

**William Paterson University**  
**Department of Anthropology**  
**Archaeology: Digging the Past. Anth 2100**

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**Course Information**

**Semester:** WINTER 2015  
**December 22, 2014 to January 11, 2015**  
**Final Exam: Sunday, January 11, 2015**

**Professor Information**

**Dr. Ruth Maher**  
**email: MAHERR2@WPUNJ.EDU**  
**Meeting Location: Online**

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**NOTE TO STUDENTS**

This class is going to move quickly and you must be able to keep up. The reading is the equivalent to a full semester of reading – and you're expected to do it in three weeks. So, clear your schedule and prepare to do a lot of work in a very short amount of time. I will be strict as far as completing the assignments and keeping up with all the work, but I will try to make this as fun as possible and I will try not to bore you to tears. I love Archaeology, I'm an active archaeologist, I bring students to the field with me and my goal is to share it with you. I hope knowing this will help you understand my passion for this field as well as my goal in helping you learn the material. Reading is essential and the journals are meant to help you keep up with the readings and they count as attendance too. Even if you do not end up all wanting to be archaeologists after this class, I hope I can at least help you understand the science of archaeology and the potential it holds for our future as humans.

**DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the scientific study of the past. Archaeology is the study of past human societies, primarily through the recovery and analysis of the material culture and environmental data left behind. These remains include artifacts, structures, work-spaces, biofacts, ecofacts, written sources and landscapes – otherwise known as the archaeological record. Since archaeology employs a wide range of different procedures and is multidisciplinary in nature, it can be considered to be both a science and a humanity. Archaeology studies human prehistory and history from the development of the first stone tools in Africa c. 3 million years ago to and including more recent decades.

This course will describe the methods used in archaeology, including archaeological survey and excavation, and various types of data and their collection methods which enable archaeologists to learn more about the past. It will focus on major archaeological sites and periods around the world, both prehistoric and historic, review the various procedures and critically assess the types of data presented as evidence. Class discussions will start from the ancient discoveries to and including modern issues such as community archaeology, heritage and sustainability/preservation.

Some of the scheduled topics: Site Formation, Climate and Environmental Change, Social/Political/Economical organizations of past societies, Migration, Community Archaeology, Sustainability and Archaeological Ethics and Responsibilities. Some notable regions and/or cultures: Mesopotamia and the Near East, Celts, Vikings, Inca, Maya, Romans, US Colonists, etc.

## COURSE GOALS

This course seeks to help you understand:

- main theoretical approaches in archaeology.
- multidisciplinary approaches to research and the various scientific analyses and their contributions to the more complete image of the project
- the relevance of text-hindered archaeology as well as how archaeology has changed history.
- the significance that archaeological research has to key topics concerning human welfare and contemporary problems (environmental degradation and sustainability, food production, social and economic inequality, gender relations, warfare).
- how to evaluate an archaeological study in terms of its research design, theoretical approach, and logic.
- how archaeologists gather data and be able to analyze data from archaeological research, discern patterns in the data, and formulate and present a logical interpretation of the patterns.
- how archaeologists investigate and reconstruct aspects of past societal structures
- the ethical (and to some extent legal) issues surrounding the documentation, preservation, interpretation, and "ownership" of archaeological remains.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (AVAILABLE AT UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE):

Book: Chazan. World Prehistory and Archaeology (2d is fine). ISBN-10: 0205786235  
Online articles and other material will also be found in each of the course modules.

## WORKING COMPUTER

You have decided to take an online course, thus it is your responsibility to make sure that you are on a working computer for the entire 3-week term. If you miss assignments, quizzes, attendance or your exam due to a faulty computer, it will impact your grade as you are required to have a working computer. If your computer is untrustworthy or your internet connection is dodgy, make sure you can take the exam in a place with a reliable connection. The Library or many computer labs around campus will certainly meet that requirement. I cannot help you if your computer is not capable of handling the course.

## MAKING UP WORK

There is no opportunity to make up any of the material. If you fail to complete an assignment on time, you receive a '0' for that assignment. Unfortunately, the speed with which this class must move prohibits your ability to make up work.

