

# Syllabus

## Introduction to Archaeology

### Course Overview

This one-semester course is intended as an engaging and practical survey of the field of archeology. The course is structured into lessons and Course Activities as follows:

- The first lesson discusses archaeology as a field of study.
- The next lesson discusses the history and evolution of modern archaeology, and how modern archaeology differs from traditional archaeology.
- The next two lessons describe what career options are available in archaeology in the United States, the qualifications and certifications required to get into those careers, and familiarize you with the different types of archaeology.
- The next three lessons familiarize you with the techniques and methods used in archaeology, which include research techniques used in archaeological projects, types of archaeological evidence, the importance of identifying material evidence, and methods used for identifying and surveying archaeological sites.
- The next two lessons discuss the work involved in archaeological site excavation, such as various excavation techniques, application of geological principles, methods of recovering artifacts, methods of recording archaeological finds, and identifying age of artifacts with dating techniques.
- The next two lessons familiarize you with ways of preserving and storing archaeological finds, such as long-term conservation treatment for artifacts, ways to preserve artifacts while transporting them from archaeological sites, and different storage requirements in different environments.
- The next lesson discusses the role of archaeology in the indigenous cultures in the United States and steps taken to improve relationships with native cultures.
- The next lesson familiarizes you with the methods archaeologists use to share archaeological findings with people, ethical and practical considerations in public archaeology, and outreach programs used in archaeology.
- The last lesson familiarizes you with the ways of protecting archaeological sites from vandalism and illegal trade, such as using site management strategies and voluntary strategies, empowering local communities, and using federal government laws.

You will submit the Course Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with sample responses. Each lesson also has a multiple-choice mastery test. A multiple-choice end-of-semester test completes the course.

The Course Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are major components of this course. They will guide your learning as you work through this course.

## Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Learn about archaeology as a field of study.
- Familiarize yourself with the evolution of modern archaeology.
- Explore the career options available in archaeology in the United States.
- Learn about the various types of archaeology.
- Learn about the process of archaeological research.
- Learn about the different types of archaeological evidence.
- Familiarize yourself with methods to identify and characterize archaeological sites.
- Familiarize yourself with the various “invasive” archaeological investigation and site excavation methods.
- Explore the techniques used for recovering, recording, and analyzing archaeological finds.
- Explore the techniques used for preserving archaeological discoveries.
- Familiarize yourself with the requirements for storing archaeological collections.
- Learn about the controversial role of archaeology in prehistoric and historic indigenous cultures in the United States.
- Learn about the role of public archaeology for sharing information and creating awareness.
- Explore the strategies to maintain authenticity of archaeological sites and protect them from threats such as vandalism and illegal trade.

## Prerequisite Skills

Introduction to Archaeology has the following prerequisites:

- basic computer skills
- ability to structure and process information
- general familiarity with the writing process and following guidelines

## General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations on a computer.

*For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.*

## Credit Value

Introduction to Archaeology is a 0.5-credit course.

## **Course Materials**

- Notebook
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent

## Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
1 day:	<b>Course Orientation</b> <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	
5 days: 2-6	<b>What is Archaeology?</b> <i>Discuss archaeology as a field of study.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 7-11	<b>History of Modern Archaeology</b> <i>Discuss the evolution of modern archaeology.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 12	<b>The Past and Present</b>	Course Discussion
1 day: 13	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Activity
5 days: 14-18	<b>Discoveries in Archaeology</b>	Course Activity
3 days: 19-21	<b>Careers in Archaeology</b> <i>Describe and compare the career options available in archaeology in the United States.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 22-25	<b>Types of Archaeology</b> <i>Describe and explain various types of archaeology.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 26	<b>CRM and Urban Development</b>	Course Discussion
1 day: 27	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Activity
4 days: 28-31	<b>Research Techniques</b> <i>Discuss the process of archaeological research.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 32-34	<b>Performing Research in Archaeology</b>	Course Activity
3 days: 35-38	<b>Archaeological Evidence</b> <i>Examine different types of archaeological evidence.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
3 days: 39-41	<b>Identification of Archaeological Sites</b> <i>Examine methods to identify and characterize archaeological sites.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 42	<b>What does Archaeological Research Tell us?</b>	Course Discussion
1 day: 43	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Activity
5 days: 44-48	<b>Site Excavation</b> <i>Describe and explain various "invasive" archaeological investigation and site excavation methods.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 49-51	<b>Creating a Report on an Archaeological Site</b>	Course Activity
3 days: 52-54	<b>Recovering, Recording, and Analyzing Evidence</b> <i>Describe techniques used for recovering, recording, and analyzing archaeological finds.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 55-58	<b>Preservation Techniques</b> <i>Describe techniques used for preserving archaeological discoveries.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 59	<b>Are Excavations Destructive?</b>	Course Discussion
1 day: 60	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Activity
4 days: 61-64	<b>Storing Collections</b> <i>Describe requirements for storing archaeological collections.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 65-67	<b>Archaeology of Indigenous Culture</b> <i>Discuss the controversial role of archaeology in prehistoric and historic indigenous cultures in the United States.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 68-72	<b>Preparing a Conservation Plan for a Museum</b>	Course Activity
4 days: 73-76	<b>Public Archaeology</b> <i>Understand the role of public archaeology for sharing information and creating awareness.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 77-81	<b>Protecting Archaeological Sites</b> <i>Discuss strategies to maintain authenticity of archaeological sites and protect them from threats such as vandalism and illegal</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
	<i>trade.</i>	
5 days: 82-86	<b>Saving a Heritage Site</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 87	<b>Reaching Out to People</b>	Course Discussion
1 day: 88	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Activity
1 day: 89	<b>Course Review</b>	
1 day: 90	<b>End of Course</b>	Assessment