology, who archaeological stakeholders are, and contemporary methods and themes in anthropological archaeology. We will also review current discourse and case studies involving archaeological ethics, compliance, and resource conservation in archaeological practice. This course is a prerequisite to the Anthropology major and upper-division archaeology coursework, and it also meets either the Cultures and Civilizations (CC) or Social Sciences (SS) general education requirement for all majors.

## **Course Objectives**

The objective of this course is to provide you with a broad scope of archaeological history, method, and research applications. By the end of the semester, you should have new knowledge about:

- The history of archaeology as a subdiscipline of anthropology
- Key concepts and stakeholders that structure archaeological work
- The full cycle of archaeological projects, beginning with project development and consultation and encompassing field and lab work, analysis, final curation, and dissemination of project findings to the public and various stakeholders
- Wide methodological applications employed in doing archaeology
- Common material culture types encountered at archaeological sites and the classification schemes archaeologists have used to identify distinct artifact types, use histories, and chronologies
- Major themes that structure archaeological research questions and investigations broadly
- Legal and ethical considerations involved in archaeological practice
- Current archaeological research projects within the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee and the various opportunities for volunteer/research experience available to undergraduate students

A final goal is to show you that understanding the human past, as revealed by the archaeological record, is not only relevant to the modern world, but has particular, unequally experienced social and political implications on contemporary groups. This course is intended to encourage you to consider your own cultural heritage and its meaning, as well as the bearing this heritage has at the interface with other cultural experiences.

### Textbook

David Hurst Thomas and Robert L. Kelly (2017) *Archaeology*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Cengage Learning, Boston, MA.

The course textbook is available at the UTK bookstore and online at most textbook retailers, though it will likely be available at a reduced cost outside of the VolShop. The Undergraduate Anthropology Association (UAA) also has copies of this textbook available for free checkout in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor breakout study space in Strong Hall. If you have any trouble accessing the textbook, either due to availability or cost restrictions, please contact me directly and I will be happy to make my copy accessible.

### Course Communications:

Announcements, assignments, and grades will be communicated via Canvas. If you have questions or encounter difficulties, I can be reached through email at [kparke38@vols.utk.edu](mailto:kparke38@vols.utk.edu). I will try to respond to all emails within 48 hours of receipt. Should you have any difficulty with the course material or should a personal issue come up, please reach out to me via email or during office hours. We are all human who sometimes need a little flexibility, and that grace extends both ways. I'm happy to work with you to make accommodations as needed, especially if they're brought to my attention prior to deadlines instead of after.

### Organization and Format

Most of our weekly meetings will be split between lectures and hands-on exercises. The success of this class will depend on our mutual commitment to thoughtful, informed discussion; collaborative critical and creative thinking; and careful, diligent work at in and outside of the classroom. Therefore, please make sure that you complete the assigned readings before each class and come prepared to engage with the material and your fellow classmates during class.

### Grading and Assessment

Attendance (20 classes x 10 points each)	200 points
Class Assignments (15 x 20 points each)	300 points
Exams (3 x 100 points each)	300 points
Final Exam (1 x 200 points)	200 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>1,000 points</b>

All graded content should be submitted via the designated Assignment page on Canvas on the day that it is due. Late work submitted without prior communication will have 5 points deducted for each day that it is late. If you need additional accommodations or arrangements to complete your assigned work, please reach out to me via email or during office hours. All late work that is due to self-isolation or quarantining for COVID-19 will automatically be accommodated, but communication with me and the university is required in advance (see COVID-19 Policies section below for more information).

Grades will be assessed via the following scale:

A	925 – 1,000 points (93 – 100%)	C+	755 – 794 points (76 – 79%)
A-	895 – 924 points (90 – 92%)	C	725 – 754 points (73 – 75%)
B+	855 – 894 points (86 – 89%)	C-	695 – 724 points (70 – 72%)
B	825– 854 points (83 – 85 %)	D	595 – 694 points (60 – 69%)
B-	795 – 824 points (80 – 82%)	F	594 points and below (Below 60%)

If you find that you have several overdue assignments toward the end of the semester that you would like additional time beyond the end of the semester to complete, please reach out to discuss the option of taking an Incomplete in the course. A grade of “Incomplete” does not affect your GPA and will provide you with 12 additional months to complete any outstanding graded work that you need to complete the course—this option is a great, stigma-free way to give you more flexibility and avoid grade penalties if you are undergoing extenuating stress or an external conflict. Taking an Incomplete would involve us working together to lay out a timeline for to make up missing work within the 12-month period that is flexible around your needs. You do not receive any penalties for late work completed during this 12-month allowance, meaning you could still receive an A grade if you meet the points threshold above, but any work that is still incomplete by the end of the period will receive an F grade.

### Attendance

Class will meet in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Attendance for this course is strongly encouraged, as students who are present tend to make as much as a full letter grade higher than students with spotty attendance. We are all humans with full and often overwhelming lives—I know that some days it will be harder to be present in class than others. I track attendance each week but, to build in some flexibility, students can miss up to four (4) class sessions without penalty or prior communication for excused absences. There are twenty class days that are not exam days or break/no-class days beyond those four flex days that will count toward your attendance grade, for a total of 10 points per day or roughly 20 percent of your total grade in this course.