## BLACKBOARD

Please review announcements and course materials often and make sure your WPU email is working properly so you receive important announcements and feedback. If you are unfamiliar or even uncomfortable with the Blackboard software, please check out the "Student Help" tab in Blackboard for frequently asked questions and even a manual. You can also contact the helpdesk if you can't find your answers.

## COLLABORATE

The course uses Collaborate in order to present the material to you. Prior to the beginning of this class, you must download and run the Java Collaborate Plug-in in order to watch the powerpoints and listen to my lectures. Please make sure you have Collaborate up-and-running long before the class begins on December 22, 2014, as this course is an intense 3-week semester and there is a lot of ground to cover.

## GRADING CRITERIA

1.	Daily Reading Logs:	40%
2.	Quizzes (3@10%)	30%
3.	Final Exam	25%
4.	Attendance	<u>5%</u>
		100%

## READINGS & DAILY READING LOGS:

All readings are required and should be read prior to watching the lecture in the module on that subject in order to facilitate an understanding of the material. The Blackboard Journal Feature is set up and corresponds with the readings. The majority of the daily Modules (not all of them, but most) will include journal/topic log assignments wherein you are asked to address particular questions or explain material from the reading. Not on your own or necessarily taking notes but by answering questions about the material in the readings as they relate to Archaeology. In most cases, you'll be asked to follow specific directions for each log, with a little wiggle room for you to include your own input. The directions may refer to all readings or a single reading depending upon the topic. These logs close when the modules close. You will not be able to upload logs after the due date/time – no exceptions. If you're worried about missing a deadline—try to complete it sooner.

Blackboard is not reliable when entering material into the logs. You should type up your logs in some other software (Word, Textbox, Wordpad, anything but typing it directly into the journal). What will happen if you type into it: you'll take a bit of time to answer all the log info, then you'll finally finish and hit the "submit" button. Instead of submitting, you'll receive a red error box telling you that you are not authorized to do what you are doing. All your work will be lost and I'll never receive your hard work. I do not want this to happen, so please type up your work elsewhere, then copy it into the journal space when you are done. Blackboard also does not recognize the "right click controls" so you must use the following to copy and paste your work into the journal.

(use **ctrl-v** for pc or the +v in mac) in the appropriate weekly log.

The format for these logs is very simple. I'd be happy for you to number each and address the material. Be thorough, if I ask you to explain – that means you need to explain it to me as though I've never heard of archaeology before. It is informal writing, but you must be thorough. Your grades will appear in a rubric format and you'll be graded on whether or not you addressed all the material and how thorough you are. Spelling, grammar, formality, will not be graded.

**Please do not upload attachments.** I will not accept uploaded attachments in the journal – it **MUST BE COPIED** so that when I open your journal, I see it immediately. It not only slows down the process for all, but I'm not always able to download student papers onto my tablet. You will receive "0" if you upload rather than copying.

## QUIZZES

You will have three very small quizzes at the close of each weekly set (12/27, 1/3, and 1/9). These will help you prep for the final exam! Indeed, you'll likely see some of the same questions repeated! With all the material you'll be going through in such a short period of time, it's a way to help you organize the important information and check where you stand. It'll consist of matching, multiple choice and some fill in the blanks.

## FINAL EXAMINATION

All of the information presented in class is possible final exam material. This includes maps, powerpoints, lectures, readings, handouts and movies (yes, we do have video clips and even a movie in this class!). The exam will be given on the last day the class is open. It will be available to you for the entire day and open for 2.5 hours once you begin the test. You must take the exam in one session, you cannot close out and return later. I've chosen to give it to you on the Sunday in order to give you a day off to study before taking the exam. I know it seems inconvenient to have it on a Sunday, but it is technically the last day of classes as well.

## COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is required and will be considered in calculating your final grade. Attendance is measured by your appearance in each of the Module Journal/Topic Logs. You must make an appearance in each of the Module discussion boards in order to receive full attendance for the semester. Your contribution to the logs counts towards attendance and obviously, the quality of your log is measure to meet the log requirements. It's a two-fer in that respect. Each Module constitutes a class day and there are 14 Modules (similar to 14 weeks of classes per semester).

