

Anthropology 274
Principles of Archaeology
Dr. James M. Skibo

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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 (2nd 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

Little pp. 115-119 (Reserve)

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://iilt.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 AYooper?@
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 Apangat?@
11. What Russian archaeologist first did use-wear analysis of stone tools?

12. What the heck is AColong?@

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 Ayoung 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 Atrial@?

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?

Little, pp. 115-119

1. What is the “skeptics question?”

2. Why have archaeologists disagreed about what counts as “usefulness” in archaeology?

3. What is one thing that makes archaeology “culturally subversive in the 21st century?”

4. What is a “just third way?”

5. What are some of the ways that Barbara Little suggests that archaeology might contribute to the Global Justice Movement?

6. Why should archaeologists look at 20th century sites?

7. What issues should archaeologist examine through a “deep history” to contribute to the Global Justice Movement?