ANTH/ARCP265 Archaeological Analysis: Introduction to Laboratory Methods (Fall 2014)  (Exley Science Center 351)

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Course Description

To most people, archaeology means excavation. In reality, much archaeological discovery occurs in the laboratory where detailed maps are drawn; objects are measured, classified, and counted; samples are chemically or physically analyzed; and data are statistically evaluated. Discovery also occurs in the minds of archaeologists through the development and/or application of theoretical concepts. Students will be introduced to laboratory methods through a project-oriented, hands-on format utilizing the Wesleyan University Archaeology and Anthropology Collections. A major focus of the course will be on the inferential processes through which archaeologists recover and understand the past.

Readings

Required texts:
Sutton and Arkush, *Archaeological Laboratory Methods: An Introduction* (5th ed.)
Wilkie, *Strung Out on Archaeology: An Introduction to Archaeological Research*

Additional readings will be available as .pdf files on Moodle. Selections should be read before class on the day they are listed on the syllabus.

Assignments and Grading

The majority of your grade will be based on an independent research project, including an oral presentation (50% paper, 25% oral presentation). The remainder of your grade (25%) will be based on participation in class discussions and performance on lab exercises.

Disability Resources

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.
Course Outline

September

2  Introduction

4  Sites, Excavation, and Research Design
   Readings:  *Archaeological Laboratory Methods*, Chapters 1 & 2
              *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 2

9  Culture History; Dating
   Readings:  *Archaeological Laboratory Methods*, Chapter 13
              *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 3

11 Laboratory Exercise: Ceramics
    Readings:  *Archaeological Laboratory Methods*, Chapter 6

16 Processual Archaeology
    Readings:  *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 4

18 Laboratory Exercise: Faunal Analysis
    Readings:  *Archaeological Laboratory Methods*, Chapter 10

23  No class

25 Post-Processual Critique
    Readings:  *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 5

30  Technology and Social Change
    Readings:  *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 6

October

2  Laboratory Exercise: Chipped and Ground Stone
   Readings:  *Archaeological Laboratory Methods*, Chapters 4 & 5

7  Exchange
   Readings:  *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 7

9  Laboratory Exercise: Shell and Bone; Perishable Materials
   Readings:  *Archaeological Laboratory Methods*, Chapters 7 & 8

14 Social Identity
   Readings:  *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 8
16 Laboratory Exercise: Botanical Analysis
Readings: *Archaeological Laboratory Methods*, Chapter 11

**FALL BREAK**

23 Reading the Literature
Readings: Gibbon, “What Kind of Archaeology Is It?
Gibbon, “What Kind of Investigation Is It?”

28 Gender and Sexuality
Readings: *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 9

30 Power and Prestige
Readings: *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 10

November

4 Historical Archaeology
Readings: *Archaeological Laboratory Methods*, Chapter 9

6 Depopulation and Collapse
Readings: *Strung Out on Archaeology*, Chapter 11

11 Project Presentations

13 Project Presentations

18 Project Presentations

20 Project Presentations

25 ?

**THANKSGIVING BREAK** (no classes that week)

December

2 ?

4 ?

Final Projects Due Saturday, December 13th, 5:00 p.m.
Bibliography

Required texts:


Required readings on Moodle: