

## **ANTHROPOLOGY 3513**

## **Artifact Analysis**

Spring 2019

Class time: 2:00 – 3:50 PM, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Location: 224 Etheredge

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <u>Instructor</u> | Derek Anderson   |
| Office            | 202C Cobb Institute                                      |
| Office Hours      | T/Th: 11-12 and by appointment                           |
| Email             | <a href="mailto:dta49@msstate.edu">dta49@msstate.edu</a> |

### Teaching Assistant

Keri Porter ([klp556@msstate.edu](mailto:klp556@msstate.edu)); office hours in 104 Cobb Institute: M/W 10-11

### Course Description

This course introduces students to analysis of the major kinds of artifacts recovered by archaeologists. Emphasis will be on prehistoric- and historic-period artifacts commonly found in North America, especially in Mississippi and the Southeast, but analytic methods and principles taught will apply to any appropriate archaeological collection. The course also will serve to introduce or add to students' knowledge of aspects of computer use, including word processing, spreadsheets, internet resources for analysis, and statistical manipulation.

### Disclaimer

This syllabus is a general plan for the class. Deviations may be necessary over the course of the semester. Changes will be both announced in class and posted on the course website. It is the responsibility of every student to check the website, keep informed, and be aware of any such changes.

### Course Website

Course announcements will be posted on the course web site (currently my personal research webpage, <http://stoneandbone.cobb.msstate.edu> but eventually on Canvas once it has been set up). These will include required readings, assignments, any changes in the course schedule, etc.

### Required Text

No textbook will be required for this class. All readings will be posted to the course website as .pdf files or students will be directed to other websites where reading material can be accessed. \*Assigned reading must be completed in advance of each class.\*

- It is strongly recommended that each student has a 10x hand lens. These can be purchased for \$10 or less on Amazon.com.

### Methods of Evaluation and Standards of Achievement

Each week, class will typically be divided between two hours of lecture and two hours of lab. Lab time will include instruction in laboratory methods and hands-on analysis of artifacts, analysis of data tables, and use of appropriate analytic software. Each lab project will be described in detail in separate handouts, which will be passed out in advance. When software is required to do a project, students can either use university computers, or their own software and computers; no software purchase(s) is necessary for the class. Some assignments may require additional time outside of class to complete. If lab assignments include required readings, these will be placed on the course website or students will be directed to where they can download electronic copies (ex. MSU library, Academia.edu).

Students may access the lab for working on projects during regular lab times or during TA office hours (but you must negotiate this **at least two hours in advance in person or by e-mail** with the TA!). Access outside of these hours is restricted. Any student encountering a scheduling problem should contact the

instructor or a TA to find a solution *before* any given assignment is due (*at least 2 hours in advance*). **Labs may not be made up more than one week after they have been scheduled.** All labs are due (print) at *the beginning of class* on the date specified. Late labs will have a daily 5% penalty assessed.

The two exams (one midterm and one final exam) will be non-cumulative and cover the course material up to the exam date. Ten laboratory activities will be assigned over the course of the semester.

Extra credit opportunities will be made available throughout the course of the semester, announced in class and on the course website. More information on these opportunities (ex. Points available per opportunity) will be made available on the course website. Extra credit will be added to your final grade as a set percentage. There are no *individual* extra credit opportunities available in the class.

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| In-class participation              | 10%                    |
| Exams (2 total)                     | 15% each; Total:30%    |
| Final project                       | 20%                    |
| Laboratory and homework assignments | c. 3% each; Total: 40% |

**Grading breakdown:**

|            |           |              |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 90-100%: A | 70-79%: C |              |
| 80-89%: B  | 69-60%: D | below 60%: F |

**Policies and Classroom Conduct**

Class attendance is essential, since completion of lab assignments and adequate exam performance will be very difficult without the background provided by lectures and in-class laboratory time. Students are expected to attend all class meetings; attendance will be recorded and missing class will have a negative impact on your final grade. More than **FOUR (4) unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your participation grade by a letter grade (i.e. B to C).** SIX (6) or more unexcused absences will lower your attendance grade by two letter grades. The University's policies regarding what qualifies as an excused absence can be found here: <http://www.policies.msstate.edu/policypdfs/1209.pdf> You must provide physical evidence to the instructor for these absences.

Please show respect for the instructor and your fellow classmates by silencing your cell phones and *refraining from texting while in class*. Should you absolutely need to monitor your phone or answer a phone call during class (for example, due to a family emergency), please inform the instructor prior to class. While in class, please also avoid checking email, reading non-course related material such as newspapers, arriving late or exiting early (unless you have already notified the instructor of a legitimate need to do so), and sleeping. While in class, please also conduct yourself in a professional manner during discussions or debates, and refrain from hurtful, inflammatory or disrespectful speech and from disruptive or confrontational behavior.

*Frequently engaging in any of the above activities, especially if you are caught and the matter is discussed with the instructor, will result in points being deducted from your final course grade at the instructor's discretion.*

**Student Honor Code**

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. All occurrences of academic misconduct, such as cheating on exams or plagiarism, will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines and procedures outlined in the university's honor code policy (<http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu>). The code is as follows: "As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do." Upon

accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code. For additional information, please visit: <http://honorcode.msstate.edu/policy>.

