



Fall 2024

ANT 351

Contemporary Archaeology

Special Topics in Archaeology

Instructor: Evan Taylor

Tuesdays and Thursdays,

11:00 am–12:15 pm

- What can an archaeological focus on space, time, and materiality lend to interpreting diverse human experiences that have shaped the 20th and 21st centuries? This class serves as an introduction to archaeologies of the contemporary world. Students will engage with current research in contemporary archaeology on issues including waste and environmental toxicity, reclaiming Indigenous landscapes, memory and heritage, forced and undocumented migration, homelessness and home-making, and experiences of armed conflict.
- The course sits at the intersection of anthropological subfields and their respective methodological and ethical frameworks. Students will evaluate uses of core archaeological methods and principles (pedestrian survey, geolocation, photography, site formation, use-wear analysis, for example) alongside ethnography, oral history, and documentary research.
- Students will design and carry out a semester-length research project that employs the perspective of contemporary archaeology. In doing so, students will be encouraged to push the boundaries and explore the possibilities of this emerging interdisciplinary field.

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