**AHS 1100: Introduction to Archaeology**

**Course objectives**: The major goal of this course is to introduce students to archaeology as a discipline. It is designed to familiarize students with archaeology as a multi-disciplinary field of study that concerns itself primarily with the study of human’s past before the advent of written records.

**Course Description**

Among the topics to be covered by this course will include definition, history, goals and scope of archaeology. The course will also introduce students to the concepts, nature of data, as well as the significance and relevance of the discipline to the modern world. This course is pertinent for beginners in Archaeological and Heritage Studies.

**Assessment:** 30% Course Work; 70% Examination

**Course Outline**

Topic 1: Introduction

* 1. Definition of archaeology
  2. Goals of Archaeology
  3. Scope of archaeology
  4. Ethno archaeology and Analogy
  5. Archaeological Site
  6. Sedimentation and Stratification
  7. Survey and Excavation
  8. Stone Age, Neolithic (Pastoral Neolithic) and Iron Age

Topic 2: Origin and Development of Archaeology

2.1 The dawn of archaeology up to the mid 19th century

2.2 Archaeology comes of Age: 1870-1950

2.3 1950 to the present

Topic 3: The Coming of Archaeology to Africa and the Contribution of Africa to the Growth of

Archaeology

3.1 The African version of Archaeology

3.2 Archeology as a Colonial Package

3.3 During the antiquarian period

3.4 1870-1950

3.5 Post-1950

Topic 4: The Archaeological Record

4.1 Tangible data (Artifacts, ecofacts, features and structures)

4.2 Intangible data (Ideology and Aesthetic values)

4.3 Archaeological Record and Context

4.4 Archaeological record and preservation factors (role of climate, nature of raw m materials and soil chemistry

Topic 5: Site, Site Formation processes and Site Recovery Techniques

5.1 Definition

5.2 Formation processes (use, abandonment, post deposition processes)

5.3 Serendipitous recovery

5.4 Through Informants

5.6 Systematic survey

Topic 6: The Relevance of Archaeology

6.1 Education

6.2 Development

6.3 Economy

**Basic readings**

Ashmore, W. and Sharer, R. J. 2003.*Archaeology: Discovering our Past*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Fagan, B. (1997a), *In the Beginning.* New York: Longman

Fagan, B. (1997b) *Archaeology*. New York: Longman

Joukowsky, M. (1980), A complete manual of field archaeology: Tools and techniques of fieldwork for archaeologists. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

Renfrew, G and P. Bahn (2000), *Archaeology: Theory, Method and Practice*. London: Thames and Hudson

Schmidt, P. R (2009), *Post Colonial Archaeologies in Africa.* New Mexico: SAR Press

Trigger, B (1989), *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge: CambridgeUniversity Press.