Principles of Archaeology (Archaeology 106)
Fall 2013

Class Time: MWF 1-2:15pm
Place: Science Center 2012
Instructor: Khori Newlander
Email: knewland@hamilton.edu (I will try to respond to email within 24 hours.)
Office Hours: TWR 9am-noon, or by appointment; Science Center 2008

Course Description:
In Principles of Archaeology, we will examine the basic techniques, methods, and theoretical perspectives archaeologists use to understand the human past. As a subfield of anthropology focused on the human past, archaeology is the major source of information for much of human history: from the first members of the genus *Homo* ~2.5 million years ago to the beginnings of recorded history only ~5000 years ago. We will draw on examples from throughout human history and around the world to illustrate how archaeologists do archaeology. This grounding in archaeological method and theory will prepare you to continue your exploration of anthropology and archaeology in upper division courses.

Required Text:
Kelly, Robert L. and David Hurst Thomas

Format & Policies:
We will meet three times each week. Class on Monday and Friday will be devoted to covering important course material. Each class will include some combination of lecture, video, activities, and discussion. You should come to class prepared to discuss the topic for that day (i.e., having done the reading and/or assignment). Class on Wednesday will be devoted to exercises (labs) that will require you to use the skills introduced in class.

Attendance: I expect that you attend every class, but I recognize that other stuff (e.g., illness, family emergency, sports event) may get in the way. For that reason, I will give you three free absences. I would encourage you not to miss labs—you will find them hard to make up. If you know that you will miss a class, please let me know ahead of time so that I can keep you on pace with the class.

Cell Phones/Laptops: Cell phones should be turned off during class unless there is an emergency. Laptops may be used to take notes during class. If you repeatedly use your cell
phone or laptop for activities unrelated to class, I will ask you to leave class and mark you absent. During exams, laptops and cell phones should be turned off and put away.

**Academic Integrity:** By enrolling at Hamilton, you agree to abide by the Hamilton College Honor Code. The Hamilton College Honor Code stipulates that all forms of academic dishonesty (e.g., forgery, plagiarism, cheating) are unacceptable. For our course, academic dishonesty would include cheating on an exam or plagiarizing someone else’s coursework. In this course you are permitted to work together to complete the labs; however, the lab write-up you submit to me should be your own work. If you commit an academically dishonest act, I will give you a zero for that assignment and pursue action against you in accordance with college policy. You can read more about the Hamilton College Honor Code at: [http://www.hamilton.edu/student-handbook/studentconduct/honor-code](http://www.hamilton.edu/student-handbook/studentconduct/honor-code).

**Accessibility Services:** Hamilton College will make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation(s) and would like to make a formal request for this course, please discuss it with me during the first two weeks of class. You will need to provide Allen Harrison, Associate Dean of Students (Elihu Root House, ext. 4021) with appropriate documentation of your disability. The Associate Dean will use this information to develop a system of support appropriate to your needs. You can read more about student accessibility services at: [http://www.hamilton.edu/student-handbook/other/disability-support-services](http://www.hamilton.edu/student-handbook/other/disability-support-services).

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab – 10 x 50 points each</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments – 5 x 10 points each</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Exams:** Exams will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Exams will require that you know the archaeological concepts/topics and analytical procedures covered in lectures, readings, and labs.

**Presentations:** You will work with one or two other students to research and present on artifacts housed within the Wellin Museum. Your presentation will be 10-15 minutes in length and will be delivered to your classmates during the last week of classes. The presentation will be worth 50 points. I will provide more detailed instructions and a rubric for the presentations.
later in the semester. We will go to the Wellin Museum as a class at least twice during the semester to introduce you to the museum’s collections and to provide time to research the artifacts. I will gladly meet with you before your presentation to be sure it is coming together well.

**Assignments:** You will be required to complete five short assignments throughout the course. I will collect and grade (on a 10 point scale) these assignments, but none of them should cause you to lose sleep. Rather, these short assignments will encourage you to think about the course material in preparation for the class in which they are due. Your grade will be based primarily on completeness and demonstrated understanding of the material. The assignments and the associated rubric can be found in the Assignments folder on Blackboard.

**Labs:** You will complete ten labs during this course. Nine of the lab assignments are based on a simulated excavation project: the Hamilton Archaeological Research Project (HARP). These labs will familiarize you with the process of doing archaeology, from fieldwork (e.g., excavating, mapping, and recording an archaeological site), to lab work (e.g., analyzing stone tools and pottery), to interpretation—all from the (relative) comfort of the classroom.

I will assign you to groups, with whom you will work to complete the labs. This, too, reflects the nature of archaeological fieldwork, as you may find yourself working with students you do not know and may not hang out with. You will need to develop an effective working relationship in order to complete the labs.

Each lab will require the completion of various documents, as well as a written paper. While only one copy of the additional materials is required for the group, each of you will be required to turn in your own paper. Each lab will be due during class the week after you begin it. For example, the lab started on Wednesday, September 11 is due at the beginning of class Wednesday, September 18. Completion of the labs will require that you and your group arrange time to work on the labs outside of class. Open lab time will be facilitated by your T.A. Although some labs will be more time intensive than others, you should be able to complete them (aside from the paper) in no more than three hours.

