

CEAN 0907

July 28 – August 8, 2014

## DISCOVERING THE PAST: INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

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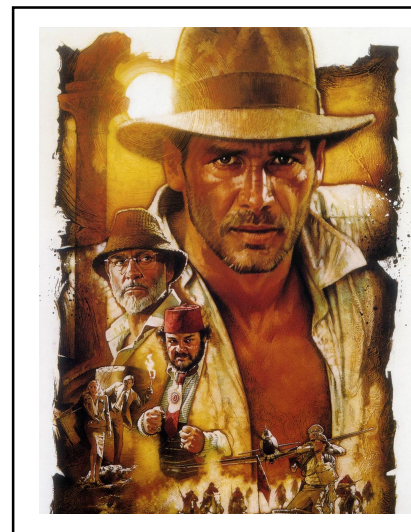
**Office Hours:** Thursday, 12-2.

**Class Meetings:** M-F 9:00-11:50 am, Smith-Buonanno G13

**Course Website:** <http://proteus.brown.edu/discoveringpast11/Home>

**Password (for the 'Readings' page):** pastprivate

**Username:** [use your name]



### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Do you like solving ancient mysteries, traveling to exotic parts of the globe, visiting ancient monuments, examining ancient artifacts, and studying history? If so, then this course is for you!! This course will introduce you to the fascinating field of archaeology: what it is, how it's done, how it can help us understand the human past, and how it can help us make sense of present-day human behavior.

Over the course of this two-week course you will become acquainted with the basic principles and methods of archaeological research. We will explore several varieties of archaeology across the globe, from the very ancient to the very modern, and we will consider the legal, ethical and political aspects of archaeological research. The ultimate goal of this course is for you to gain a recognition of and appreciation for archaeology in its many guises.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In this class, our explorations will lead us from the classroom to the “field”. All of our classes will involve hands-on components consisting of multi-media presentations, in-class activities and exercises, and a fieldtrip to the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum. The workload of the course is designed to expose you to the rigors and demands of scholarship at the university level, and to provide useful background for university-level courses in the fields of archaeology, history, art history, classics, anthropology, and law, among others.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- define archaeology in broadest terms, and to explain the differences between different kinds of archaeology;
- explain the various scientific and analytical methods and approaches used by archaeologists to recover ancient artifacts and to study them;
- conduct basic archaeological analyses of small artifact assemblages and synthesize the results in written form;
- understand the basics of hominid evolution;
- debate and discuss the legal and ethical aspects of archaeological research in relation to case studies;
- understand the importance of archaeology for the modern world;
- understand the role and importance of museums for the preservation of archaeological heritage.

## Readings

This course is an introductory-level course, but it is also a total immersion into archaeology. You are expected to fully commit your efforts to the required readings, assignments, and discussions. The readings are assigned from several different books, and all of them will be posted as pdfs on the course website (the direct link to the readings page is this: <http://proteus.brown.edu/discoveringpast11private/Home>, which you can also access from the “Readings” link at the bottom of the course’s home page). The password for the readings page is “**pastprivate**”. It is very important that you complete the readings *before* the class for which they are assigned (with the exception of Class #1).

**General Texts** (relevant chapters will be provided as pdfs; these books are not in the Brown bookstore)

Renfrew, Colin & Paul Bahn. 2007. *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods and Practice*, Abridged Edition. Thames & Hudson. [Referred to as “R&B” in the course schedule below]

Johanson, Donald & Maitland Edey. 1990. *Lucy: The Beginnings of Humankind*. Simon & Schuster. [Referred to as “LUCY” in the course schedule below]

Full citations for assigned readings from any other books are provided in the schedule below.

## Lab Assignments

The laboratory is where at least 75% of archaeological work actually takes place. Sometimes labwork takes place in a proper, scientific lab. Other times, lab-based activities can be done in the classroom or on-site. During each lab exercise, you will work in small groups and keep careful notes on your observations and the procedures you follow. In some cases, you will need to finish the lab exercise with your groups outside of class. Homework will often involve synthesizing your lab notes and results into a lab report, to be submitted online or in class the following day.

## Quiz

We will have one quiz during this course. This quiz will take place half-way through the course (on the first Friday), and it will test you on that first week’s material. It will consist of short identifications and long answer questions. The aim of the quiz is for you to review, synthesize and understand the various topics that we discuss in class during the first week. Writing is the *most important* tool in the archaeologist’s kit, so consider this as part of your training as an archaeologist.

## Final Research Projects

There will also be a final project due on the last day of the course, which will be discussed in class during the first week. Working in groups, you will undertake a short research assignment that you select from a list of projects which are made available on the course website (<http://proteus.brown.edu/discoveringpast11private/19500>). Everyone must commit to a project by the end of the first week, and **each group must meet with me (the instructor) once to discuss the project before its due date on the last day of class.** On the very last day of class students will present the results of their research to the class in a presentation, and will hand in the write-up of their final project.

