Metropolitan State University

ANTH 308 : Archaeology: Explaining the Past

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: WRIT 131 Writing I or equivalent, or have instructor's permission.

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies , Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci , Goal 10 - People/Environment

Who owns the past and why should we try to preserve it? This course explores the formation of the archaeological record, and the methods archaeologists use to interpret that record. Students examine how professional archaeology differs from looting, and how archaeologists work to protect the archaeological record. The course also analyzes and evaluates academic and popular interpretations of archaeology.

B. Course Effective Dates: 09/06/1999 - 05/06/2013 05/07/2013 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Understands, analyzes, and writes about key concepts, methodologies, and current theories of archaeological research at an upper division college level.
2. Critically evaluates the practice and ethics of archeology as a scientific endeavor in a multicultural setting, and its role in constructing identity for contemporary social groups.
3. Development of critical thinking skills needed to critique and evaluate the results and interpretations of archaeological research.
4. Understands the historical role of archeology and its potential misuse to reflect and enforce social inequalities.
5. Understands, at an upper division college level, the relationship between archaeological research, history, and the natural sciences.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies

None

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
4. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
G. Special Information

None