

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

ANTHROPOLOGY 140 – INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

<u>1. Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Semester Units</u>	<u>Hours</u>
ANTH 140	Introduction to Archaeology	3	3 hours lecture

2. Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

An introduction to the field of archaeology, the study of past human societies through their material remains. The course will provide an introduction to field methods, categories of data and theoretical approaches in archaeology. Major developments in world prehistory will be examined using archaeological evidence. The relevance of archaeological research to contemporary society will also be addressed.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

- a. Define the goals of archaeology and explain the field's placement within the broader discipline of anthropology.
- b. Explain how archaeological methods of finding, dating and analyzing sites and artifacts provide insights into past human behavior.
- c. Apply archaeological method and theory in analyzing the process of cultural change.
- d. Evaluate competing explanatory models for major developments in human history such as the origins of agriculture and the rise of complex civilization.
- e. Synthesize information from multiple sources into an accurate understanding of the human past, while differentiating between evidence-based and fantastical explanations.
- f. Explain the origins and nature of human cultural diversity in the past, and of its relevance to contemporary society.
- g. Recognize archaeology's multiple responsibilities—to the public, to descendent communities and to science, in preserving archaeological resources and respecting cultural patrimony.

5. Instructional Facilities

- a. Access to the internet.
- b. Standard classroom facilities with computer and data projector.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Electronic storage media.

7. Course Content

- a. Anthropology and its subfields.
- b. Historical development of archaeology.
- c. Different theoretical approaches to archaeology.
- d. Archaeological survey and excavation.
- e. Categories of archaeological data.
- f. Interpreting archaeological data and reconstructing past behavior.
- g. Dating techniques and environmental reconstruction.
- h. Origins of human culture.
- i. Origins of food production and settled life.
- j. Rise of social complexity.
- k. Development of Old and New World civilization.
- l. The prehistory of North America and San Diego County.
- m. Archaeology and modern society.

8. Method of Instruction

- a. Lecture and discussion.
- b. Structured classroom exercises and assignments.
- c. Films and videos.
- d. Guest speakers and field trips.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

- a. One or more written midterm exams (objective and essay questions).
- b. Written final exam (objective and essay questions).
- c. Term paper/project involving field or library research.

10. Outside Class Assignments

- a. Reading assignments from the text and a selection of short articles.
- b. Visits to local museums or archaeological sites.
- c. Research for term paper/project.

11. Texts

- a. Required texts.
  - (1) Ashmore, Wendy and Robert J. Sharer. Discovering Our Past: A Brief Introduction to Archaeology. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005.
  - (2) Feder, Kenneth L. The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2006.
- b. Supplementary texts and workbooks  
Selected articles and websites on current archaeology topics

Date approved by the Governing Board: April 17, 2007