

**Common Course Outline**  
**ANTH 103**  
**Introduction to Archaeology**  
**3 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**ANTH 103 - 3 credits - 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. Students gain practical experience in all phases of archaeological investigation including site identification, field excavation, artifact dating, and laboratory analysis through hands-on assignments. This course explores case studies drawn from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East with an emphasis on the archaeology of the Maryland region.

**3 credits; 3 lecture hours per week**

**Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or 053**

**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 evidence of social and economic organization, communication, political authority, cooperation and conflict, social inequality, race and gender inequality and religious ideology at case study sites in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East;
6. utilize the archaeological techniques of site survey, shovel test pits, transect sampling, establishing survey grids, 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 history and environmental conditions relevant to the site under consideration and proposes 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**

Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. At least one exam with a writing component (short-answer or essay)
2. A minimum of 5 assignments that demonstrate mastery of archaeological techniques (such as mapping, sampling, site survey, excavation, and artifact analysis)
3. Written assignments equivalent to 10 pages of writing to include a site excavation plan and artifact analysis and other papers on designated subjects.
4. Collaborative work in class on hands-on assignments.

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