

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Prof. J. Andrew Overman
Department of Classics
X6375 Office Hrs: T & Th 1:00-3:30

In this course you will have to assume the role of a Director of an Archaeological Excavation. We will study many of the composite parts of field archaeology. You will need to incorporate all the pieces of work in the field to your site and the excavations you establish or pursue. How will you select a site to excavate? What methods will you use? How will you engage the local government? Where are you getting your funding? What are the goals of your excavation? All these questions and others will be part of you doing your job as a dig Director. You will present your site and your ideas and goals about your site in your in-class presentation sometime after the mid-term break.

There are two in-class quizzes. One is on the section dealing with artifacts and includes a pottery identification test. The second quiz covers important terms, persona, methodological developments, and other issues in field archaeology. Together these quizzes are worth 25% of your grade. There are two five-page papers due on 2/24 and 4/9 respectively. They both deal with critical topics in field archaeology. Together these are also worth 25% of your grade. You will make a class presentation sometime after mid-term on the site you have selected or developed to excavate. You will make your goals clear, your method(s), how you selected the site, how you will fund it, ethical and cultural issues associated with your site and so on. This is a twenty minute presentation and is also worth 25% of your grade. These presentations can be done collaboratively if you so choose. And there is a final paper due on 5/7. This is an 8-10 page paper where you critically engage and review an important archaeological site where excavations are currently (or were recently) on-going. This will include an analysis of site-reports, and critical review of their goals and the ethical and cultural approach to their excavations. This is worth 25% of your grade. Here is the working outline and schedule for the course.

Jan 27-29: Introduction to the course; your role in this class as an archaeologist; the origins this discipline; motivations and goals in archaeology; antiquarianism, the Bible, significant early sites. Fagan chps 1-2; Renfrew chp 1-2

Feb 3-5: "Biblical archaeology"; archaeology as an "objective" science? Pioneers working in the Middle East; methodological advances; Macalester's site *Omrît* on the Israel-Lebanese border; readings.

Feb 10-12: Artifacts; dating; forms and typologies; stratigraphy; forms of control; architecture; numismatics; human and organic remains; C-14, etc. Pottery Exam in 2/12. Fagan 7&10; Renfrew 4

Feb 17-19: Technologies: Maps; GPS; GIS; Lab analysis; provenience; NAA
Five page paper on *Artifacts or Technologies due 2/24*; Fagan 8-9

Feb 24-26: Funding; budgets; funding organizations; Readings

Mar 3-5: Selecting a site; local structures and context; government involvement; Fagan 9; Renfrew 3

Mar 10-12: A dig from start to finish; what a Director must know and do; Renfrew 13;
In class quiz 3/12.

Spring Break – March 14-22

Mar 24-26: Ethics and Ethical protocols in Archaeology; Looting and Hot Antiquities (Site presentations begin) Renfrew 14; Readings

Mar 31-April 2: Cultural Resource Management (CRM); site preservation, reconstruction; development of archaeological sites; how to present a site; what's a ruin? Archaeology and the public; Fagan 18-19

April 7-9: Archaeology and the Environment; Social and economic networks; Five page paper due on Archaeological ethics and/or CRM 4/9; Fagan 12; Renfrew 6

April 14-16: Archaeology and Politics; abuses; archaeology and identity politics
Readings

April 21-23: Becoming an Archaeologist; fieldwork and more fieldwork; graduate programs; related disciplines in archaeology; archaeology and the law; geology; parks and preservation; places Mac students have worked. Fagan 20

April 28-30: Your role and responsibility as an excavation Director; contributing to local knowledge and life; advancing knowledge; building bridges culturally and politically; using the past to think about and future; concluding thoughts. Fagan 18

May 5 Last day of Classes; Concluding thoughts; the use of the past; the roles of the material world in our education in research, and in drawing lessons from the past.

May 7 – Final paper due – 8-10 page critical review of current or recent excavations of a site of your choosing.