Module 3 is an exception to the above generalizations. Module 3 will require that you bring all of the information from the previous labs together to offer a final interpretation of the site. You will complete this write up on your own, drawing on your group’s work throughout the semester. Module 3 will be due on Friday, December 13. I will provide more detailed instructions and a rubric later in the semester. If you wish to revisit any of the labs as you develop your final interpretation of the site, I will make the labs available on Nov. 20.
Lab Schedule:
Sept. 4: Lab 1 – Artifact Tour

Sept. 11 – Oct. 9: Module 1: Archaeological Fieldwork
- Introduction to HARP #1
- Lab Assignment 2 – Prehistoric Occupation Plan Map (Square 1)
- Lab Assignment 3 – Historic Occupation Plan Map (Square 2)
- Lab Assignment 4 – Stratigraphic Mapping
- Lab Assignment 5 – Mapping and Sampling

Oct. 23 – Nov. 13: Module 2: Artifact Analysis
- Lab Assignment 6 – Prehistoric Artifact Analysis
- Lab Assignment 7 – Historic Artifact Analysis
- Lab Assignment 8 – Pollen Analysis
- Lab Assignment 9 – Faunal Analysis

Nov. 20: Extra lab time (optional)
Dec. 13: Module 3 (Lab 10): Summary & Interpretation

Course Schedule:
Week 1:
Fri., Aug. 30 – Class Introduction
Read: Kelly and Thomas – Preface, Introduction

Week 2:
Mon., Sept. 2 – Archaeology as a Subfield of Anthropology
Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 2, pp. 20-22
Wed., Sept. 4 – Lab: Artifact Tour
Fri., Sept. 6 – Culture
Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 2, pp. 22-25.

Week 3:
Mon., Sept. 9 – The History of Archaeology
Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 1
Wed., Sept. 11 – Introduction to HARP #1
Fri. Sept. 13 – Anthropological Archaeology as a Social Science
Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 2, pp. 25-43; Chapter 14
Assignment 1 due: Applying the “Baloney Detection Kit” to Archaeology
Week 4:
  Mon., Sept. 16 – No class
  Wed., Sept. 18 – Module 1: Field Methods
  Fri., Sept. 20 – Finding the Archaeological Record: Survey
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 3
  Assignment 2 due: Archaeological Mapping & Modern Planning

Week 5:
  Mon., Sept. 23 – Finding the Archaeological Record: Excavation
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 4
  Wed., Sept. 25 – Module 1: Field Methods
  Fri., Sept. 27 – The Formation of the Archaeological Record
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 5

Week 6:
  Mon., Sept. 30 – Dating the Archaeological Record
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 6
  Wed., Oct. 2 – Module 1: Field Methods
  Fri., Oct. 4 – Conservation, Cataloguing, and Classification
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 7, pp. 147-161

Week 7:
  Mon., Oct. 7 – No Class
  Wed., Oct. 9 – Module 1: Field Methods (Because you have a midterm Wednesday, Oct.
    16, I will give you until Monday, Oct. 21 to complete this write-up.)
  Fri., Oct. 11 – Space-Time Systematics
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 7, pp. 161-167

Week 8:
  Mon., Oct. 14 – Review for exam
  Wed., Oct. 16 – Midterm Exam
  Fri., Oct. 18 – No Class (Fall Break)

Week 9:
  Mon., Oct. 21 – Ethnoarchaeology, Zooarchaeology & Taphonomy
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 8, pp. 169-179, 187-197
  Wed., Oct. 23 – Module 2: Analysis
  Fri., Oct. 25 – What do Animal Bones Tell Us about the Past?
Week 10:
Mon., Oct. 28 – Experimental Archaeology & Stone Tool Analysis
   Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 8, pp. 179-187
   Assignment 3 due: Lithic Analysis Case Studies
Wed., Oct. 30 – Module 2: Analysis
Fri., Nov. 1 – Go to Wellin Museum to work on artifact presentations

Week 11:
Mon., Nov. 4 – Experimental Archaeology & Ceramic Analysis
   Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 11, pp. 249-264, 271-276
   Assignment 3 due: Ceramic Analysis Case Studies
Wed., Nov. 6 – Module 2: Analysis
Fri., Nov. 8 – Mortuary Analysis
   Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 11, pp. 264-270

Week 12:
Mon., Nov. 11 – Ethnoarchaeology & Archaeobotany
   Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 9, pp. 210-226
   Assignment 3 due: Archaeobotany Case Studies
Wed., Nov. 13 – Module 2: Analysis
Fri., Nov. 15 – Go to Wellin Museum to work on artifact presentations

Week 13:
Mon., Nov. 18 – Bioarchaeology & Skeletal Analysis
   Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 10
Wed., Nov. 20 – Extra lab time to prepare Module 3 (optional)
Fri., Nov. 22 – Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Ethics
   Read: Kelly and Thomas – Introduction; Chapter 15, pp. 358-368, 374-379;
   Chapter 16, pp. 396-405;
   Assignment 4 due: Short Paper on Repatriation

Thanksgiving Recess – No Class Nov. 25-29
Week 14:
  Mon., Dec. 2 – The Archaeology of Mind
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 12
  Wed., Dec. 4 – The Archaeology of Key Transitions: The Origins of Agriculture and the
    Rise of Archaic States
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 13
  Fri., Dec. 6 – Archaeology’s Future
    Read: Kelly and Thomas – Chapter 15, pp. 368-374; Chapter 16, pp. 381-396
    **Assignment 5 due: Antiquities on Ebay**

Week 15:
  Mon., Dec. 9 – Artifact Presentations
  Wed., Dec. 11 – Artifact Presentations
  Fri., Dec. 13 – Artifact Presentations; **Module 3 due in class**

Finals Week:
  Thurs., Dec. 19, 2-5pm – **Final Exam**