

ARKY 501: PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION

Instructor: Dale Walde
Classroom: ES 822
Time: Mondays 1300–1550
Office: ES 860
Telephone: (403) 220–4850
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1000–1200

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Professional archaeologists face a multitude of challenges when collecting, analyzing, and interpreting archaeological data. While such challenges can involve the interpretation of complex stratigraphy or the placement of an archaeological site within a pre-existing chronological sequence, they can also include applying for archaeological permits and research funding, as well as involving local communities and the general public in archaeological research and completing archaeological consulting reports on time and within budget. This course will examine these types of problems through the weekly analysis and in-class discussion of simulated archaeological data sets. These simulations incorporate varying combinations of stratigraphic, typological, locational, chronometric, paleontological, linguistic, ethnohistorical, and historical evidence. Emphasis will be placed on the construction of appropriate frameworks of investigation and interpretation, as well as on the identification of processes of culture change and development.

In the final weeks of the class, students will create their own problem which will be completed and evaluated by one of their classmates (selected randomly by the instructor). Problems can be based on ethics in archaeology, space-time systematics, settlement patterns, reconstructing social organization, economy, etc. The topic and outline must be approved by the instructor before submission.

There is no midterm or final examination in this course. Instead, students will be required to submit their weekly solutions to the instructor ***at the beginning of each class***. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in a penalty of 5% per day—no exceptions. Two students each week will present and defend their solutions to the class. Students will also be required to submit brief self-assessments of their solutions in the light of the weekly discussion ***no later than*** the following Wednesday at 0900. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in a penalty of 5% per day—no exceptions.

Note that class participation is worth 20% of each student's final grade. Class participation is, therefore, a major component of the course and of the final grade. Each week, two students will be asked to present and defend their solution to the class.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Daniels, Steve and Nicholas David 1982 *The Archaeology Work Book*. University of Pennsylvania Press. Philadelphia.

David, Nicholas and Jonathon Driver 1989 *The Next Archaeology Work Book*. University of Pennsylvania Press. Philadelphia.

EVALUATION:

1. Presentations, Weekly Problems and Self-critique	60%
2. Class Participation	20%
3. Final Assignment	20%

Students should familiarize themselves with University of Calgary policies regarding plagiarism and academic misconduct (outlined in the University Calendar).

Students with special needs must identify themselves to the instructor during the first week of class.

Late papers and class assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day. Any medical or family reasons cited for extensions or late papers will have to be supported by appropriate documents.

GRADE SCALE:

A+	93-100%	Outstanding achievement
A	87-92%	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of a subject matter.
A-	83-86%	
B+	79-82%	
B	75-78%	Good-clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B	71-74%	
C+	67-70%	
C	63-66%	Satisfactory-basic understanding of the subject matter.
C-	59-62%	
D+	55-57%	
D	50-54%	Minimal pass-marginal performance.
F	<50%	Fail-unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet [assignment or] course requirements.

PROBLEMS TO BE COVERED:

Week 1 (10 January):

Course Introduction

Week 2 (17 January):

Lecture: Introduction to Archaeological Problem Solving

Read: An Introduction for Students. In *The Next Archaeology Work Book*.

Week 3 (24 January):

Problem: The Hacienda Plain

Text: *The Archaeology Work Book*

Week 4 (31 January):

Problem: The Island of Kufungua (Indian Ocean)

Text: *The Next Archaeology Work Book*

Week 5 (07 February):

Problem: Petristan

Text: *The Archaeology Work Book*

Week 6 (14 February):

Problem: The Adrar Abu

Text: *The Archaeology Work Book*

Week 7 (21 February):

Reading Week

Week 8 (28 February):

Problem: Prehistory of the Nebulosas Chain

Text: *The Next Archaeology Work Book*

Week 9 (07 March):

Problem: The Little Bison Basin

Text: *The Archaeology Work Book*

Week 10 (14 March):

Problem: Repton Barrow

Text: *The Next Archaeology Work Book*

Week 11 (21 March):

Problem: The Cemetery of Bilji
Text: *The Next Archaeology Work Book*

Week 12 (28 March):

Problem: Barchester
Text: *The Next Archaeology Work Book*

Draft of Student Problems due today for distribution in class

Week 13 (04 April):

Student Presentations and Critiques of Problems

Week 14 (11 April):

Student Presentations and Critiques of Problems

ADDITIONAL CONTENT OF THE COURSE OUTLINE

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Academic Accommodation Policy

The purpose of academic accommodation is to provide students with documented disabilities equal opportunity to master the essentials of a post-secondary education. Students with disabilities at the University of Calgary have met all admission requirements but may have done so with the use of accommodations. Similarly, they are expected to meet all academic and non-academic requirements. Adaptive technology and other academic accommodations do not relieve students of their responsibility to develop the essential skills and abilities expected of all students.

Please refer to the following web link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/71>

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403)220-8237.

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

- 1) Presenting another student's work as your own
- 2) Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk Information

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

Student Union Vice President – Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representative

Phone: (403) 220-3913

Email: socilscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/students-rights.html>