



*School of Arts & Science*  
**SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**  
**ANTH 240-002**  
**Archaeological Method & Theory**  
**W2008**

## COURSE OUTLINE

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The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ \_\_\_\_\_

Ω Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only.  
It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.

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### 1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Nicole Kilburn, MA
- (b) Office Hours: Mon 1:00-1:45; Mon 4:00-4:30; Wed 11:00-12:30; Wednesday 4:00-4:30 Thurs 2:00-3:00; or by appointment.
- (c) Location: Young 207
- (d) Phone: 370-3368
- (e) Email: kilburn@camosun.bc.ca

Website: [www.kilburn.disted.camosun.bc.ca](http://www.kilburn.disted.camosun.bc.ca)

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Recognize the standard systematic procedures used by Americanist archaeologists to investigate the past including site survey and excavation, artifact analysis, faunal analysis, mapping.
2. Discuss the nature of the archaeological evidence.
3. Identify and discuss basic theoretical approaches in archaeology at low level, middle range and high level.
4. Identify and discuss reasons for conservation and protection of archaeological sites and artifacts.
5. Critically evaluate professional and non-professional ideas and writings about prehistory.
6. Carry out descriptive analyses of certain types of artifacts.
7. Discuss divergent ideas of the past.
8. Outline the attitudes and concerns of First Nations communities in regard to archaeological excavation, human skeletal remains and interpretation of North American prehistory.

### 3. Required Materials

**Text:**

Sharer, Robert and Wendy Ashmore  
2003 *Archaeology; Discovering our Past*, Third Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

**Reserved readings** (to be photocopied in the library):

Rathje, William and Cullen Murphy

1992 Yes, Wonderful Things. From: *Rubbish! The Archaeology of Garbage*, pp. 3-29 Harper Collins: New York.

Thomas, David Hurst

2000 Prologue. In: *Skull Wars*. Basic Books, New York.

#### **4. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)**

##### **(a) Labs: 30%**

Labs meet every Friday. It is VERY important that you attend each lab to complete and submit assignments. This is the only way to learn the material that you will be responsible for in the lab exams. Lab assignments are each worth 1% of the final mark, and are marked to provide feedback in preparation for the lab exams. Labs can only be made-up in the case of extreme illness with a medical certificate. There will be two lab exams throughout the semester, each worth 10% of your final grade. The lab section of this course **MUST** be passed to get a passing grade in ANTH 240.

##### **(b) Exams : 55%**

There will be two exams comprised of multiple choice questions, matching, open-ended short answer questions and long answers. The exams are not cumulative, although some theory concepts will be discussed throughout the term.

**MIDTERM EXAM: Monday, February 25**

**FINAL EXAM: During the College exam period**

Exams must be written at the scheduled times. The only exception is extreme illness, in which case a medical certificate must be presented to the instructor, and the instructor must be notified by phone or email **BEFORE** the day of the exam. There will be no exceptions without a medical certificate. **REPEAT- NO EXCEPTIONS.** This includes lab exams. Unavailability of texts or pressure of other work will not be accepted as excuses for missing exams or other assigned work.

##### **(c) Term lab project: 15%**

Experimental archaeology is an example of Middle Range Theory in that it creates a bridge between the fairly static material record and the dynamic behaviours that archaeologists are most interested in identifying in past cultural systems. Artifact replication is an excellent opportunity to learn more about particular artifacts. Examples of questions addressed in replication experiments include: How is a particular artifact made? How long does it take? What other tools are required, and what evidence of these manufacturing marks are left on the finished tools? How are the tools used? For this assignment, students will choose to replicate one artifact that could be recovered from an archaeological site in the New World. Generally speaking, most experimental hypotheses will be tested by using only materials and tools that would have been available to the original tool makers/users. The lab manual and textbook will help students determine the methodology for replicating particular artifacts. Each student will submit the replicated artifact, along with a formal lab write-up detailing the experiment (ie. the question considered such as length of time required for different techniques, etc...). This project is due Monday March 14.

Please come and talk to me if you need ideas about acquiring required materials.

**Please note:** extra assignments **are not** available to students in order to up-grade poor marks from exams or lab work.

**6. Grading System**  
**Standard Grading System (GPA)**

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

**Temporary Grades**

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
<b>I</b>	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
<b>IP</b>	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. ( <i>For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.</i> )
<b>CW</b>	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

**7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course**

**LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

**STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY**

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

**ANTH 240-002 Course schedule:** Class meets for lectures on Mondays 10:30-12:20, labs run on Fridays

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS	LABS
<b>1</b> Jan 7-11	Introduction to the course; What is archaeology, and why bother doing it?	Chapter 1	No labs
<b>2</b> Jan 14-18	A Brief History of Archaeology	Chapter 2; Rathje and Murphy	Garbology
<b>3</b> Jan. 21-25	Theoretical Approaches in Archaeology	Chapter 3	Fieldtrip
<b>4</b> Jan. 28-Feb. 1	The Nature of the Archaeological Record, and How to Collect and Consider it Part I	Chapters 4 and 5	Basic Survey Skills
<b>5</b> Feb. 4-8	The Nature of the Archaeological Record, and How to Collect and Consider it Part II	Chapters 6 and 7	Plan View Mapping
<b>6</b> Feb. 11-15	Chronology Building; How Archaeologists get a Date	Chapter 9	Reading break, no labs
<b>7</b> Feb. 18-22	Ethnoarchaeology and Experimental Archaeology	Chapter 13	<b>LAB EXAM 1</b>
<b>8</b> Feb. 25-29	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	Chapter 8 (for lab reference only)	Artifact analysis: Stone Technologies
<b>9</b> March 3-7	Reconstructing Technology and the Environment	Chapter 14; Chapter 10 (for lab reference only)	Artifact Analysis: Bone and Antler Technologies
<b>10</b> March 10-14	Reconstructing Social Systems <i>Replication Assignment due in class</i>	Chapter 15	Artifact Cataloguing
<b>11</b> March 17-21	Faunal Remains and Human Osteology	Chapter 11	Easter Friday, no lab
<b>12</b> March 24-March 28	Easter Monday; no lecture	--	MNI and NISP "open lab"
<b>13</b> March 31-4	Contract Archaeology in North America	Web resources linked off website; chapter 18	Column Samples
<b>14</b> April 7-11	Current Issues in Archaeology	David Hurst Thomas	<b>LAB EXAM 2</b>