

Archaeology 107A/Anthropology 107

Archaeology as a Profession

Fall 2008

Archaeology Center Seminar Room (500-106)
T 11:00 – 1:00, Th 12:00 – 1:00
5 Units

Instructor: Daniel Contreras, PhD
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Office hours: Tues 10-11am

This course explores the opportunities available to archaeology students, necessarily considering in the process the reasons why archaeology is a going concern in the modern world. Each week, we will cover a different area of employment, including museum studies, state and federal positions, cultural resource management, and the academic track. We will also consider some of the political and ethical debates surrounding the field of archaeology.

For most topics, speakers who have either worked in these types of positions or are currently employed in these fields will give a short lecture on how they obtained their jobs, what their jobs involve on a daily basis, and what sorts of training students should acquire before pursuing that particular career path. These presentations will be followed by discussions with the speakers. Reading related to the speakers' careers will be assigned each week, and will be available on Coursework. There are no required texts for the course.

This course fulfills the "Capstone" component of the Archaeology Major's Core Program. For more details on the Archaeology Major and Minor, please visit: <http://archaeology.stanford.edu/>.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – Intro

Tues 23 September

Week 2 - Why can/do we do archaeology?

Tues 30 September

Readings: -Flannery, Kent, "The Golden Marshalltown: A Parable for the Archeology of the 1980s," *American Anthropologist* 84(2):265-278

- Patterson, Thomas C., "The Political Economy of Archaeology in the United States," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 28 (1999): 155–174.
- Lee 2001, Ch.6: "The Antiquities Act, 1900-1906"
(http://www.nps.gov/history/archeology/pubs/lee/Lee_CH6.htm)
- Antiquities Act of 1906 (text)
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (amended text)
(skim text, focus on Section 106)

Week 3 - Conservation

- Tues 7 October Jonathan Hoyte
- Readings: -Villasenor, Isabel, 2006. "The Feathered Serpent Pyramid at Teotihuacan: decay, conservation, and future perspectives," *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites* 8:17-26.
- Demas, Martha, 2003. "Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites: A Select Annotated Bibliography", The GCI Project Bibliography Series, pp.1-12.

Week 4 – Public archaeology

- Tues 14 October Laura Jones, Stanford
- Readings: TBA

Week 5 – Cultural Resource Management

- Tues 21 October Kelly McGuire, Chief Financial Officer,
Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.
(<http://farwestern.com/>)
- Readings: -McManamon, Francis P. and Alf Hatton, "Introduction: considering cultural resource management in modern society" in MacManamon, Francis P. *Cultural Resource Management in Contemporary Society: Perspectives on Managing and Presenting the Past*. London, UK: Routledge, 1999.
(<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/stanford/Doc?id=10054629&ppg=6>)

Week 6 –Government archaeology

- Tues 28 October Liz Clevenger, Archaeological Collections Specialist,
Presidio Trust (<http://www.presidio.gov/trust/>)
- Readings: -Fiske 2008, "Working for the Federal Government: Anthropology Careers," *NAPA Bulletin* 29.
- National Parks Service, "Managing Archaeological Collections,"
<http://www.nps.gov/archeology/collections/index.htm>

Week 7 –Museums and Collections

- Tues 4 November Lisa Newble, Stanford
- Readings: TBA

Week 8 – Graduate Studies in Archaeology

Tues 11 November *John Rick and Ian Hodder, Stanford*
Readings: -White, Nancy Marie, et al. "Academic Archaeology is Public Archaeology," *The SAA Archaeological Record*, March 2004, pp26-29.
-Mark J. Lynott, David G. Anderson, Glen H. Doran, Ricardo J. Elia, Maria Franklin, K. Anne Pyburn, Joseph Schuldenrein, and Dean R. Snow, "Teaching Archaeology in the 21st Century: Thoughts on Graduate Education," *The SAA Bulletin* 17(1)

Week 9 – Political/Ethical concerns

Tues 18 November *Bryn Williams and Neil Brodie, Stanford*
Readings: TBA

Thanksgiving

Week 10 – Final thoughts

Tues 2 December Submission and review of papers.

Monday 8 December – Final papers due.

Course requirements:

Class attendance and participation (25%)

Responses to the readings (15%): I will periodically solicit written responses to the course readings. These should be approximately one typed, 1½-spaced, page. They need to be coherent and thoughtful, but do not need to be carefully polished writing—the emphasis should be on thinking about the material, not crafting a piece of written work.

Papers (60%): This course requires three short papers, all due at the end of the quarter. Completed drafts of the first two listed below are due in class on 2 December (class will be devoted to peer-reviewing these papers; they *must* be finished). Revised final drafts are due on 8 December, preferably via email.

-Cover letter (for application to *one* of the relevant jobs; specify)

-Statement of purpose for application to a graduate program in archaeology or a related field (specify).

-Ethical compass: Discuss, in 1250-2000 words, the ethical and political debates most relevant to those aspects of archaeology of most interest to you. You needn't stake out a position unless you'd like to, but should demonstrate familiarity with the issues and relevant literature. (No draft required on 2 December; final version due 8 December).