- 1-2 absences = no direct grading penalty, but your logs are suffering

- 3+ absences = Final Grade reduced 1 full grade for every 2 subsequently missed classes.
- 0 absences = Bonus Points on final grade (could possibly raise your grade if you are between grades).

## CONTACTING ME

If you need to contact me about important matters, I am always available through email. Please do not post questions to me in the discussion board, write me directly and I will be more than happy to answer questions you may have. I may post it into announcements if I feel others will benefit too.

COURSE SCHEDULE – DIGGING THE PAST – WINTER 2015	
WEEK 1	
	<b>Intro, Syllabus, Expectations, etc.</b> Listen to the Collaborate Lecture. I'll go over the requirements for the class and it'll give you an opportunity to test your Collaborate skills. Begin Reading and Explore the Course Site, then continue on to the modules.
<b>Module 1</b>	<b>Defining Archaeology: Basics, Methods</b> Reading: Book: pp. 1-54 Watch Lectures Journal/Topic Log Due.
<b>Module 2</b>	<b>Theory and Life Cycle of the Artifact</b> Reading: Flannery, The Golden Marshalltown Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log
<b>Module 3</b>	<b>The Sciences of Archaeology</b> Readings: GM-Ch-5, Archaeological Sciences Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>Module 4</b>	<b>Prehistory and History – Space and Time</b> Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>QUIZ 1</b>	<b>WEEK 1 IS COMPLETE. YOU WILL HAVE A SMALL QUIZ ON ALL MATERIAL FROM MODS 1-4. Remember all material is possible quiz material – lectures too!</b>
<b>Module 5</b>	<b>Palaeolithic Peoples</b> Readings: Book: pp. 94-151 Organization Chart. On Blackboard. KNOW IT! Watch Lectures Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>Module 6</b>	<b>Climate and Environment</b> Readings: Bates. Human Ecology Bell & Walker. Environment on People Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>Module 7</b>	<b>Mesolithic &amp; Migrations to Australia &amp; New World</b> Readings: Book: pp. 153-181 Lee. Eating Christmas in the Kalahari Watch Lecture Journal/Discussion Board
<b>Module 8</b>	<b>Neolithic Revolution</b> Readings: Book: pp. 184-231 Study charts too! Watch video clips Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log Due

<b>Module 9</b>	<b>Rise of State, Religion and Collapse</b> Readings: Book: pp. 235-270 Watch Lectures Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>QUIZ 2</b>	<b>WEEK 2 IS COMPLETE. YOU WILL HAVE A SMALL QUIZ ON ALL MATERIAL FROM MODS 5-9. Remember all material is possible quiz material – lectures and video clips too!</b>
<b>Module 10</b>	<b>Historical Archaeology</b> Readings: Orser. On Blackboard. Intro. Webster. On Blackboard. Slave Ships & Maritime Archy. Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>Module 11</b>	<b>Community Archaeology</b> Readings: What is it?. On Blackboard. Article Is it Working? On Blackboard. Article Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>Module 12</b>	<b>Pulling Week 3 together.</b> Please print out the note guide to help you focus on key points of this movie Please watch the movie in this module and think about the people, their future, and why a modern culture is the focus of attention in your archaeology course. Journal/Topic log due (responses to the note guide).
<b>Module 13</b>	<b>Human Ecodynamics</b> Readings: Maher & Harrison, Humans a Force of Nature Dugmore, Landscape Legacies of the Icelandic Landnám Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>Module 14</b>	<b>Archaeology of Sustainability</b> Readings: Cooper & Sheets. On Blackboard. Intro Paulette. On Blackboard. Mesopotamia Redman. On Blackboard. Global Change Watch Lecture Journal/Topic Log Due
<b>QUIZ 3</b>	<b>WEEK 3 IS COMPLETE. YOU WILL HAVE A SMALL QUIZ ON ALL MATERIAL FROM MODS 10-14. Remember all material is possible quiz material – lectures and movie too!</b>
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM. Open all day from 6:00 a.m. to 11:59 pm on Sunday. You will have the option to take the exam at any point between this period. However, once you begin the test, you must finish it. You have 2.5 hours to complete the exam. Make sure you are on a stable, working, reliable computer – computer mishaps will not be considered an excuse.</b>