

ANTH 340: FUNDAMENTALS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

William S. Ayres
Class Mtgs: MW 16:00-17:50, 204 CON
Office Hrs: tba

University of Oregon
Fall 2011
CRN

Texts/Readings:

Ayres, William S. 2011 *Archaeological Analysis*. Materials on Blackboard/handout.
Renfrew, Colin, and Paul Bahn. 2011 *Archaeology Essentials*.

Content:

This class is an advanced introduction to archaeology and is concerned with methods of doing archaeology, both in the field and in the laboratory, and the ideas used by archaeologists to interpret the past. It builds on and complements ANTH 150, World Archaeology, which is a prerequisite course (you may use a substitute class) representing an overview of the human past from what we know of prehistoric archaeology. This class is appropriate for you if you have a special interest in archaeology or if you intend to pursue an archaeological emphasis within the anthropology major. You can consult with me about specific archaeological topics, methods, and research projects.

Examples of archaeological field and laboratory research presented in the text come from areas around the world. Additional specific case studies developed in class include ones from the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, France, Africa, Taiwan, the US Southwest, and the Willamette Valley.

Grading and Assignments:

Attendance and participation are important (5%). To receive the full credit for participation, you must attend and be active participants in the classroom. Regardless of the excused or unexcused nature of an absence, you will be responsible for all material presented during that class period. Two quizzes (approximately 20%) and a midterm (30%) and final exam (30%) cover the material with objective and essay question formats.

A significant portion of this class focuses on laboratory methods and on doing a series of lab assignments, including basic typological study of lithic artifacts, use-wear analysis of tools, and comparative examination of pottery and other archaeological collections (15%). These projects will be made available on Blackboard and in class; assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of the class period on the due date.