How do archaeologists learn how old something is? How do they figure out where to dig? How do they make sense out of their discoveries? This course will introduce you to archaeology, its goals, methods, and findings. Archaeologists are famous for using other people's garbage as their main source of information, so this is essentially a course about trash. We will look at how archaeologists explore issues of food and eating in ancient times, trade, politics, world views, technology, and belief systems. You will learn about scientific methods that archaeologists use, including dating, sampling, excavation strategies, and materials science. In the process we will be discussing specific ancient time periods like the Neolithic, cultures like the ancient Mississippians, and phenomena such as the development of irrigation agriculture in the Andes. You will gain an understanding of how we study the past through the lens of the things people left behind. You will also learn how archaeologists apply their interpretations to modern situations, and how we can best preserve the archaeological record. CASE S & H and Gen Educ S & H distribution credit.

Format: There will be illustrated lectures, demonstrations, videos, and hands-on lab exercises and simulations conducted in the lab sections. Evaluation: Tests, short papers, lab assignments, and a short project. Students in the honors section read an extra case study *The Goddess and the Bull*, and will have a more in-depth final project.