### **Title IX**

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU's educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU's Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by e-mail to [titleix@msstate.edu](mailto:titleix@msstate.edu). Additional resources are available at <http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/>.

As the instructor for this course, I have a mandatory duty to report to the university any information I receive about possible sexual misconduct. This includes information shared in class discussions or assignments, as well as information shared in conversations outside class. The purpose of reporting is to allow MSU to take steps to ensure a safe learning environment for all. The university also has confidential resources available, and can provide assistance to those who have experienced sexual misconduct without triggering a mandatory reporting duty. More information about confidential resources is available at [www.oci.msstate.edu/focus-areas/title-ix-sexual-misconduct](http://www.oci.msstate.edu/focus-areas/title-ix-sexual-misconduct).

### **Support Services**

Any students needing assistance in class: this University complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. Please register with the Coordinator of the Student Support Services (<http://www.sss.msstate.edu/disabilities/>) and then make an appointment with the instructor to discuss your needs *as soon as possible*. To make any accommodations for this course, the instructor must first receive notification from Student Support Services; information collected by this office is strictly confidential. SSS also provides assistance to students with academic needs, who are first generation, and/or low income.

### **Withdrawals and Incompletes**

If there are non-academic reasons why you cannot complete this course, you can be awarded an incomplete grade (I) at the discretion of the instructor. An "I" means that you will have to make up your incomplete work within the next semester and is different from a grade of hardship withdrawal (W or WF). Please notify your instructor if you need to request an "I" for this course. For information on the procedure, protocol, and deadlines for requesting a "W" or "I", please see <http://catalog.msstate.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/creditsgradesandstanding/gradesandqualitypoints/>. Note that you receive a withdrawal failure (WF) grade if you withdraw with a failing grade or do not follow proper withdrawal protocol. See <http://www.registrar.msstate.edu/calendars/academic-calendar/> for more important withdrawal dates.

### **Other Academic Campus Resources**

If you are encountering problems with the course, please come and speak to me; *I can only help you when I know that there is a problem.*

- Computer labs are available. – Allen Hall 262 & 264, Griffis Hall 407, and in the library.
- MSU also has a writing center (<http://www.writingcenter.msstate.edu/>) to help proofread and edit your essays, term papers, etc. – 94 President's Circle, Mitchell Memorial Library, Templeton, and online.

- Mitchell Memorial Library provides a wide variety of services for students: the undergraduate research center, ask-a-librarian service, research consultations to find books and articles, instructional media center and computer lab for software (and laptops, video cameras, digital cameras, DVD's, etc. that can be checked out), and a mobile writing center.

## Course Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: There may be changes to this schedule;  
you will be notified of these changes by the instructor in class **and/or** on the course website.

*There will be readings assigned for each class after 1/8, except for the mid-term exam day. These will be announced in class and on the course website. The reading load for this class is low: one article or book chapter per class period.*

### Week 1

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1/8 Introduction: Syllabus, Intro to the class

1/10 Lecture: Artifact types and scales

### Week 2

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1/15 Lab 1: Classification and typology

1/17 Lecture: Data management; library rep: Excel & PowerPoint

### Week 3

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1/22 Lab 2: Excel Lab 1 assignment due

1/24 Lecture: Intro to lithics – stone tool production, types of stone, flintknapping

### Week 4

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1/29 Lab 3: Chipped stone tools and lithic debitage Lab 2 assignment due

1/31 Lecture: Lithics, cont'd – geochemical sourcing, use wear

### Week 5

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2/5 Lab 4: 3D scanner intro, photography Lab 3 assignment due

2/7 Lecture: Lithics, cont'd – ground stone tools, residue analysis

### Week 6

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2/12 Lab 5: Ground stone Lab 4 assignment due

2/14 Lecture: Mapping, Archaeological illustration (Dylan Karges)

**Week 7**

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2/19 Lab 6: Illustration Lab 5 assignment due

2/21 Lecture: Catch up/review/discussion

**Week 8**

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2/26 **Exam 1**

2/28 Lecture: Ceramics (Dr. Hardin)

**Week 9**

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3/5 Lab 7: Ceramics lab Lab 6 assignment due

3/7 Lecture: Faunal analysis

**Week 10**

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3/12 **SPRING**

3/14 **BREAK**

**Week 11**

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3/19 Lab 8: Faunal analysis Lab 7 assignment due

3/21 Lecture: Dating – seriation, C14, luminescence, etc.

**Week 12**

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3/26 Lab 9: Dating & radiocarbon calibration Lab 8 assignment due

3/28 Lecture: TBA

**Week 13**

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4/2 Lab 10: Paleoenvironment (Neotoma) Lab 9 assignment due

4/4 Lecture: Historic artifacts

**Week 14**

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4/9 Lab 11: Historic glass and ceramics Lab 10 assignment due

4/11 Lecture: Historics, cont'd;

## **Week 15**

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4/16 Lab 12: Historic metal, brick, etc.

Lab 11 assignment due

4/18 Lecture: Catch up/review/discussion

## **Week 16**

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4/23

**Exam 2**

Lab 12 assignment due

**Final presentations will take place in Etheredge 224 (our normal classroom), Monday, April 29th, from 3 – 6 PM, per the university schedule (<http://www.registrar.msstate.edu/Students/examschedule.html>)**