

Course Outline for: ANTH 1235 Field Archaeology – Methods of Exploring the Past**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 History and the Social & Behavioral Sciences
Goal #9 Ethical and Civic Responsibility

This course will introduce field and laboratory archaeology and covers the full scope of the scientific methods used to locate, excavate, analyze and interpret the material evidence of vanished prehistoric cultures. Particular focus will be given to field work, including an intensive two-day excavation of a Native American site in southwestern Minnesota. The laboratory component will also include hands-on interaction with artifacts, interpreting, and cataloging materials recently recovered by teams from Normandale.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: February 2022**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. The scope and mission of archaeology
2. The concept of context
3. The tools and techniques of field excavation
4. Archaeological surveying
5. Relative dating methods
6. Absolute dating including radiometric methods
7. Bio-archaeology and the reconstruction of prehistoric ecology
8. Genetic, forensic, and taphonomic analysis
9. Lithic tools and stone knapping
10. Ancient material technologies
11. Symbolism and archaeo-astronomy
12. History and prehistory in southwestern Minnesota
13. Archaeological ethics and legal requirements; The NAGPRA Act.
14. Interpreting and cataloging artifacts
15. Introduction to museum curation software (PastPerfect)

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Students completing this course should be able to:

1. Recognize and explain the science of field archaeology including the methods to survey and excavate sites, the recording and analysis of data, and the interpretation of evidence. (Goals 2a, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d)
2. Demonstrate the ability to identify, characterize and catalog artifacts in a laboratory setting. (Goals 2a, 2c, 5a, 5c)

3. Evaluate and be able to explain many of the scientific methods used to determine the age of ancient materials. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2d, 5a, 5c)
4. Recognize and articulate the material technologies of ancient cultures including stone tools, pottery, early metals, and building materials. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d)
5. Analyze and be able to summarize the history and culture of Native American peoples in southwestern Minnesota. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c)
6. Articulate the legal and ethical obligations of archaeologists in the United States, specifically addressing the responsibilities to and sensitivity toward Native Americans and their culture. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d)
7. Demonstrate the application of commercial museum curation software to catalog archaeological artifacts. (Goals 2a, 2d, 5a, 9a, 9b)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to, the following: objective and/or subjective exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, reflection essays, group work, and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

F. Special Information

None