# **Raritan Valley Community College**

## **Course Outline**

#### I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ANTH 120-Introduction to Archeology

B. Date of Proposal or Revision: Fall 2006

C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences & Education

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

E. Weekly Contact Hours: 5 Lecture: 2

Laboratory: 3

F. Prerequisites: None

G. Laboratory Fees: N/A

## **II. Catalog Description**

This course introduces the student the basic principles, theories and methodologies used by archeologists to reconstruct cultures, largely prehistoric, through the analysis of material culture. Special emphasis placed upon using archeology as a means to test hypotheses about prehistoric cultures and their development. Students will need to be available on at least two Saturdays or Sundays a month so that trips can be made to visit nearby archeological excavations and museums.

#### **III. Statement of Course Need**

The course is one of two courses beyond the basic introductory courses that is offered. Though not offered recently, the course has consistently drawn excellent enrollment as a result of strong student interest in the subject matter.

## IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- This course fulfills a social science elective in General Education.
- Can be used as a free elective.

Course transferability: This course should transfer as a social science course and as part of the General Education curriculum.

### V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Archeology as Anthropology
- B. The History of Archeology
- C. Establishing Chronologies
- D. Testing Hypotheses
- E. Excavation and techniques
- F. Reconstructing Human Subsistence
- G. Reconstructing Social Systems
- H. Reconstructing Belief Systems
- I. Ethnoarcheology
- J. Archeology and the Modern World
  - a. New strategies for archeology
  - b. Tourism

### **VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes**

### **Educational Goals**

Students will:

- 1. Use the information provided by different disciplines to understand better the ways in which archeologists gather and interpret their data (GE 4)
- 2. Recognize the ethical issues concerning archeological excavations (GE 5)
- 3. Provide social evolutionary explanations for the presence of specific patterns of similarities and differences among and between cultures (GE 1)
- 4. Determine what evidence may be needed to evaluate different hypotheses (GE 1)

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

- 1. Cite reasons why archeology is part of anthropology
- 2. Cite the reasons for the need for control of chronology
- 3. Cite three relative and three absolute dating techniques
- 4. Describe both the promise and dangers of ethnoarcheology
- 5. Describe the ways in which archeologists generate their test implications and use them to evaluate hypotheses
- 6. Describe the ways in which archeologists reconstruct subsistence strategies
- 7. Describe the ways in which archeologists reconstruct cosmology
- 8. Describe the ways in which archeologists reconstruct social patterns
- 9. Discuss the ways in which archeologists contribute to the national and local economy
- 10. Discuss the ethical implications of conducting archeological research

## VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning may include:

- lecture/discussion
- individual or small-group exercises
- independent study
- field visits
- film

## VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

Assessment methods used may be:

- class participation
- written examinations

## IX. Grade Determinants

In order to evaluate achievement of the goals and outcomes listed above, possible grade determinants may include:

- participation in class discussions
- three examinations
- map quiz

#### X. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific text that may be used:

Fagan, Brian Archeology: A Brief Introduction, 2006, Prentice-Hall ISBN 100131928112

#### XI. Resources

- Library for reserve materials
- Computer access for visual; examination of fossils and contemporary primates
- Field visits to zoo and/or museum
- Guest speakers from various disciplines and community services

Revised 1/25/07