

Reading and Conference in Archaeological  
Methodology (116.430A)  
Syllabus—Fall 2012

Room 14-212b  
Mondays 2:00-5:00pm

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10-12  
Appointments welcome

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This course will offer you an introduction to the theories and methods of archaeological practice. We will discuss the history and intellectual underpinnings of the discipline. We will also examine the methodological approaches that archaeologists use to examine the past. This course will not teach you how to become a good field archaeologist, but will give you a background to the tools and techniques that archaeologists use to examine the past and reconstruct human activities.

Another goal of this class is to help you improve your English reading and writing skills. Each week you will be expected to read an academic paper in English and answer questions about the readings. There will be a 10-12 page final paper in the class that I will help you work on so that you have a fair chance of receiving a good grade. I will not grade you as an English teacher would, but I need to be able to understand your writing well enough to assess how well you have digested the course materials.

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There is one textbook for the class, which is available in the SNU library, and a Korean translation of this book is available for purchase in the bookstore:

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn  
2008 *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. London: Thames & Hudson. (현대 고고학 강의 / 콜린 렌프류, 폴 반 [공]지음 ; 이희준 옮김)

Each week, I will assign a writing topic that you are expected to turn in before the lecture begins. The length of your weekly papers should be between 100 and 200 words. If you are not in class, I will not accept your paper. There is also an assignment that you will need to complete in the National Museums of Korea that will be factored into this grade.

There is a midterm and final exam for this class. Each of these will be structured as questions drawn from discussions and readings that you are expected to answer in about one or two hand-written pages.

There will be a final paper that is drawn from an analysis of archaeological artifacts at the National Museums of Korea. We will tour the museum together in advance of this assignment.

\*I reserve the right to make “pop quizzes” in class. Such quizzes will be conducted on low-attendance days or on days when I feel that you are not paying attention or taking notes.

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**Grading:** Weekly writing/oral assignments (35%); Midterm (20%); Final exam (20%); Final paper (25%)

*Weekly papers:* Each week, I will ask you to answer a specific question about the readings. Each answer should consist of approximately 100-200 words, unless specified otherwise. You must type your answers. You will be able to access electronic versions of each of the supplemental reading assignments from campus via the SNU library's website. If you have trouble accessing the materials, send me an email, and I will send you the reading material.

*Midterm and final exams:* There will be two exams in this class. The format of each of these exams will be four or five questions in which I will ask you to write about specific aspects of the course material. I will allow you to bring in two pages of notes **handwritten** on A4 paper to use as reference material. So, the exam questions will be structured to require you to think about archaeological methods and theory—not regurgitate facts and dates.

*Final paper.* I will provide you with a handout of the final paper assignment after you complete the midterm exam. The assignment will involve you selecting artifacts from the National Museum of Korea and discussing at least two themes (lecture weeks) of the class in the paper. So, for example, you can write about social complexity and the role of warfare during the Three Kingdoms period of Korean prehistory by looking at armaments and fortifications from the museum collections.

You will be expected to provide an abstract and a 5-reference bibliography to me by November 19. A detailed outline of the paper is due by November 26. Your rough draft is due December 7. Your midterm paper is due by 5:00 pm on December 14. **Late papers will be graded down 5% every day.**

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### **Class outline:**

Week 1 (September 3): Class Introduction.

- DISCUSSION: A brief introduction to archaeology.
- We will review the syllabus and ensure that everyone has access to the reading material for the class.
- Read for next week: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 1 & Kim (2008) Multivocality, multifaceted voices, and Korean archaeology *In* J. Habu, C. Fawcett, and J. M. Matsunaga (eds.), *Evaluating Multiple Narratives: Beyond Nationalist, Colonialist, Imperialist Archaeologies*, Pp. 118-137. New York: Springer.

Week 2 (September 10): History of Archaeology

- DISCUSSION: A brief review of time traveling
- Read for next week: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 2 & Bae (2010) Peopling in the Korean Peninsula *In* C.J. Norton and D.R. Braun (eds.), *Asian Paleoanthropology: From Africa to China and Beyond, Vertebrate Paleobiology, Paleoanthropology*, Pp. 181-190. New York: Springer.

Week 3 (September 17): Site Formation, Preservation, Destruction

- DISCUSSION: What is a "site"?
- Read for next week: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 3 & Jin, et al. (2011) Archaeoseismological studies on historical heritage sites in the Gyeongju area, SE Korea. *Quaternary International* 242(1):158-170.

Week 4 (September 24): Survey and Excavation

- DISCUSSION: When do we walk and when do we dig?
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 4 & Kim, et al. (2010) Re-evaluation of the chronology of the palaeolithic site at Jeongokri, Korea, using OSL and TT-OSL signals from quartz. *Quaternary Geochronology* 5:365-370.

Week 5 (October 1): NO CLASS (주석)

Week 6 (October 8): Dating Methods

- DISCUSSION: How old is this site? How do we know that?
- Read for next week: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 5 & Norton (2007) Sedentism, territorial circumscription, and the increased use of plant domesticates across Neolithic–Bronze Age Korea. *Asian Perspectives* 46(1):133-165.

Week 7 (October 15): NO CLASS (SNU Anniversary)

Week 8 (October 22): Social Complexity

- DISCUSSION: Defining complexity in the archaeological record.
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 6 & Lim et al. (2007) Late-Holocene palaeoclimatic change at the Dongnimdong archaeological site, Gwangju, SW Korea. *Holocene* 17(5):665-672.

Week 9 (October 29): Environmental Archaeology

- DISCUSSION: What was it like when they were here?
- NO READING—study for the midterm exam!

Week 10 (November 5): MIDTERM EXAM

- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 7 & Kim (2010) Opportunistic versus target mode: Prey choice changes in central-western Korean prehistory. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 29:80-93.

Week 11 (November 12): Subsistence and Diet

- DISCUSSION: What did they eat?
- Brief writing workshop—How do you write a thesis statement and organize a research paper?
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 8 & Bale and Ko (2006) Craft production and social change in Mumun pottery period, Korea. *Asian Perspectives* 45(2):159-187.

Week 12 (November 19): Tools/Technology

- DISCUSSION: Use this to make that...the human story
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 9 & Pearson (2007) Early Medieval trade on Japan's southern frontier and its effect on Okinawan state development: Grey stoneware of the East China Sea. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 11(2):122-151.
- **Thesis statements and bibliographies due.**

Week 13 (November 26): Trade and exchange

- DISCUSSION: How do things get around?

- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 10 & Yi (2002) "Thunder-Axes" and the traditional view of stone tools in Korea. *Journal of East Asian Archaeology* 4(1-4):293-306.
- **Paper outlines due.**

Week 14 (December 3): Cognitive Archaeology

- NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KOREA CLASS TRIP. Meet at the front door of the NMK at 10:00 am.
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 11 & Suzuki et al. (2008) Brief communication: New evidence of tuberculosis from prehistoric Korea—Population movement and early evidence of tuberculosis in Far East Asia. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 136:357-360.
- **Rough drafts due by 5:00 pm on December 7.**

Week 15 (December 10): Bioarchaeology

- DISCUSSION: Life and death in the prehistoric record.
- NO READING—Study for final exam!

Week 16 (December 17): FINAL EXAM

- **Final papers due by 5:00 pm December 14.**