Objectives: This course will introduce the basic principles of archaeological method and theory through an exploration of the prehistory of the world. The goal of the course is to provide an understanding of how archaeology functions and a basic knowledge of the prehistory of humans.

Course Content: Topics in the course will range from Plio-Pleistocene hominid adaptations to historic era archaeology. Theories and methods for studying hunter-gatherers, the transition to complex societies, and the rise of states will be examined with reference to key archaeological sites throughout the world. Specific attention will focus on a comparison of the states in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus, China, and Mexico. Slides, films, and archeological teaching collections will accompany the lectures.

Prerequisites: None

Attendance: Mandatory


Laboratory/Field Experience: None required, none gained in this course.

Readings: Selected chapters for each week from one textbook.

Paper/Projects: Three homework assignments with a total worth of 25% of grade.

Evaluation: Three in class exams, each worth 25% of grade. Exams include multiple choice, short answer/identify, and choice of essay.