**AHS 3205 Archaeological Methodology**

**Objectives:** The course intends to show how archaeology as a discipline has evolved strategies and methods to move from unknown to known.

**Course Description**

This course is an advance of the previous AHS 102 (Principles and practices in archaeology). It critically examines the nature of archaeology an academic discipline. Scholars have viewed archaeology as either a hard science or a humanistic discipline. Scientific methodology is examined In relation to the nature of archaeological evidence. Processes that have been responsible for the formation of archaeological evidence are also examined in relation to the method and strategies of survey, excavation and chronometer dating.

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

**Course Outline**

Topic 1: The Nature f archaeological discipline

* 1. Archaeology as archaeology
  2. Archaeology as history
  3. Archaeology as anthropology

Topic 2: Scientific methodology

2.1 Cycle of science

2.2 Positivism

2.3 Realism

2.4 Conventionalism

Topic3: The nature of archaeological evidence

3.1 Features/artifacts/ecofacts

3.2 Matrix

3.3 Provenience

3.4 Association

Topic 4: Site Formation process

4.1 Cultural (c-transforms)

4.2 Natural (n-transforms)

4.3 Darts/Brain /Binford/Potts debate

Topic 5: strategies and methods of archaeology

5.1 Modeling

5.2 Surveys and Excavations

5.3 Chronologies

5.4 Affinities

**Basic readings**

DeGroot, A. 1969. *Methodology.* The Hague: Monton & CO.

Kothari, C.R. 2005. *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques.* New Delhi: Wiley Eastern.

Kuhn, T 1970.  *The Structure of Scientific Revolution.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press

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

Shanks, M and C. Tilley. 1987. *Social Theory and Archaeology.* Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

Watson, P. 1984. *Archaeological explanation: The Scientific method in archaeology*. New York: Columbia University Press