

Anthropology 415

Archaeological Method & Theory

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Office Hrs: MW 2:00-3:00, Holmstedt Hall, Rm 105
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Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be acquainted with theoretical and analytic approaches used by archaeologists to reconstruct past cultures. Emphasis is placed on the logic employed to link the archaeological record with models of prehistory. Students will learn artifact analysis, mapping, computer applications, and quantitative methods through problem-oriented, hands-on exercises.

Texts:

Cultural Resources Archaeology: An Introduction, T. W. Neumann & R.M. Sanford, Altamira Press.

Adventures in Fugawiland, D. Price and G. Gebauer (workbook and Windows CD)

Course Outline:

Theoretical Foundations

- M A Short Discipline History
- M Scientific Approach & Hypothesis Testing
- M Cultural Resource Management & Historic Preservation
- M Archaeology as a Profession, a Career & Ethics

Project: Fugawiland Computer Simulation (100 pts)

Exercise: Archaeological Careers & Ethics (15 pts)

Archaeological Context and Paleolandscapes

- M Natural Formation Processes
- M Cultural Formation Processes

Project: Sidewalk Project (100 pts)

Data Collection Strategies

- M Site Survey & Non-site Strategies
- M Excavation Strategies

Exercise: Site Forms & GIS Mapping (50 pts)

Data Analysis & Classification

M Lithic Technology & Function

Exercise: Flake Analysis (15 pts)

M Ceramic Styles & Function

Exercise: Ceramic Quiz (15 pts)

Methods of Quantification

M Summarization

M Graphics

M Statistical Testing

M Data Bases & GIS

Exercise: Statistical Methods (50 pts)

Dating the Archaeological Record

M Relative Dating Techniques

M Radiocarbon Dating

Exercise: Site Dating Problem (50 pts)

Course Requirements:

Your grade will be based on assigned exercises and projects. A combined total of 395 points are possible. Grading is also based on class participation, and excessive absenteeism (> 2) will result in a lower grade. Quizzes may be given on readings assigned in the text as necessary. Exercises must be turned in on time to receive full credit. Due dates will be indicated when exercises are assigned. Assignments will be made available on my web site at the following address: isu.indstate.edu/stafford. The student code of conduct regarding plagiarism will be strictly enforced.

Grading Curve (percentage of total points):

A	90-100%	C	70-75%
B+	86-89%	D+	65-69%
B	80-85%	D	60-64%
C+	76-79%	F	<60%