

Reading and Conference in Archaeological
Methodology (116.430A)
Syllabus—Fall 2017

Room 8-406
Tues., Thurs. 9:30-10:45am

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-2:00
Appointments welcome

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 5-7 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.

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
2016 *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice. 7th 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 **no more than** 200 words. If you are not in class, I will not accept your paper. The only exceptions to this are if you have a documented issue such as hospitalization or compulsory military service. 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.

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

General: Class assignments and communications will be posted on the eTL website (<http://etl.snu.ac.kr>). If you are not going to be in class, you are still responsible for accessing the assignment and getting it to me on time. Every late assignment is automatically marked down 5% per day.

Weekly papers: Each week, I will ask you to answer a specific question about the readings. Each answer should consist of 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 eight to ten 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 14. A detailed outline of the paper is due by November 21. Your rough draft is due November 30. Your midterm paper is due by 10:00 am on December 14. ***Late papers will be graded down 5% every day.***

Class outline:

Week 1 (September 5, 7): 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, S. O. (2015) Recent developments and debates in Korean prehistoric archaeology. *Asian Perspectives* 54(1), 11-30.

Week 2 (September 12, 14): History of Archaeology

- DISCUSSION: A brief review of time traveling
- Read for next week: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 2 & Lee, H., French, C., & Macphail, R. I. (2014) Microscopic examination of ancient and modern irrigated paddy soils in South Korea, with special reference to the formation of silty clay concentration features. *Geoarchaeology* 29(4):326-348.

Week 3 (September 19, 21): Site Formation, Preservation, Destruction

- DISCUSSION: What is a “site”?
- Read for next week: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 3 & Wagner, M., Tarasov, P., Hosner, D., Fleck, A., Ehrich, R., Chen, X., & Leipe, C. (2013) Mapping of the spatial and temporal distribution of archaeological sites of northern China during the Neolithic and Bronze Age. *Quaternary International* 290, 344-357.

Week 4 (September 26, 28): Survey and Excavation

- DISCUSSION: When do we walk and when do we dig?
- Read for next class Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 4 & Maret/Wright (2017) *Field Manual for African Archaeology* (pp. 232-246)

Week 5 (October 3, 5): NO CLASS (주석)

Week 6 (October 10, 12): Dating Methods

- DISCUSSION: How old is this site? How do we know that?
- Read for next week: Renfrew and Bahn, Chapter 5 & Lee, G. A. (2011) The transition from foraging to farming in prehistoric Korea. *Current Anthropology* 52(S4):S307-S329.

Week 7 (October 17, 19): Social Complexity

- DISCUSSION: Defining complexity in the archaeological record.
- NO READING—study for the midterm exam!

Week 8 (October 24): MIDTERM EXAM

- 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 31, November 2): Environmental Archaeology

- DISCUSSION: What was it like when they were here?
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 7 & Kwak, S., Kim, G., & Lee, G. A. (2017). Beyond rice farming: Evidence from central Korea reveals wide resource utilization in the Songgukri culture during the late-Holocene. *The Holocene* 27(8):1092-1102.

Week 10 (November 7, 9): 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.

OR (depending on whether I can get this book in time)...

- Kaner, Simon (2017) *The Development of Pottery and Associated Technological Developments in Japan, Korea, and the Russian Far East*. In: Handbook of East and Southeast Asian Archaeology. Springer, New York. ISBN 978-1-4939-6519-9.

Week 11 (November 14, 16): Tools/Technology

- DISCUSSION: Use this to make that...the human story
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 9 & Aikens, C. M., Zhushchikhovskaya, I. S., & Rhee, S. N. (2009) Environment, ecology, and

interaction in Japan, Korea, and the Russian Far East: the millennial history of a Japan Sea Oikumene. *Asian Perspectives* 48(2):207-248.

- **Thesis statements and bibliographies due November 14.**

Week 12 (November 21, 23): Trade and exchange

- DISCUSSION: How do things get around?
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 10 & Li, H., Kuman, K., & Li, C. R. (2014) Re-examination of the morphological variability of East Asian handaxes from a comparative perspective. *World Archaeology* 46(5):705-733.
- **Paper outlines due November 21.**

Week 13 (November 28, 30): Cognitive Archaeology*

- Proposed rescheduling of class: Either November 25 or 26 OR December 2 or 3. Plan on spending approximately three hours in the National Museum of Korea with me.
- NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KOREA CLASS TRIP. Meet at the front door of the NMK at 10:00 am on the rescheduled date.
- Read for next week Renfrew and Bahn Chapter 11 & Lee, E. J., Oh, C. S., Yim, S. G., Park, J. B., Kim, Y. S., Shin, M. H., ... & Shin, D. H. (2013) Collaboration of archaeologists, historians and bioarchaeologists during removal of clothing from Korean Mummy of Joseon Dynasty. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 17(1):94-118.
- **Rough drafts due by 5:00 pm on November 30.**

Week 14 (December 5, 7): Bioarchaeology

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

Week 15 (December 12): FINAL EXAM

- **Final papers due by 10:00 am December 14.**