If you need to miss class due to an excused illness, family/childcare logistics, or other reason, please reach out to me with as much notice as you can. Lecture materials will be made available each week on Canvas, and I will be able to provide make-up information/alternatives to any missed in-class activities to students who coordinate with me about being absent.

**NOTE: If you are self-isolating or quarantining, DO NOT COME TO CLASS until you have been cleared to do so by your health care provider, the contact tracing team, or the Knox County Health Department.**

### Assignments

For 15 weeks throughout the semester, there will be short, thematic assignments to be completed for credit that relate to our course topic for that week. These assignments are designed to be fun and interactive, and to engage you in the kinds of critical thinking skills that are important for archaeologists to develop. Each activity will be accompanied by a brief written assignment or worksheet that can be completed during the activity or outside of class. These written assignments will be made available prior to the corresponding class and are due by the start of following class (i.e., if an assignment corresponds to a Tuesday lecture topic, I'll post the assignment prior to Tuesday's class, and it will be due at the start of class that Thursday). Paper copies of the assignment will be made available in class, but you may submit either the paper copy or a digital version of your work on Canvas. Each assignment is worth 20 points, with the total for all fifteen assignments equaling 300 points or roughly 30 percent of your final grade. Late submissions without prior communication will be accepted up to the last day of class (Tuesday 5/9) for partial credit.

For students who have made arrangements to be excused from class or who need to make up the activity at a later date, an alternate, parallel activity may be made available to you on Canvas. Please let me know in advance if you need to make accommodations or adjustments to your ability to complete these assignments. **NOTE: If you are feeling unwell or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class for the sake of completing the activity!**

These activities can be easily made up or completed virtually and I am happy to create a flexible completion deadline if needed. **Please** be considerate of your own health and the health of those in this class.

## Exams

The course will consist of regular evaluations of the course material, for a total of **three (3) exams**. These exams will focus on the materials covered over each lecture following the previous exam unit and are not cumulative. The format of the exams will consist of primarily multiple-choice questions followed by 3-5 short response essay questions. Each exam comprises 100 points or roughly percent of your final grade, for a total of 30 percent of your final grade for all three exams.

All three exams will be open note, including access to both digital or handwritten notes but **excluding the use of internet browsers, shared notes among other students, and any other form of communication with others during the exam**. I would strongly advise that each of you still study prior to each exam, as the exams are formatted to fit closely within an allotted time constraint that will leave little room to do exhaustive reviews of your notes. The notes work best when used as reference to double check tricky questions, not as a resource that you have to search through for every single answer. Even with access to the notes and the PowerPoint lectures, past students who do not prepare in advance have not scored well on these exams. If you pay attention in class and prepare ahead of the exams, however, you should find these exams to be relatively easy.

## Final Exam

The final exam will take place in person on **Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:15 pm**, one week after the conclusion of our last class. While we have 2 hours and 15 minutes allotted for time, the exam should take no longer to complete than two hours max. The final exam will be comprised of two parts:

- **Part I**, which will be similar to previous multiple-choice exams and will cover the course material after Exam 3 (roughly the last three weeks of the semester)
- **Part II**, which will be cumulative and consist of a series of short-answer and extended essay responses on material covered throughout the semester

Part I of the final exam will be worth 100 points and Part II will be worth 100 points, for a total of 200 points or roughly 20 percent of your overall grade. As with all other exams, **you will be able to use your notes** but will **not** be able to use internet browsers, shared notes among other students, or any other form of communication with others during the exam. Responses to the questions in Part II must not be plagiarized from the lecture material and should be reworked into your own words—**any plagiarized material, be it from the course content or your peers, will receive a grade of zero.**

## Extra Credit

There are several opportunities available for extra credit throughout this course that are designed to engage you with archaeological materials and discourse beyond the immediate scope of this course. Potential extra credit opportunities include volunteering time in one of the archaeology labs, attending virtual seminars on archaeological topics, and reviewing and critiquing archaeological media. A list of specific volunteer opportunities, along with pertinent contact information, will be made available via Canvas, and any supplemental extra credit materials will be submitted via Canvas as well. A **maximum of 50 extra credit points** may be completed. **Extra credit is due on the last day of class (Tuesday 5/9) at midnight.**

## University COVID-19 Policies

If you need to be tested for COVID-19 because you are feeling sick or have been in close contact with someone who has been exposed, the Student Health Center provides diagnostic testing for students. If you get tested for COVID-19, you should begin self-isolating (**read: do NOT attend class in person**) and follow university policies explained below.

## Self-Isolation Policy

If you begin to feel sick or you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, the first step is to begin self-isolating immediately and fill out the university's [self-isolation form](#). The contact tracing team will follow up with you—generally within 24 hours, but the response time can vary depending on caseloads. You can read more about the university's self-isolation policy and procedures [here](#).

