

PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY
ANT 1200

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours:
0.0

Date Revised: Spring
01

Catalog Course Description:

Introduction to methods, theory, and techniques utilized to analyze and date archaeological cultures, past life ways and illustrate cultural evolution.

NOTE: Emphasis will be placed on the prehistory of America, Africa, southwest Asia, and western Europe. The scope of human prehistory will cover from the earliest human cultures to the rise of complex civilizations.

Entry Level Standards:

Students must be able to read and write at an college entry level.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: None

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:

Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn. Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practices Second edition. Thames and Hudson, 1996.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to course and requirements. What is archaeology and a brief history of archaeology. (Introduction and Chapter 1)
2	Categories of archaeological evidence (Chapter 2)
3	Archaeological survey and excavation (Chapter 3) Assignment and discussion of class fieldwork project
4	Archaeometry: How old is it? (Chapter 4)
5	Review and examination # 1
6	Social archaeology (Chapter 5)
7	Environmental archaeology (Chapter 6) Tape: "The Mammoth Hunters"
8	Subsistence and Diet (Chapter 7)

- 9 Prehistoric technology (Chapter 8)
- 10 Review and examination # 2
- 11 Prehistoric trade (Chapter 9)
- 12 Cognitive archaeology: Art and religion (Chapter 10) Tape: "Paleolithic Cave Art"
- 13 Bioarchaeology: Human skeletal variation and pathology (Chapter 11)
- 14 Explanation in archaeology and why things change (Chapter 12)
- 15 Public Archaeology (Chapter 14). Case Study in Archaeology: Early Occupation of the American Continent: Monte Verde, Chile (Handout). Research Project Due. Review and examination #3
- 16 Comprehensive final/make-up examination

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Provide an introductory overview of the discipline of archaeology. I.5, VII.4
- B. Discuss archaeology as anthropology, archaeology as a means to explain the past, present and future. IV
- C. Teach archaeology as a science. I.5
- D. Present the aesthetic nature of archaeology. IV
- E. Discuss the ethics of archaeological investigation, a non-renewable resource. III.1, IV

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the university parallel program.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

- 1. Conduct an experimental archaeological project to determine how archaeological sites are formed and preserved or not preserved. *Problem Solving and Decision-Making Outcome, Transitional Strategy, Active Learning Strategy*
- 2. Use a combination of lectures, textbook reading, research articles and instructional tapes to obtain an introductory knowledge of archaeology. *Communication Outcome, Information Literacy Outcome, Active Learning Strategy*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State's goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- 1. Understand the goals and scope of archaeology. A, E
- 2. Obtain an understanding and appreciation of the history of archaeology. A, D

3. Learn how a human event or habitation becomes an archaeological site. C
4. Learn how archaeologists find and recognize places of past human behavior. C
5. Differentiate types of excavation techniques. A, C, E
6. Have an appreciation of the chronology of human prehistory. B, C
7. Explain the difference between relative and absolute dating. C
8. Understand how societies are organized and how this affects settlement patterns. B, C
9. Understand the variety of environments that were exploited in prehistory. B, C
10. Learn that subsistence is the basic of what can be found in the archaeological record. B, C
11. Have an appreciation of the evolution of human technology. B, C, D
12. Learn how both goods and ideas were exchanged. A, B
13. Use of art to better understand what past people were thinking. B
14. Learn the application of physical anthropology to archaeological burials. B, C
15. Understand change in the archaeological record and why cultures disappear. B, C, E
16. Learn the steps in the interpretation of past material culture. A, B, C, D
17. Understand cultural resource management. E

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 75% of grade

There will be 3 examinations which will determine 75% of the final course grade. The examinations will cover lecture notes, assigned readings from the text and supplemental videos shown in class. The examination questions will consist of true-false, matching, multiple choice, fill in the blank and short essays. No make-up exams will be given.

B. Laboratory Expectations: None

C. Field Work: 25% of grade

The remaining 25% of the final course grade will be determined by a research assignment. Students will choose from different geographical regions and chronological periods. Then they must find at least three relatively current research articles pertinent to the region and period they have chosen. A written summary of the article will then be submitted. The paper should be typed and double spaced and not exceed 10 pages in length.

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

Students can earn 10 extra credit points by participating in an exercise in archaeological site formation processes. The instructor will announce the date of this later in the semester.

E. Grading Scale:

91-100	A
88-90	B+
81-87	B
78-80	C+
71-77	C
61-70	D
<61	F

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory, not optional. Your individual attendance will reflect your grades on exams and your overall grade. Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Cheating or any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. A grade of "F" will be awarded for cheating or plagiarism.

C. Late Assignments:

10% of the grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late. No papers will be accepted after three (3) days.