ANTH 103
Introduction to Archaeology
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

ANTH 103 – Introduction to Archaeology: provides an introduction to the techniques of archaeological investigation and analysis. Course work examines the principles of archaeological theory and the reconstruction of human social systems of the past. The course includes instruction on all phases of archaeological investigation including site identification, field excavation, artifact dating, and laboratory analysis. This course features information about archaeological sites in Maryland, the Americas, and other world regions.

Pre-requisites: ACLT 052 or 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. distinguish archaeology as a sub discipline of anthropology that uses qualitative and quantitative analysis and the scientific method;
2. discuss significant theoretical perspectives on cultural adaptation and change;
3. identify the archaeological evidence associated with key events in human prehistory including the origins of agriculture, the beginning of life in cities, the rise of state-level society, and the development of symbolic systems;
4. describe the major prehistoric and historic phases of human life in Maryland and the archaeological evidence associated with each phase;
5. evaluate archaeological evidence of social and economic organization, communication, political authority, cooperation and conflict, social inequality, and religious ideology;
6. identify professional archaeological best practice for site survey, shovel test pits, troweling, screening, mapping, and recording;
7. describe techniques used to interpret the chronology of sites and to provide relative and absolute dating of artifacts;
8. create a site excavation plan that summarizes the sampling procedures and archaeological methods appropriate to achieving the goal of the excavation;
9. analyze artifacts based on qualitative and quantitative description, identification and classification, use-wear, spatial patterning analysis and context dating;
10. discuss the legal regulations that apply to archaeological investigations at the international, national, and state levels as well as the ethical obligations of professional archaeologists;
11. utilize discipline appropriate resources to include electronic databases to obtain relevant comparative information about archaeological artifacts and historical sites; and

12. identify career paths for professional archaeology and cultural resource management.

Major Topics

    I.   History of archaeology
   II.   Archaeological theory
  III.   Milestones in world prehistory
  IV.   Archaeology of Maryland
   V.   Reconstructing cultural systems
  VI.   Site analysis
 VII.   Archaeological excavation
VIII.   Artifact analysis
  IX.   Legal requirements
   X.   Archaeological careers

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- One exam with a writing component (short-answer or essay)
- Two written assignments that demonstrate mastery of topics related to archaeological fieldwork techniques and archaeological theories
- One site excavation plan
- Two collaborative assignments (such as discussions, group projects, or fieldwork exercises)

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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