

## Department:

Anthropology

## Course Description:

This course will provide a general survey of archaeology and the history of archaeology. The course will emphasize the impact and importance of major discoveries and the relevance of archaeology as it relates to history. The course will include a general survey of world prehistory revealing major cultural changes from the development of early foraging societies through the rise of agricultural and complex communities. The course will also examine prehistoric cultures and their evolution in adaptive responses to changing natural and social environments from the early Paleolithic to the emergence of urban civilizations.

## Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Use the scientific method in the analysis of an archaeological problem.
2. Describe archaeological research techniques.
3. Compare and contrast various archaeological theories relating to peoples of the Paleolithic period.
4. Describe the methods used to find archaeological sites.
5. Describe methods of chronology and explain how dates are determined.
6. Briefly describe the cultural changes necessary to move human society from hunter-gatherers to complex communities.
7. Trace the spread of human populations.
8. State the challenges faced by archaeologists today and speculate about the future of the discipline.

## Course Content:

- A. Preview of Archaeology
- B. Archaeology, Anthropology, Science, and the Humanities
- C. The Structure of Archaeological Inquiry
- D. Doing Fieldwork: Surveying for Archaeological Sites
- E. Doing Fieldwork: Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems
- F. Doing Fieldwork: Why Archaeologists Dig Square Holes
- G. Geoarchaeology and Site Formation Processes
- H. Chronology Building: Determining Dates
- I. The Dimensions of Archaeology: Time, Space, Form
- J. Taphonomy, Experimental Archaeology, Ethnoarchaeology
- K. People, Plants, and Animals in the Past
- L. Bioarchaeological Approaches to the Past

- M. Reconstructing Social and Political Systems of the Past
- N. The Archaeology of the Mind
- O. Understanding Key Transitions in World Prehistory
- P. Historical Archaeology: Insights on American History
- Q. Caring for America's Cultural Heritage
- R. Archaeology's Future

### Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by class participation, quizzes, an oral presentation, a term paper, and final exam.

### Instructional Materials:

Archaeology, Thomas, Kelly, 4th Ed., Thomson-Wadsworth, 2006. ISBN 0-15505-899-1

#### **Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition**

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students **must** complete the "Disabilities Self-Identification Form" at this link:

<https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services>.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.