This course introduces modern American archaeology to historic preservation and other interested students. Covering archaeological methods and theory, the course also discusses how archaeological research relates to the recovery and writing of anthropology and history, the treatment of cultural resources, and to current social and political thought. Several case study presentations will concern historical archaeology, particularly of the Chesapeake region and the eastern United States, but attention will be drawn to archaeology related to Native Americans and prehistoric time periods. Utilizing a topical and case study approach to archaeology's various facets, the class encourages students to consider how archaeologists recover, interpret, and disseminate the results of their studies.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Foster knowledge of American archaeology and its modern cultural and political contexts.
2. Impart a preliminary understanding of the research methods (field, laboratory, analytical) currently practiced by archaeologists.
3. Gain a preliminary understanding of how archaeologists theorize, analyze, interpret, and publish their research data.
4. Promote an awareness of how environmental issues inform archaeological methods and theories, including the relationships between cultures and ecosystems. “Essentially, archaeology is the study of our human ancestors’ relationship with the world in which they found themselves.” (Frost (2000:378), *The Archaeology Education Handbook*).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Texts:** The following texts are required:
- Other readings will be made available through the course’s Blackboard webpage.

**Tests:** There will be a mid-term examination on **February 22\(^{nd}\)** and a final examination on **Monday, April 26\(^{th}\)**.

**Writing Assignments:** As a Writing Intensive course, three written assignments are required for successfully completing the class. We will discuss these assignments thoroughly in class as well as the associated mechanics for scholarly production and notation. The first assignment, **due Feb. 15\(^{th}\)**, will be a critical review of approximately 1,200 words that discusses an acceptable archaeological text (approved by the instructor or listed on the "Recommended Readings"
handout). Following its submission we will review your essay together and after our discussion, you will produce a second draft that is due no later than **February 26th**. The second assignment, **due March 24th**, will be a five-page paper that either evaluates a cultural resource management report or reviews a series of selected readings on the current state of cultural resource management. Following an in-class peer review session on that date, you will produce a second draft that is due no later than **April 2nd**. The third exercise, **due April 23rd**, will be a laboratory exercise in which you will analyze a body of archaeological data and then interpret your findings in a five-page report.

**No Late Papers will be accepted without penalty (1 letter grade per day). Students must communicate with the instructor as to any delayed submissions of course work. In-class exercises count toward participation, as does engaging in class discussions.**

**Required Fieldwork & Other Opportunities:** Each student is required to participate in one day of archaeological fieldwork, with most opportunities occurring on the weekends. Further information will be provided in class. For students with strong interest, there are additional opportunities to participate in ongoing archaeological projects within the Fredericksburg area and to attend regional conferences and scholarly presentations.

**Disability Issues:** the Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University of Mary Washington as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodations. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you have not made contact with the Office of Disability Services and have reasonable accommodation needs, I will be happy to help you contact them. The office will require appropriate documentation of a disability. Office of Disability Services; Lee Hall; 540-654-1266; ods@umw.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Grading Scale:** A: 94-100; A-: 90-93; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72; D+: 67-69; D: 60-66; F: 0-59. Your final grade will be determined by the following method: Mid-term exam (15%); Final exam (20%); Critical book review (15%); CRM report evaluation (15%); Laboratory exercise (20%); and Class participation and one day of archaeological fieldwork (15%).

**Office Information:** Hours: Tu.: 10-11 AM; W.: 3-4 PM; Th.: 10-11 AM; F.: 12-1 PM, and by appointment. Room: Combs 133, 654-1314; dsanford@umw.edu.

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**INTRODUCTION: THE WHO, WHAT, AND WHY OF ARCHAEOLOGY**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 11</td>
<td>Class Introduction</td>
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| Jan. 13 | Archaeology, Anthropology, Historic Preservation & Their Relations to America’s Pasts  
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Introduction. |
| Jan. 15 | The Archaeological Record, The Concept of Artifact, & Research Goals  
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 2. |
| Jan. 18 | **No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**                            |
|        | **HOW ARCHAEOLOGISTS DO WHAT THEY DO IN AND OUT OF THE FIELD**        |
| Jan. 20 | Field Methods Ia: Site Survey & Identification  
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 3. |
| Jan. 22 | Field Methods Ib: Site Selection                                      |
| Jan. 25 | Field Methods II: Recording Systems                                   |
| Jan. 27 | Field Methods III: Remote Sensing  
Reading: “Through Dirt to the Past” by E. Paul Durrenberger (2003); or, “City Beneath the Mounds: Mapping a Prehistoric American Metropolis” by Mike Toner (2008). |
| Jan. 29 | Field Methods IVa: Soils                                              |
| Feb. 1  | Field Methods IVb: Stratigraphy                                       |
| Feb. 3  | Field Methods in Action: Video presentation.                          |
| Feb. 5  | Underwater Archaeology  
| Feb. 8  | Archaeology & the Internet  
*Class will be held in the computer lab.* |
| Feb. 10 | Historical Perspective: The Historiography of American Archaeology  
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 1. |
| Feb. 12 | New & Post-Modern Archaeology  
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 9. |
Feb. 15  Historiography (continued): Science Rising (Again?).

First Writing Assignment (Draft) Due

Feb. 17  Laboratory Analysis & Conservation

Feb. 19  Cultural Resource Management: Archaeology, the Law, & "Picking & Choosing”

Feb. 22  Mid-term Examination

Feb. 24  CRM (continued).
Reading: Select 1 out of 3 short articles from the SAA Bulletin.

RECONSTRUCTING AMERICAN PASTS: ARCHAEOLOGY THROUGH THE AGES

Feb. 26  American & Virginia’s Prehistory – Archaeological Issues
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 5.

Mar. 1, 3, 5  No Class – Spring Break

Mar. 8  Social & Environmental Constructs: Addressing Complexity & the Terms of Engagement
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 6.

Mar. 10  Researching & Interpreting Native American Ecology

Mar. 12  The Chesapeake’s First European Century: From Jamestown to Williamsburg
Reading: Neiman, whole text.

Mar. 15  Archaeology of the 17th & 18th Centuries


Mar. 19  No Class – Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Mar. 22  Chronology
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 4.
Mar. 24  Second Writing Assignment Due – Peer Review

Mar. 26  Methods of Dating

Mar. 29  Ceramics: Video presentation: “The Sultan’s Lost Treasure”.

Mar. 31  Ceramic Analysis

Apr. 2  Artifact Analysis & Counting

Apr. 5  Quantitative Analysis

Apr. 7  Bones – Introduction to Analysis

Apr. 9  Bones & Environment

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOPICS & ISSUES

Apr. 12  African-American Archaeology
Video: "Ground Truth".

Apr. 14  African-American Archaeology (continued)

Apr. 16  Landscape Archaeology

Apr. 19  Pulling It All Together: Theory, Methods, Evidence, & Changing Paradigms
Video: “Mystery of the First Americans"

Apr. 21  Video discussion.

Apr. 23  Professional, Ethical Archaeology & The Discourse of Cultural Politics
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 10.
Third Writing Assignment Due

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, April 26th, 8:30 – 11:00 AM