

ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY:

LABORATORY METHODS

FALL 2007

<http://sjsu.blackboard.com/public/anth168af07mm>

Monday 3:00 pm – 5:45 pm

Washington Square Hall 004 & 002

Instructor: Dr. Mark D. McCoy, Assistant Professor

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Email: mdmccoy@email.sjsu.edu (Please read "Email Policy."); **Phone:** 408-924-5542

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-1:30, 3pm-5pm; **Faculty Site:** <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/mdmccoy/>

Prerequisites

Students must have completed ANTH 013 (Introduction to Archaeology). There are no exceptions.

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

General laboratory procedures in archaeological research. Focus on the collection, processing, curation, and analysis of artifacts from prehistoric and historic era sites.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Student's coursework and examination will be geared toward the following topics:

● **Laboratory Applications of Digital Archaeology**

Digital archaeology is defined as an approach "utilizing computers based on an understanding of the strengths and limits of computers and information technology as a whole" to advance the field of archaeology (Daly and Evans 2006:3). Archaeology is in desperate need of digital and cyber infrastructure and researchers trained in the tools necessary to create and support it. In this course, students will be working with artifact collections housed here at SJSU to create a new digital infrastructure to aid in curation and support future research.

● **Artifact Analyses**

While professional archaeologists tend to have specialized training in the analysis of a single artifact class or material, such as lithics or ceramics, all archaeologists must have a working knowledge of how to process every class of artifact that might be encountered during excavations. Thus, this course stresses the fundamentals of artifact analyses across artifact types. The goal here is to train students in how to record and report basic information about artifacts and what kinds of specialized laboratory analyses are possible.

● **Reporting on Research**

As the pace of urban development increases across the world a backlog of unpublished and legacy data has been created that remains virtually inaccessible to professionals or the public. The reason for this is simple – there is an imbalance between the amount of funding available for things like salvage excavation compared with the tasks of analyses and reporting. In this course, students will learn the valuable skill of scientific technical writing and complete a brief archaeological report based on a project using SJSU's artifact collections and archives.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This class is a mix of lecture, discussion and laboratory work. Generally, lecture will run the first hour of class, followed by a break. The second half of class will be mandatory lab work. Over the semester students will be graded out of a total of 500 points. While students will work in groups to complete tasks all grades are individual. *All written assignments should be turned in via WebCT, never via email.*

Project Report

Most of a student's grade will be based on a semester long project centered on a summary and analyses of artifact and archival collections. Students will be assigned topics early in the semester. Topic swapping between students is not allowed. However, there is a mechanism to change topics -- students have the option to submit a one-page proposal for an alternative topic for instructor approval. Grades for the 10-15 page project report will be based on evaluation of a first draft (100 points) and final draft (150 points).

Lab Work

The majority of class meeting time will be spent doing hands-on research on real artifacts and data. Just like any archaeological lab, tasks will vary depending upon what needs to be done. The instructor will assign jobs at the start of lab work time each week. Students can expect to spend weeks doing repetitive work. Although some of this work will be computer based, it is generally not a good idea to wear your best clothes to class. There will be no make-ups for lab work with the exception of documented medical excused absences. Grades for lab work will be assessed weekly out of 10 points based on student performance for a total of 130 points.

Annotated Bibliographies

Students are required to complete three annotated bibliographies over the course of the semester. Each should center on at least three case studies relevant to one of ten topics and are due the week prior to our in-class discussion of the topic (see calendar below). A handout will be given explaining the requirements for these assignments. Grades for annotated bibliographies will be assessed out of 25 points for a total of 75 points.

Final Exam

A final exam will be given that centers on practical lab skills. As such, the exam will be a mix of written and hands-on assessment. Students may refer to notes or books during this exam. The final exam is worth 45 points.

Summary of Points

Report	250 points	97% and above	A+	76% - 74%	C
Labs	130 points	94% - 96%	A	73% - 70%	C-
Ant. Bib.	75 points	93% - 90%	A-	69% - 67%	D+
Final Exam	<u>45 points</u>	89% - 87%	B+	66% - 64%	D
TOTAL:	500 points	86% - 84%	B	63% - 60%	D-
		83% - 80%	B-	below 60%	F
		79% - 77%	C+		

WEBCT CLASS MANAGEMENT COURSE SITE: <http://sjsu.blackboard.com/public/anth168af07mm>

In an effort to provide better access to course materials, instructor help, and grades the university has adopted class management software called "WebCT." You will get a handout describing how to sign on to WebCT and navigate this course's online component. If you run in to difficulties using the system, San José State University employs IT support personal that can be contacted at 408.924.2377, helpdesk@sjsu.edu, or 408.924.2670, ecampus@online.sjsu.edu. To log in, enter your SID (e.g., W1234567) and password ("fall"). Be sure set up your WebCT email to forward to your personal address so you will receive course messages.