## Grading / Assessment

The lab assignments and projects will be given letter grades (A, B, C, etc.), and the quiz will be given a numerical grade (in percent). After the course ends, student will receive a Course Performance Report (CPR), which is a detailed written evaluation from the professor.

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# COURSE SCHEDULE



## CLASS 1 (MONDAY, JULY 28)

**Introducing the Course (and each other!)**

**Introducing Archaeology: The 4 Ss (Part 1: Search, Survey).**

**TO READ:** R&B Introduction & Chapter 3 (do these after class if you did not get a chance to do them before the course started)

**LAB ASSIGNMENT:** Sampling Survey Exercise (in groups) – write-ups of the results are due next class (only one write-up needs to be handed in per group).

## CLASS 2 (TUESDAY, JULY 29)

**Introducing Archaeology: The 4 Ss (Part 2: Stratigraphy, Superposition)**

**How to Get a Date! (Archaeological Dating Techniques)**

**TO HAND IN:** Sampling Survey Exercise results from last class (hand in one write-up per group).

**TO READ:** R&B Chapter 4

**LAB ASSIGNMENT:** 2 Dating Exercises (can work alone, or in groups/partners). Individual write-ups of the results are due next class (each person has to hand in both exercises).

**TO DO AFTER CLASS:** Start thinking about a Final Project topic (read the instructions & options on the website): <http://proteus.brown.edu/discoveringpast11private/19500>. Email me before tomorrow's class with your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> topic preference.

### **CLASS 3 (WEDNESDAY, JULY 30)**

#### **Meet the Ancestors! (Hominin Evolution & Human Origins)**

**TO HAND IN:** The 2 Dating Exercises from last class.

**TO READ:** LUCY Prologue, and Chapters 9,12,13,14 (there is reading guide for these)

**LAB ASSIGNMENT:** We will watch selections from the NOVA documentary “Becoming Human”, which will be followed by a class discussion.

**IN CLASS:** Identify Final Project groups and topics.

### **CLASS 4 (THURSDAY, JULY 31)**

#### **Societies & Civilizations**

#### **The Preservation of Material Remains**

**TO READ:** R&B Chapter 2

**IN CLASS:** Identify groups and start thinking about the Trash Exercise (due next Monday)

**FUN FIELD TRIP!** Visit the Jukowsky Institute for Archaeology & the Ancient World where we will handle real live artifacts (from ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, etc.) held in the Jukowsky Institute vault!

### **CLASS 5 (FRIDAY, AUGUST 1)**

#### **Quiz!**

**DOCUMENTARY VIEWING:** Egypt: Secret of the Pharaohs (National Geographic), and discussion

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**WEEKEND (AUGUST 2-3): COMPLETE TRASH EXERCISE**

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## CLASS 6 (MONDAY, AUGUST 4)

### Dead Bodies! The Bioarchaeology of Human Remains

**TO HAND IN:** Group write-ups of the Trash Exercise.

**TO READ:** Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn. 2008. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Thames & Hudson – Chapter 11.

**IN CLASS:** Discussion about the results of the Trash Exercise

Select topics & groups for the Laws & Ethics Assignment (due on Wednesday)

(<http://proteus.brown.edu/discoveringpast11private/19501>), and class time to begin working on it (or to work on Final Projects).

## CLASS 7 (TUESDAY, AUGUST 5)

### Archaeology in the Museum!

**TO READ:** R&B Chapter 11; and “Collectors are the Real Looters” (p. 568-569 in Renfrew and Bahn 2008)

**LAB ASSIGNMENT:** Field trip to the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum – complete the museum scavenger hunt and hand it in at the end of class.

**TO DO AFTER CLASS:** Prepare the Laws & Ethics Presentations for next class (see link above, under Class 6).

## CLASS 8 (WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6)

### Archaeology in the “Real World” – Forensic and Disaster Archaeology

### Who owns the past? Law & Ethics in Archaeology

**TO READ:** Selections from Richard Gould. 2007. *Disaster Archaeology*. University of Utah Press; and Forensic Archaeology Overview

**IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS:** Laws & Ethics presentations & discussions

## CLASS 9 (THURSDAY, AUGUST 7)

### Underwater Archaeology & Historical Archaeology

**TO READ:** Underwater Archaeology; Distribution: The Uluburun Wreck, in Renfrew and Bahn 2008, p. 109-111, 380-381.

Selections from James Deetz. 1977 [1996]. *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*. Anchor Books.

**LAB ASSIGNMENT:** Class time to work on Final Projects.

**TO DO AFTER CLASS:** Finish up Final Projects!

## CLASS 10 (FRIDAY, AUGUST 8)

### Final Projects!

**TO HAND IN:** Write-ups of Final Projects are due (hand in one write-up per group).

**IN CLASS - PRESENTATIONS:** Final Project presentations (in groups)

After the final project presentations: **ARCHAEOLOGY MOVIE PARTY!** (snacks/drinks brought by me to accompany an archaeology movie voted by YOU!)