

ARCHAEOLOGY AND PREHISTORIC SOCIETIES PRINCIPLES, THEORIES, AND METHODS

Wed 7:00 – 9:30 pm
JBB 337

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. MIKAEL HALLER

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Office: 334A Bruce Brown; (902) 867-5107

Office Hours: Tues 1:00-3:00 pm
 Wed 12:00-5:00 pm
 Thurs 1:00-3:00 pm
 or by Appointment

Course Summary

An examination of modern archaeological research including how archaeologists work in the field, their analytical techniques, and some of the principal methodological and theoretical issues facing the field. A wide variety of archaeological examples (from lavish Egyptian tombs to simple nomadic settlements) will be used to illustrate the main themes of the course. Students will participate in this archaeological process through a series of practical exercises and assignments.

Course Topics

The course begins with an introduction to the tools and methodological specialities used in archaeology that will demonstrate to students how archaeologists construct their interpretations and how analogical reasoning is crucial to this process. We will continue by examining a wide variety of examples from world prehistory in assessing how these methodological tools articulate with higher theoretical concerns. Finally, the course will address how archaeological reconstructions are not just important to the past, but can be influential in how society is understood and interpreted today. Upon completion of the course, students will have a basic understanding of the methodological and theoretical issues in the field of archaeology, which can stand as a foundation for further archaeological study or as a comparative tool for students in other disciplines.

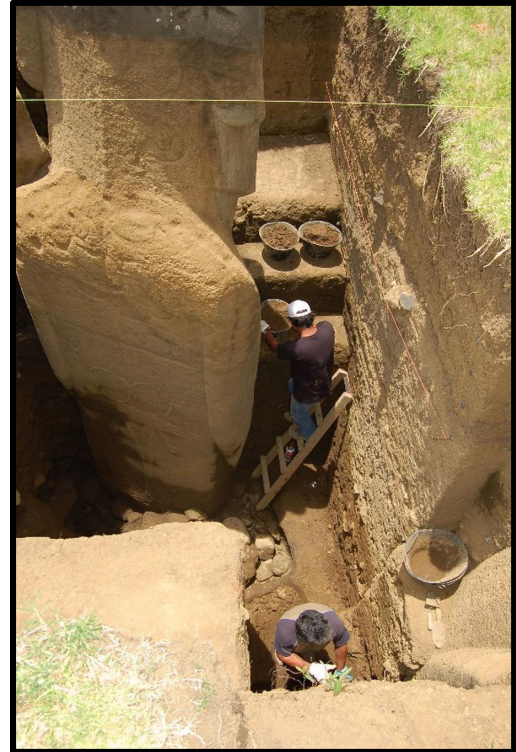
Course Requirements

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| 1) | Midterm Exam (Oct. 21)
This will be a multiple-choice, short answer, and essay exam based on the first part of the course. | 25 % |
| 2) | Final Exam (Dec. 8-19)
This will be a multiple-choice, short answer, and essay exam primarily based on the second part of the course. | 25 % |

Exams will be based on information from lectures, readings, discussions, and videos.

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| 3) | Ancient Settlement in Bulgaria Assignment (Dec. 2) | 15 % |
| 4) | Human Osteology Lab Quiz (Nov. 25) | 10 % |

Excavating a Moai on Easter Island



- 4) **Summaries** **15 %**
- 5) **Participation** **10 %**
Attendance will be taken and used in conjunction with your preparedness and your contributions to class discussions.

Handouts and syllabus are available on my website:

<http://www.mystfx.ca/people/mhaller/>

Summaries

1.5-2 typed pages double-spaced for the class's readings (1-inch margins, 11 font). These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, due on the day assigned before class. These are to be in your own words—do not plagiarize the in-text summaries.

Follow specific format. **Use headings.**

Title: (complete bibliographic information; single-spaced)

Summary: (include a detailed summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading; 2/3 text).

Relevance: (Describe how this reading relates to the course and our class discussions; include your own thoughts and musings; 1/3 of text). If there are two readings for that week then a 2-page summary is required. (Summaries are worth 1% each; Week 7 is worth 2%)

Assigned Readings

Each class has been broken down into individual reading assignments that are expected to have been read prior to each class. Required Articles are available through StFX's online library resources (i.e., JSTOR) or will be available at the reserve desk.

The required textbook for this course is available at the bookstore:

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn

2015 *Archaeology Essentials*. third edition. Thames and Hudson, New York.

STFX Online Journals through JSTOR

Diamond, Jared

2005 *Collapse*, Chapter 2, Penguin, New York.

Flannery, Kent

1976 Site Catchment Approach. In *The Early Mesoamerican Village*, pp. 456-458. Academic Press, New York.

Mann, Charles C.

2011 Birth of Religion. *National Geographic Magazine*. 221(6):28-53

Omar, S. M. McCord and V. Daniels

1989 The Conservation of Bog Bodies by Freeze-Drying. *Studies in Conservation* 34(3):101-109.

Smith, Roff

2008 Beyond the Blue Horizon. *National Geographic Magazine*. 218(3):54-69.

Thomas, David Hurst

1998 Ecological Determinants Approach. In *Archaeology*, third edition, pp. 447-449. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, Fort Worth, TX.

Trigger, B.G.

1984 Alternative Archaeologies: Nationalist, Colonialist, Imperialist. *Man* 19: 355-370.

WEB PAGES (also located on my website)

Society for American Archaeology (SAA)

<http://saa.org/AbouttheSociety/PrinciplesofArchaeologicalEthics/tabid/203/Default.aspx>

Canadian Archaeological Association

<http://canadianarchaeology.com/objectives.php>

Nova Scotia Archaeological Society

<http://www.novascotiaarchaeologysociety.com/Constitution.html#objectives>

Course Material on the Web

As part of the purchase price of *Archaeology Essentials*, you have access to web resources from Thames and Hudson Press. The most useful of these resources is the practice test bank, which allows students to review chapter objectives and to take practice exams. As well, there are chapter summaries, key terms and additional resources. This website can be entered through the address and you do not need a login name or password to use this service: <http://college.thamesandhudsonusa.com/college/archeology-essentials2/>

Grading Policy

If a student misses an exam it will be possible to write a make-up exam, but the illness or emergency must be documented promptly. Handing in exercises late will result in losing 25% for each day. Late Assignments should be handed in to the departmental secretary (JBB 208) to be time stamped. Do not slide it under my door! Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with in strict accordance to the St. F X's Academic regulations (as described in the Academic Calendar section. 3.9; <http://www.stfx.ca/calendar/>).

Special Accommodations

I encourage students that require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications to talk with me after class or during my office hours. You must provide documentation of your disability within two weeks from the start of the course. This can be obtained by contacting the program coordinator (902) 867-2370.

Communication

All students have a STFX e-mail account, which must be checked regularly as notices and information pertaining to the course will be sent electronically. Make sure all electronic correspondence sent to me is to my university e-mail address (mhaller@stfx.ca).

DATE	WEEK #	TOPIC	HAND OUT	DUE (summaries)	DUE (in class)
SEPT 9	1	Introduction and History of Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Introduction; Chapter 1	SAA Ethics	
SEPT 16	2	Archaeological Evidence	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 1; Chapter 2 Omar et al. 1989	Week 1	
SEPT 23	3	Survey and Excavation	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 3	Week 2; Week 3	
SEPT 30	4	Dating Methods and Chronology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 4	Week 4	
OCT 7	5	Social Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 5	Week 5	
OCT 14	6	Environment, Subsistence and Diet	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 6 Diamond 2005: Chapter 2; Smith 2008	Assignment #1 Week 6	
OCT 21	7	Technology, Trade and Exchange	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 7	Week 7	MIDTERM EXAM
OCT 28	8	Bioarchaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 8 Lab Document #1	Week 8	
NOV 4	9	Cognitive Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 9 Mann 2011	Week 9	
NOV 11		FALL STUDY DAY (NO CLASS)			
NOV 18	10	Explanation in Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 10	Week 10	
NOV 25	11	Archaeology and the Public	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 11 Trigger 1984	Week 11	Osteology Lab Quiz
DEC 2	12	Managing our Heritage	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 12	Week 12	Assignment #1
DEC	8 to 19	FINAL EXAM			