## In-Person Safety Policies

Students who attend class in-person should familiarize themselves with university policies for safe in-person learning and engagement, which can be found [here](#). Instructors have the right to ask those who are not complying with these requirements to leave class in the interest of everyone's health and safety. In the event that a student refuses to comply with these requirements, the instructor has the right to cancel class.

Any individual can choose to wear a mask anywhere on campus, even when it is not required. According to public health authorities, in areas where there is substantial or high COVID transmission, wearing masks in indoor spaces can help reduce transmission of the virus and keep communities healthy. The university strongly recommends that all members of the campus community be vaccinated for their own protection, to prevent disruption to the semester, and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For the most current information on the status of mask requirements, please check the COVID-19 website at <https://www.utk.edu/coronavirus/>. Vaccination information and appointment signups are available at <https://www.tiny.utk.edu/vaccine/>. The Student Health Center medical staff is available to students to answer questions or discuss concerns about vaccines, and the center provides vaccines free of charge for anyone 18 years or older who would like one.

If you have a health concern, you can call the Student Health Center nurse triage line at 865-974-5080. The university has a nurse available to speak to students by phone 24 hours a day. After-hours care has been arranged for eligible students through the UT Medical Center emergency room at 865-305-9000. If you are having an emergency, you should call 911. If you have any questions about the university's COVID-19 policies and procedures, you can call 865-656-SAFE (7233), Monday–Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## Disabilities Policy

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Student Disability Services (SDS – <https://sds.utk.edu/>) in Dunford Hall at 865-974-6087 to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations. Students needing accommodations are strongly encouraged to contact SDS and the instructor in advance of the course start date to ensure arrangements are made in advance.

## Statement of Academic Integrity

Each student is responsible for their personal integrity in academic life and for adhering to UT's Honor Statement. The Honor Statement reads: "An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity."

## University Civility Statement:

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected.

Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>.

**Key Campus Resources for Students:**

- [Center for Career Development](#) (Career counseling and resources; HIRE-A-VOL job search system)
- [Course Catalogs](#) (Listing of academic programs, courses, and policies)
- [Hilltopics](#) (Campus and academic policies, procedures and standards of conduct)
- [OIT HelpDesk](#) (865) 974-9900
- [Schedule of Classes/Timetable](#)
- [Student Health Center](#) (visit the site for a list of services)
- [Student Success Center](#) (Academic support resources)
- [Undergraduate Academic Advising](#) (Advising resources, course requirements, and major guides)
- [University Libraries](#) (Access to library resources, databases, course reserves, and services)

**Course Schedule**

Theme	Week	Date	Topic	Assignment?*
PART I: History and Basics of Archaeology	1	Tu 1/24	Course Overview and Archaeology Basics	
		Th 1/26	History of Archaeology	
	2	Tu 1/31	Archaeological Laws and Stakeholders	
		Th 2/2	Finding Sites	Assignment 1
	3	Tu 2/7	Excavating Sites	
		Th 2/9	Analyzing Sites	Assignment 2
	4	Tu 2/14	Curating Archaeological Materials	Assignment 3
		Th 2/16	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
PART II: Methods in Archaeology	5	Tu 2/21	Dating, Chronology, Isotopes	Assignment 4
		Th 2/23	Lithics	Assignment 5
	6	Tu 2/28	Ceramics	Assignment 6
		Th 3/2	Paleoethnobotany and Zooarchaeology	Assignment 7
	7	Tu 3/7	Metals and Glass	Assignment 8
		Th 3/9	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
Spring Break	8	Tu 3/14	No Class	
		Th 3/16	No Class	
PART III: Themes in Archaeology	9	Tu 3/21	Political Economy, Exchange, and Social Networks	
		Th 3/23	Subsistence and Environments	Assignment 9
	10	Tu 3/28	Landscapes and Memory	
		Th 3/30	No Class Day (SAA Conference)	
	11	Tu 4/4	Religion, Ritual, and Art	Assignment 10
		Thu 4/6	No Class Day (UTK Spring Recess)	
	12	Tu 4/11	Identity and Intersectionality (Class, Gender, Race, Ethnicity)	
		Th 4/13	Health, Healing, and Bioarchaeology	Assignment 11
	13	Tu 4/18	Conflict, Colonialism, and Inequality	
		Th 4/20	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
PART IV: Best Practices in Archaeology	14	Tu 4/25	Collaboration Part I: Indigenous and Tribal Communities	
		Th 4/27	Collaboration Part II: BIPOC and Descendant Communities	Assignment 12
	15	Tu 5/2	Pseudoarchaeology	Assignment 13
		Th 5/4	Archaeological Ethics, Compliance, and Conservation	Assignment 14
	16	Tu 5/9	Applying Archaeology	Assignment 15
		Th 5/11	No Class - Start of UTK Exam Period	

\*Assignments correspond to the lectures for that day. Assignments are due the following class period at the start of class.

**Key Dates:**

- Monday 1/30: Last day to drop without a “W”
- Monday 4/17: Last day to drop with a “W”
- Tuesday 5/23: Final grades submitted to MyUTK by 8:00 am EST

**The final exam will be in person on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:15 pm**