EMAIL POLICY

To help me organize and answer your emails as quickly as possible, please send messages via the mail option of WebCT. WebCT automatically "tags" your message with your class/section. Also, coursework will not be distributed or accepted via email transmission and student's emails will be answered during regular business hours M-F 9am-5pm.

REQUIRED TEXT

Balme, J. and A. Paterson

2006 *Archaeology in Practice: A student's guide to archaeological analyses*. Blackwell Publishing.

READINGS LIST WITH ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM REMINDERS

All readings (▶) must be completed before class. Papers (□) are listed on the date they are due and tests (o) on the day they will be administered.

1	Mon.	Aug. 27	Introduction to Course		
2	Mon.	Sept. 3	No class		
3	Mon.	Sept. 10	Artifact Curation and Reporting	▶ Chapter 15. Producing the Record	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #1 Lithics Due (choose 3 out of 10)
4	Mon.	Sept. 17	Lithics	▶ Chapter 6. An Introduction to Stone Artifact Analysis	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #2 Geoarchaeology Due (choose 3 out of 10)
5	Mon.	Sept. 24	Geoarchaeology	▶ Chapter 4. Stratigraphy ▶ Chapter 12. Sediments	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #3 Chronology Due (choose 3 out of 10)
6	Mon.	Oct. 1	Chronology	▶ Chapter 5. Absolute Dating	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #4 Fauna Due (choose 3 out of 10)
7	Mon.	Oct. 8	Fauna	▶ Chapter 9. Animal Bones	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #5 Plants Due (choose 3 out of 10)
8	Mon.	Oct. 15	Plants	▶ Chapter 10. Plant Remains	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #6 Historic Artifacts Due (choose 3 out of 10)
9	Mon.	Oct. 22	Historic Period Artifacts	▶ Chapter 13. Artifacts of the Modern World	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #7 Shell Due (choose 3 out of 10)
10	Mon.	Oct. 29	Shell	▶ Chapter 11. Mollusks and Other Shells	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #8 Ceramics Due (choose 3 out of 10)
11	Mon.	Nov. 5	Ceramics	▶ Chapter 8. Ceramics	□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #9 Statistics Due (choose 3 out of 10)
12	Mon.	Nov. 12	Statistics		□ Annotated Bibliography Topic #10 Web Applications Due (choose 3 out of 10)
13	Mon.	Nov. 19	Veteran's Day - No Class -	Draft Reports Due by 5:00pm	□ Project Report Draft Due (100pts)
14	Mon.	Nov. 26	Class Cancelled		
15	Mon.	Dec. 3	Web Applications		
16	Mon.	Dec. 10	Full Lab Day		
	Fri.	Dec. 14, 2:45-5:00pm		O Final Exam - WSQ 004 Final Reports Due by 5:00pm	□ Final Report Due (150 pts)

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMINATIONS

Unless specified otherwise assignments are due at the start of class and **10% will be deducted for every day late**. No make-up exams will be given (see "Incompletes" below). To be fair to all students, **this policy is strictly enforced with concessions for documented medical emergencies only**. Late material should be "time stamped" and left in my mailbox at the Anthropology Department office in Clark Hall.

"I" (INCOMPLETE) AND "WU" (WITHDRAWAL UNAUTHORIZED)

Students will only be given a grade of incomplete if they meet the following criteria: (1) have completed +66% of coursework and (2) have written instructor approval for incomplete prior to the final exam. Students with less than 66% of coursework completed will be given a WU which indicates that an enrolled student did not officially withdraw from or drop the course and failed to complete course requirements. Students who have missed coursework or the final exam due to a documented medical reason should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me at office hours. It is San José State University's policy that students register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability (<http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>). Nonetheless, students need not be registered with the DRC to meet with me and discuss their needs for special arrangements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please take a moment and read about San José State University's policy on "academic integrity." "Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. **Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action that could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.**

Cheating: At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to: Copying in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy. Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

Plagiarism: At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving appropriate credit regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work; and representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own."