

**Anthropology 274**  
**Principles of Archaeology**  
**Dr. James M. Skibo**

Office: Schroeder 341

Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 Tues & Thurs (or by appt.)

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**Course Description:** How do you reconstruct the past when you are left only with broken bits of pottery and crumbled buildings? This course explores how the archaeologist accomplishes this task. By the end of the course each student will know how archaeologists: find and excavate sites, establish how sites form, determine the age of deposits; reconstruct the environment, determine prehistoric diets, replicate ceramic and stone technologies, and infer the religion and social organization of past societies.

Archaeology is both a physical activity and an intellectual pursuit--so is this course. Principles of Archaeology combines presentations with weekly labs that are either small group discussions or hands-on opportunities to participate in the work of the archaeologist and the traditional technologist. Through a series of exercises, all students will get to experience how archaeologists make inferences as well as understand how traditional pottery and stone tools were made.

**Requirements:** There are weekly reading assignments that follow the lecture topics. Success in this course will require that you keep up with the readings and attend and take notes at all lectures (Power Point presentations have just the outlines. Learning requires taking notes from the lecture that fills in the outline). Almost every week there will be a laboratory session that will focus on a different activity. These include small-group discussions of a topic or archaeological report and making pottery and stone tools.

The course is divided into thirds and each third is followed by an exam.

**Required Texts:** *Linking to the Past*, by Kenneth Feder (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) and *Ants for Breakfast: Archaeological Adventures Among the Kalinga*, by James Skibo

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability should contact Disability Concerns at 350 Fell Hall, 438-5853 (voice), 438-8620 (TDD).

## **Class Outline**

### **Week 1**

Nature and Aims of Archaeology

What is Archaeology?  
History of Archaeology

### **Week 2**

What is Left?  
Cultural Formation Processes  
LAB

### **Week 3**

What is Left?  
Noncultural Formation Processes  
LAB (Cultural Formation Process Exercise)

### **Week 4**

Fieldwork  
Survey and Excavation  
LAB (Tools of Archaeology)

### **Week 5**

When?  
Dating the Past

### **Week 6**

EXAM

### **Week 7**

Artifacts and Prehistoric Technology  
LAB (Pottery)

### **Week 8**

Artifacts and Prehistoric Technology  
LAB (Lithics)

### **Week 9**

Environment and Behavior  
Subsistence and Diet  
Reconstructing Behavior

### **Readings**

Feder: Prologue, Chapters 1-2  
Skibo: Chapter 1-2

Feder: Chapter 3  
Rathje and Schiffer (Reserve)

Feder: Chapters 4-5  
Skibo: Chapters 3-5

Feder: Chapters 6-7

Feder: Chapter 8  
Skibo: Chapters 6-7

Feder: Chapter 10

Skibo: Chapters 8-9

Feder: Chapters 9 and 11

LAB (Artifacts and Behavior)

**Week 10**

Reconstructing Behavior  
Ethnoarchaeology  
Experimental Archaeology  
LAB

**Week 11**

EXAM

Historical Archaeology  
Ethnohistorical Documents  
Video: Privy to the Past

Skibo (Reserve)

**Week 12**

Inference and Explanation  
Social Systems

Feder: Chapter 12

**Week 13**

Frameworks for the Past  
Bioarchaeology

Feder: Chapter 13

**Week 14**

Archaeology Today  
Who owns the past  
Cultural Resource Management

**Week 15**

Thanksgiving Break

**Week 16**

Video "Spiritual World"

**Week 17** Exam

**Reserve Readings:**

Rathje, William, and Michael B. Schiffer

1980 Cultural Formation Processes (Chapter 5). *In* Archaeology. Pp. 105-126.

The Reserve readings are on on e-reserve at the Milner Library and they can be located

by following this link <https://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/isu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=rbSearch>

Skibo, James M.

2004 Gete Odena: Grand Island's Post-Contact Occupation at William's Landing.  
*Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 29: 167-189.

The Skibo reading can also be found by going to the "Publications" link at:  
<http://lilt.ilstu.edu/jmskibo/GrandIsland/>

**Reading Guides** (Guide to the Feder readings can be found at the end of each chapter)

### **Skibo, Chapters 1-2**

1. Where are the Kalinga located?
2. Who worked at the site of Carter Ranch?
3. Who did the ethnoarchaeological study of the Nunamiut?
4. What the heck is a "Yoooper?"
5. Who excavated Pecos Pueblo?
6. What the heck is a Jeepnie?
7. The Kalinga Ethnoarchaeological Project focused primarily on what artifact?
8. What year did the Philippines declare independence from Spain?
9. What is the name of the village where the pottery use-alteration study took place?
10. What is a Kalinga "pangat?"
11. What Russian archaeologist first did use-wear analysis of stone tools?

12. What the heck is "Colong?"
13. Where are the women during a Kalinga funeral?

**Skibo, Chapters 3-5**

1. Who saved Worcester's life?
2. Why did Dozier and Worcester come up with different impressions of the Kalinga?
3. Why was it hard to tell the age of Kalinga men?
4. What side of Kalinga men did Worcester see?
5. How did I break into the "young men's club."
6. What is the Kalinga word for Ants?
7. When were dogs first domesticated?
8. Name the three periods of N. American archaeology witnessed by Longacre.
9. Why had Native Americans been so quickly dismissed as the moundbuilders?
10. What does flotation analysis tell you?
11. Where is the site of Flattop?

### **Skibo, Chapters 6-7**

1. The communist group active in the mountains of the Philippines is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is it difficult to tell marital partners among the Kalinga?
3. What is berdache?
4. Why didn't the Kalinga have cats to curb the rat problem?
5. What Is a *solidseed*?
6. What is anthropology's explanation for the incest taboo?
7. Why were the pots carefully wrapped in Gortex?
8. What part of the pig was used to foretell our safe passage?
9. According to Jared Diamond, how did Pizarro conquer 80,000 Inca with just 200 soldiers?

### **Skibo, Chapters 8-9**

1. Why did they pull the guy's pants down?
2. What was the penalty for the rape "trial"?

3. How did Roberto solve the case of the stolen carabao?

4. How did the Kalinga deal with misfits in their society?

5. Who started the group cultural survival?