Anthropology 380: Archaeological Lab Techniques

Overview: This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of archaeological research and the laboratory techniques essential to archaeological studies of the past. It begins with a brief introduction to archaeological method and theory, followed by a comprehensive overview of archaeological research design (hypothesis formation, research design, data gathering and analysis, result reporting). The course proceeds with a survey of the analysis and laboratory techniques associated with various types of archaeological evidence (stone, ceramics, bone, floral and faunal remains). The last third of the course is dedicated to the development, implementation and analysis of independent student research projects, drawing on data sets compiled from archaeological assemblages housed at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, or from alternative data sets, pending the instructor’s approval.

Objectives: The goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive overview of the laboratory techniques and analysis forming the basis of hypothesis-driven archaeological research. By the conclusion of the course, students will:

- Understand the various methods, techniques and data used by archaeologists to study the past
- Gain hands-on experience with various kinds of archaeological analysis and laboratory techniques
- Successfully develop and implement an archaeological research project


Requirements: In order to perform well, students will need to: 1) Complete all the assigned readings and actively participate in class, 2) Complete all course assignments and exercises (7 total) on-time, 3) Successfully design, implement and present on an archaeological analysis utilizing skills learned in the course, and 4) Score well on the course final.

Grading: Student performance in the course will be assessed on a 100-point scale:

- Class participation = 25 points
- Course assignments = 25 points
- Archaeological analysis/student presentation = 25 points
- Final exam = 25 points
The following scale will be used to determine final grades:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
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<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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**Academic Dishonesty:** Disciplinary action will be taken against all forms of academic dishonesty (plagiarizing, cheating, etc.) as outlined in the University of Hawai‘i-Manoa’s Campus Policies ([http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm](http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm)).

**Two Points On Valid Sources of Information and Proper Citation:**

1) Wikipedia, however convenient, is **not** a valid source of reliable information. Anyone with a computer and internet connection can create/edit Wikipedia articles and entries. It should **never** be used as a serious research tool, and **never** be cited in an academic paper.

2) All academic papers require that you properly cite/give credit to your information source. **Rephrasing/slightly changing the wording or structure of information does not make it your own.** As students pursuing higher education, it is important for all of you to understand what plagiarism is, as well as how to evaluate, employ and cite an accurate source of academic information. To that end, the UH-Manoa Library has an excellent listing of online research and citation tools: [http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/content.php?pid=143516&sid=1221447](http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/content.php?pid=143516&sid=1221447). The Pennsylvania State University's Online Writing Lab (OWL), accessible through the aforementioned link, is an especially useful tool for research and citation.

**Late Assignments and Exams:** As a general rule, late assignments and exams will not be accepted. Extenuating circumstances require proper documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note, etc.), and will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the instructor’s discretion.

**Policy on Electronics Use During Class:** Students are asked to show respect for themselves, their classmates and their instructor by turning off all electronic devices for the duration of the class.

**Student Resources:** A variety of resources exist at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to help students maximize their educational experience.

- **First Year Center** ([http://manoa.hawaii.edu/freshman/academic.html](http://manoa.hawaii.edu/freshman/academic.html)) - Helps new students plan their degree programs and navigate their educational requirements.
- **The Student Success Center at Sinclair Library** ([http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/gohere](http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/gohere)) - Physically located in Sinclair Library (for those of you who can access the UH Manoa campus). Helps students develop and implement study skills and research plans. Offers a helpful “Live Chat” with librarians feature
• **Writing Center** ([http://www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/](http://www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/)) - Free assistance, by appointment (tutors@hawaii.edu) with writing term papers, projects and assignments.

• **Kokua Program** ([www.hawaii.edu/kokua/](http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/)) - A confidential resource for students with disabilities that helps coordinate individual accommodations for every facet of their education. Students with disabilities are also welcome to contact the instructor directly to make confidential arrangements.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 – 8/22**
- Introduction, Logistics and Course Requirements
- History and Goals of Archaeological Research (Chapters 1 and 15)

**Week 2 – 8/29**
- Archaeological Data and Research Design (Chapters 2 and 3)
- Formulating and Characterizing (Coding, Recording and Illustrating)
- Archaeological Data Bases
- Possible archaeological collections/database exercise
- **Database Exercise (2.5 points)**

**Week 3 – 9/5**
- Discussion: database exercise
- Introduction to Lithic Artifacts and Analysis (Chapters 4 and 5)
- **Database Exercise Due**

**Week 4 – 9/12 – Instructor gone: Guest Lecturer: Adam Lauer, ABD**
- Introduction to Bone Artifacts and Human Remains Analysis (Chapter 12)
- **Lithic Analysis Due (5 points)**

**Week 5 – 9/19 – Instructor gone: Guest Lecturer: Jo Lynn Gunness, Archaeology Labs Manager, UH-Manoa**
- Archaeological Laboratory/Collections Management

**Week 6 – 9/26**
- Introduction to Ceramic Artifacts and Analysis (Chapter 6)
- Conclusion/Discussion of Ceramic Artifacts and Analysis

**Week 7 – 10/3**
- Introduction to Historical Artifacts and Analysis (Chapter 9)
- **Ceramic Analysis Due (5 points)**

**Week 8 – 10/10**
- Exercise: historical artifacts analysis
Historical Artifact Analysis Due (5 points)

Week 9 – 10/17
Introduction to Faunal Remains and Analysis (Chapters 7 and 10)

Week 10 – 10/24
Conclusion/Discussion of Faunal Remains and Analysis
Introduction to Floral Remains and Analysis (Chapter 11)
Floral OR Faunal Remains Analysis Due (5 points)

Week 11 – 10/31
Applied Archaeological Laboratory Techniques: Fieldwork, forensic anthropology and cultural resources management

Week 12 – 11/7
Developing and Implementing an Archaeological Analysis
Research Project Worksheet Due (2.5 points)

Week 13 – 11/14
Student Research Project Troubleshooting and Discussion

Week 14 – 11/21
Student Presentations

Week 15 – 11/28
Student Presentations

Week 16 – 12/5
Student Presentations

Week 17 – 12/12
Final Exam: exact date/time/location to be announced