

Archaeology

COURSE DESCRIPTION: George Santayana once said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The field of archeology helps us to better understand the events and societies of the past that have helped to shape our modern world. This course focuses on this techniques, methods, and theories that guide the study of the past. Students will learn how archaeological research is conducted and interpreted, as well as how artifacts are located and preserved. Finally, students will learn about the relationship of material items to culture and what we can learn about past societies from these items.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Discuss archaeology as a field of study.
- Differentiate between science and pseudoscience.
- Describe the relationship between archaeology and anthropology.
- Discuss the history and development of the field of archaeology.
- Understand why archaeology is still relevant today.
- Analyze the many aspects of an archaeologist's work.
- Discuss the career options of an archaeologist.
- List and understand the goals of archaeology.
- Discuss what culture is and how archaeologists reconstruct ancient lifeways.
- Describe how the archaeological record is used to date artifacts.
- Discuss the process of archaeological research.
- Understand how preservation conditions affect the characteristics of a site.
- Learn the procedures of an excavation.
- Discuss what each member of an archaeological team is responsible for.
- Examine the characteristics of the five major time periods: Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Iron Age.
- Investigate the most significant archaeological discoveries of the past five hundred years.
- Explore the different classification of artifacts and their cultural significance.
- Learn where the first people and culture originated.
- Discuss the societal importance of sustenance.
- Examine how technology has shaped culture.
- Investigate how land and nautical routes encouraged expansion.
- Explore how art, symbols, and writing have emerged over time.
- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.

- Discuss where the fossil record begins.
- Examine the holes in the fossil record.
- Investigate oddities found within the fossil record.
- Explore how archaeologists use the fossil record to reconstruct human behavior.
- Learn how a group of people interact based on what they have left behind.
- Discuss the four classifications of societies.
- Examine the scale of ancient societies based on their settlement patterns.
- Investigate how the buildings left behind contain clues to the social, political, and economic organization of a society.
- Explore how burial practices differed based on societal status.
- Learn how the alphabet has evolved through the centuries and its significance.
- Discuss how maps are used to find trade routes, migratory patterns, and settlements.
- Examine how journals, letters, and diaries illuminate a societies' history.
- Investigate the ancient laws that once governed people.
- Explore which religious text guided the religious beliefs of people long ago.
- Explore the role of cultural resource management (CRM).
- Discuss how historic sites are preserved and restored in order to educate the public.
- Examine the legal and ethical issues that guide the field of archeology.
- Investigate the effects of looting and the public measures archeologists employ to discourage it.
- Explore the methods archeologists use to share their findings with the public.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE LENGTH: One Semester

REQUIRED TEXT: No required textbook for this course.

MATERIALS LIST: No required materials for this course.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit 1: The World of Archaeology

Unit 2: Recording the Past

Unit 3: Unearthing Ancient Civilizations

Unit 4: Cultural Origins

Archaeology Midterm Exam

Unit 5: The Fossil Record

Unit 6: Social Organizations

Unit 7: The Survival of Ancient Text

Unit 8: Public Archeology & Modern Society

Archaeology Final Exam