GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 11/30/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 12/14/2021

ANTHROPOLOGY 140 – INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

ANTH 140 Introduction to Archaeology 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

An introduction to the field of archaeology, the study of past human societies through their material remains. The course will provide an introduction to field methods, categories of data and theoretical approaches in archaeology. Major developments in world prehistory will be examined using archaeological evidence. The relevance of archaeological research to contemporary society will also be addressed.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Define the goals of archaeology and explain the field’s placement within the broader discipline of anthropology.
2. Explain how archaeological methods of finding, dating and analyzing sites and artifacts provide insights into past human behavior.
3. Apply archaeological method and theory in analyzing the process of cultural change.
4. Evaluate competing explanatory models for major developments in human history such as the origins of agriculture and the rise of complex civilization.
5. Synthesize information from multiple sources into an accurate understanding of the human past, while differentiating between evidence-based and fantastical explanations.
6. Gain an understanding of the origins and nature of human cultural diversity in the past, and of its relevance to contemporary society.
7. Recognize archaeology’s multiple responsibilities—to the public, to descendent communities and to science, in preserving archaeological resources and respecting cultural patrimony.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course content

1. Anthropology and its subfields
2. Historical development of archaeology
3. Different theoretical approaches to archaeology
4. Archaeological survey and excavation
5. Categories of archaeological data
6. Interpreting archaeological data and reconstructing past behavior
7. Dating techniques and environmental reconstruction
8. Origins of human culture
9. Origins of food production and settled life
10. Rise of social complexity
11. Development of Old and New World civilization
12. The prehistory of North America and San Diego County
13. Archaeology and modern society

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture and discussion.

b. Structured classroom exercises and assignments. Example: Lithic analysis, in which students, working in groups draw, measure and describe the attributes of a particular stone tool.

c. Films and videos.

d. Guest speakers and field trips.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. One or more written exams (objective and essay questions).

b. Written final exam (objective and essay questions).

c. Term paper/project involving field or library research on a particular archaeological site, artifact category, archaeological technique or theory.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Reading assignments from the text and a selection of short articles.

b. Research projects such as reports on individual archaeological sites.

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative Texts:

1) Kelly, Robert L. and David Hurst Thomas. *Archaeology*. 7th ed. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning, 2017.

2) Price, T. Douglas and Gary Feinman. Images of the Past. 8th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2020.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks

Selected articles on current archaeology topics.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

a. Summarize the major theoretical approaches, preservation techniques, and ethical tenets of archaeology.

b. Identify research that demonstrates archaeology's role as an integrated subfield of anthropology.

c. Explain how environmental, demographic, and/or social forces have shaped developments within cultures.