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ANTH 355.01: Artifact Analysis

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Anthropology 355

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS (Revised Syllabus)

Professor: **John Douglas**; Office: Social Sciences 233; Telephone: 243-4246; e-mail: an_jed@selway.umt.edu; Office hours: Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10-11 or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: **Megan Hurand**; Office hours: 1-2, Tuesday and Thursday. Office: Social Science 30 (basement laboratory); E-mail: MeganHurand@gateway.net

Purpose: A hands-on introduction to interpreting artifacts from archaeological sites that focuses on the analysis of chipped stone tools, ceramics, and historic artifacts. The class consists of lecture, discussion, and laboratory work. It will cover all phases of an artifact analysis: defining problem domains, selecting attributes to study, coding data, analyzing the data, and interpreting results.

Prerequisites: Anth 250 (Intro to Archaeology) or equivalent

Required texts: Sutton, Mark Q., and Brooke S. Arkush, 1998, *Archaeological Laboratory Methods: An Introduction*. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., Dubuque.

Optional equipment: 1 dial calipers, available at the bookstore, is recommended.

Grade Determination: There are three sources of grades in this course: (1) attendance and oral presentation; (2) one test; and (3) a written project report. Students are expected to be participants in the course, including a brief (10 minute) presentation of their project results; up to 5 points will be awarded for presentation and participation. The test, worth 20 points, covers the assigned chapters, basic terms and ideas, and artifact identification. The test consists of multiple choice questions and short definitions.

The written project report represents the completion of an analysis of a group of artifacts assigned in class. Papers should consist of 7-12 double-spaced, type written pages of text with at least five (possible many more) pages of graphs, photos, tables, and data appendices. The final paper will be judged in five areas: (1) goals and methods; (2) presentation of data; (3) interpretation of data; (4) conclusions and possible future directions; (5) use of references to the relevant literature (generally 5 to 10 references are expected). For graduate credit, students will be expected to complete a longer, more professional paper. Because this class fulfills the anthropological writing requirement, I will examine the paper for its merits in presentation and use of effective language. A draft of the paper is due November 29 and a final version is due on December 13. The paper is worth 70 points.

A total of 100 points is possible for the class:

Attendance/Presentation	5	points
Test	20	points
Project	75	points

TOTAL:	100	points

A total of 90 or more points is an "A" for the semester, etc. Please note that **September 24** is the last day to add or drop a course without penalty, and **October 15** is the last day to drop a course or change grading options.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
4-Sep	Course introduction	---
6-Sep	Chipped stone production	Chapter 3
11-Sep	Typology and raw material	
13-Sep	Chipped Stone Analysis (continued)	Chapter 4
18-Sep	Laboratory	
20-Sep	Chipped Stone Analysis (continued)	
25-Sep	Laboratory	
27-Sep	Chipped Stone Analysis	
2-Oct	Laboratory	
4-Oct	Ground Stone Analysis	Chapter 5
9-Oct	Laboratory	
11-Oct	Traditional Ceramics (continued)	Chapter 6
16-Oct	Laboratory	
18-Oct	Traditional Ceramics	
23-Oct	Laboratory	
25-Oct	Historic Artifacts	Chapter 9
30-Oct	Laboratory	
1-Nov	Historic Artifacts (continued)	
6-Nov	Laboratory	
8-Nov	TEST	
13-Nov	Laboratory	
15-Nov	Data Bases and Analysis	
20-Nov	Data Presentation	Chapter 14
22-Nov	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
27-Nov	Laboratory	
29-Nov	Laboratory and drafts due	
4-Dec	Drafts returned and discussion of papers	
6-Dec	Laboratory	
11-Dec	Laboratory	
13-Dec	Oral presentations and final papers due	
17-Dec	(Monday) 3:20-520, oral presentations	