

# ARCHAEOLOGY AND PREHISTORIC SOCIETIES PRINCIPLES, THEORIES, AND METHODS

Tues and Thurs 3:45-5:00

JBB 236

## INSTRUCTOR

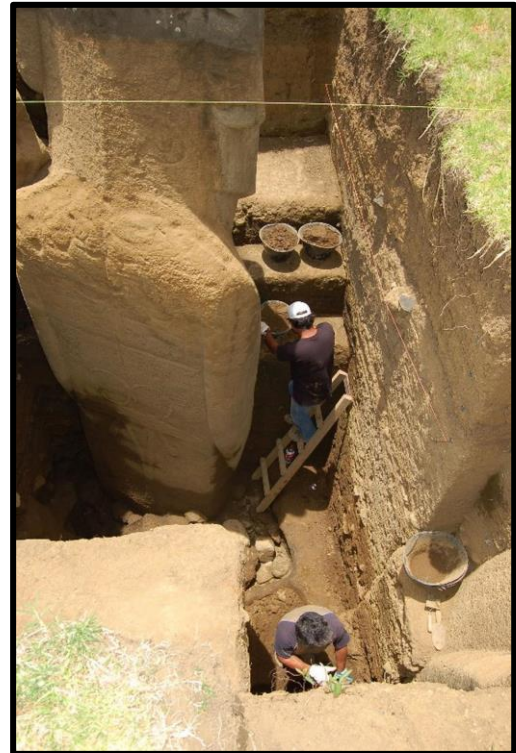
Dr. MIKAEL HALLER

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Lab: 334A Bruce Brown  
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Office Hours: Tues 5-7:00  
Wed 12-5:00  
Thurs 12-2:00  
or by Appointment

## Excavating a Moai on Easter Island



## 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

- |   |   |             |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1)  | <b>Midterm Exam</b> (Oct. 17)<br>This will be a multiple-choice, short answer, and essay exam based on the first part of the course.            | <b>25 %</b> |
| 2)  | <b>Final Exam</b> (Dec. 5-15)<br>This will be a multiple-choice, short answer, and essay exam primarily based on the second part of the course. | <b>25 %</b> |
| <b>Exams will be based on information from lectures, readings, discussions, and videos.</b> |   |             |
| 3)  | <b>Assignment #1: Life and Death at La Paloma</b> (Nov. 30)   | <b>15 %</b> |

- |    |  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
| 4) | <b>Human Osteology Lab Quiz (Nov. 2)</b> | <b>10 %</b> |
| 5) | <b>Summaries</b>                         | <b>17 %</b> |
| 6) | <b>Participation</b>                     | <b>8 %</b>  |
- 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; Oct. 12 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.

Gorbhan, Hermann

2013 The Middle Archaic Site of Pernil Alto, Southern Peru: The Beginnings of Horticulture and Sedentariness in Mid-Holocene Conditions. *Diálogo Andino* 41:61-82.

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.

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/caa/about>

Nova Scotia Archaeological Society

<http://www.novascotiaarchaeologysociety.com/constitution/>

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-essentials3/>

Grading Policy

If a student misses an exam it will be possible to write a make-up exam, but the make-up exam will be in essay format.

Handing in exercises late will result in losing 25% of the total for each day. Late Assignments should be handed in to the Anthropology Main Office (JBB 208) to be time stamped. Do not slide it under my door! If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining their own notes. I do not give out my class notes.

Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with in strict accordance to the St. F X's Academic regulations

([http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars\\_office/academic\\_integrity](http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/academic_integrity)).

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

I encourage students that require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications to contact Learning Services ([http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible\\_learning/services](http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible_learning/services)). You must provide documentation of your disability within two weeks from the start of the course.

All StFX students have access to Microsoft Cloud services and should take advantage of this to ensure a backup of academic files. If you choose not to use this service, you are responsible for making your own backups to prevent losing data and not being able to submit required coursework

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. You can send electronic correspondence to my university e-mail address ([mhaller@stfx.ca](mailto:mhaller@stfx.ca)).

WEBSITE: Handouts and syllabus are available on my website: <http://people.stfx.ca/mhaller/>

MONTH	DAY	TOPIC	TEXT	DUE	
SEPT	5	Introduction and History of Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Introduction; Chapter 1		
SEPT	7	Introduction and History of Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Introduction; Chapter 1; Web Pages	Chapter 1	
SEPT	12	Archaeological Evidence	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 2	Chapter 2	
SEPT	14	Archaeological Evidence	Omar et al. 1989	Omar et al. 1989	
SEPT	19	Survey and Excavation	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 3	Chapter 3	
SEPT	21	Survey and Excavation	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 3		
SEPT	26	Dating Methods and Chronology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 4	Chapter 4	
SEPT	28	Dating Methods and Chronology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 4		
OCT	3	Social Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 5		
OCT	5	Social Archaeology (A#1 handed out)	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 5	Chapter 5	
OCT	10	Environment, Subsistence and Diet	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 6	Chapter 6	
OCT	12	Environment, Subsistence and Diet	Diamond 2005: Chapter 2; Smith 2008	Diamond 2005; Smith 2008	
OCT	17	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>			
OCT	19	Technology, Trade and Exchange	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 7	Chapter 7	
OCT	24	Technology, Trade and Exchange	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 7		
OCT	26	Bioarchaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 8	Chapter 8	
OCT	31	Bioarchaeology	Lab Document #1		
NOV	2	<b>OSTEOLOGY LAB QUIZ</b>			
NOV	7	Cognitive Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 9	Chapter 9	
NOV	9	Cognitive Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 9		
NOV	14	Cognitive Archaeology	Mann 2011	Mann 2011	
NOV	16	Explanation in Archaeology	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 10	Chapter 10	
NOV	21	Explanation in Archaeology			
NOV	23	Archaeology and the Public	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 11	Chapter 11	
NOV	28	Archaeology and the Public	Trigger 1984	Trigger 1984	
NOV	30	Managing our Heritage	Renfrew & Bahn 2014: Chapter 12	Chapter 12; Assignment 1	
DEC	5 to 15	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>			