ANTH 295/305: SPECIAL TOPICS: ZOOARCHAEOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Natalie Munro
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OFFICE HOURS: In open lab hours (TBA) OR by appointment
MEETS: Thursday 2.00-5.00 PM
WHERE: Room 452, Beach hall
OPEN LAB HOURS: Wed 11.00-1.00 PM; Thurs 11.00-1.00 PM; Room 452

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Zooarchaeology is the study of the skeletal remains (bones and teeth) of animals recovered from archaeological sites. This course provides hands-on training in the identification of skeletal materials, and the analysis and interpretation of zooarchaeological data. The course will meet once a week for three hours. Each weekly session will include both a lecture and a lab component. The lectures will address important zooarchaeological issues and analytical techniques such as seasonality, mortality profiles, skeletal part representation, predator-prey ecology, taphonomy, domestication, and morphological analysis. The lab component will introduce the basic procedures of zooarchaeological analysis, most importantly, the identification of the bones of the vertebrate groups most commonly found at archaeological sites: mammals; birds; and fish. The lab will also introduce quantitative techniques and second-order analyses such as sexing, aging, and the identification of damage left by a variety of taphonomic agents.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester I want you to:
1. be familiar with the major questions addressed using animal remains from archaeological sites.
2. be able to identify the (often fragmentary) skeletal remains of animals including ungulates, carnivores, birds, and fish
3. be able to apply basic quantitative methods to zooarchaeological data.
4. be able to identify taphonomic markers on animal bones and their implications for archaeological interpretation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The course grade will be determined by your performance in both the lecture and laboratory components of the course. Knowledge of lecture topics will be evaluated in a midterm and final exam. The exams will be comprised primarily of short answer questions requiring written answers. The lab portion of the course will be evaluated by a series of 6 quizzes which will be held at the beginning of lab (five will be counted), and a final lab exam which will include both identification, objective and short answer questions that are relevant to topics covered in lab. In addition you will be responsible for the completion and submission of one lab exercise that demonstrates your understanding of quantitative methods. Finally 5% of your grade will be assigned for participation and discussion in class and lab.


GRADE BREAKDOWN:
Midterm Exam (4 March) 20%
Final Lab Exam (29 April) 20%
Final Lecture Exam (Cumulative; Week May 3-9) 25%
*Lab quizzes: best 5 of 6 (5% each) 25%
Lab assignment (Due 19 Feb) 5%
Discussion and Participation 5%

*Lab Quizzes will be held on 12 Feb, 26 Feb, 18 March, 25 March, 8 April, and 22 April

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:
Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Please read Part VI from Uconn’s student code or see the link below. [http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/Code2.html#top](http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/Code2.html#top)

**Part VI from UCONN’s Student Code: Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research**

The following policy on undergraduate academic integrity was originally formulated by the Scholastic Standards Committee. It was revised and adopted at the (April 10,2000) meeting of the University Senate. This part of The Student Code describes the types of acts that shall be considered academic misconduct by undergraduates, and it presents the process for imposing sanctions for such acts.

**A. Academic Integrity**

A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty; academic work depends upon respect for and acknowledgement of the research and ideas of others. Misrepresenting someone else's work as one’s own is a serious offense in any academic setting and it will not be condoned.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for academic evaluation (e.g. papers, projects, and examinations); any attempt to influence improperly (e.g. bribery, threats) any member of the faculty, staff, or administration of the University in any matter pertaining to academics or research; presenting, as one's own, the ideas or words of another for academic evaluation; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will receive credit or be evaluated; and presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors involved. A student who knowingly assists another student in committing an act of academic misconduct shall be equally accountable for the violation, and shall be subject to the sanctions and other remedies described in The Student Code.
STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Students who require academic adjustments due to a special need should notify the appropriate university authorities and me. I will then be able to implement any necessary arrangements.

LECTURE, LAB, AND READING SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: Thurs, 22 January.
LECTURE: Introduction to course: What is zooarchaeology?
LAB: Introduction to the Vertebrate Skeleton
READ: Reitz and Wing 1999 Chapter 1 and 2

WEEK 2: Thurs, 29 January
LECTURE: The Vertebrate Skeleton: What are bones are teeth?
LAB: Bird Axial Skeleton
READ: Davis 1987, Chapter 2; Reitz and Wing 1999, Chapter 3

WEEK 3: Thurs, 5 February
LECTURE: Zooarchaeological Procedures of Data Collection
LAB: Bird Appendicular Skeleton
READ: Davis 1987, Chapter 1 (pp. 28-36 only); Hesse and Wapnish 1985, Chapter 5; Reitz and Wing, Chapter 6

WEEK 4: Thurs, 12 February
LECTURE: Zooarchaeological Quantification Methods
LAB: Quantitative Methods: NISP, MNI and MNE; QUIZ 1
READ: Grayson 1979; Lyman 1994, Chapter 4 (pp 97-113 only); Reitz and Wing 1999, Chapter 7 (pp. 191-202 only)

WEEK 5: Thurs, 19 February
LECTURE: Taphonomy: Natural modifications to archaeological bone
LAB: The Fish Skeleton; NISP, MNE, MNI ASSIGNMENT DUE
READ: Davis 1987, Chapter 1 (pp. 23-28 only); Lyman 1994, Chapter 1 and 8; Reitz and Wing 1999, Chapter 5

WEEK 6: Thurs, 26 February
LECTURE: Taphonomy: Cultural modifications to archaeological bone
LAB: Mammalian Cranial Anatomy; QUIZ 2
READ: REVIEW READINGS FROM LAST WEEK; Lyman 1984, Chapter 9

WEEK 7: Thurs, 4 March
LECTURE: MIDTERM EXAM
LAB: Mammalian Axial Skeleton
READ: NO READINGS THIS WEEK

THURS, 11 MARCH: NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
LECTURE, LAB, AND READING SCHEDULE CON.:

WEEK 8: Thurs, 18 March
LECTURE: Human Hunting: Relative Species Abundance and Body-Part Representation
LAB: Mammalian Appendicular Skeleton; QUIZ 3
READ: Davis 1987, Chapter 5 (up to page 118); Reitz and Wing 1999, Chapter 8 (pp 239-270)

WEEK 9: Thurs, 25 March
LECTURE: Mortality Profiles: Aging and Sexing; Skeletal-part Representation
LAB: Skeletal Adaptations of Other Mammals; QUIZ 4
READ: Davis 1984, Chapter 1 (pp. 39-46); Lyman 1994, Chapter 5 (pp. 114-135); Reitz and Wing, 1999, Chapter 7 (pp. 178-191)

WEEK 10: Thurs, 1 April 11,
LECTURE: TBA
LAB: REVIEW
READ: NO READINGS THIS WEEK

WEEK 11: Thurs, 8 April
LECTURE: Seasonality: When were archaeological sites occupied?
LAB: The Mammalian Dentition; QUIZ 5
READ: Davis 1987, Chapter 4

WEEK 12: Thurs, 15 April
LECTURE: Processes of Domestication
LAB: Analytical Methods: Age, Sex, Seasonality and Taphonomy
READ: Davis 1987, Chapters 6 and 7; Reitz and Wing 1999, Chapter 9

WEEK 13: Thurs, 22 April
LECTURE: Reconstructing Past environments;
LAB: Analytical Methods: Identifying and Recording Archaeological Remains; QUIZ 6
READ: Davis 1987, Chapter 3; Reitz and Wing, Chapter 10

WEEK 14: Thurs, 29 April
LECTURE: Reconstructing Past Social and Ideological Systems
LAB: FINAL LAB EXAM
READ: Crabtree 1990; Pauketat et al. 2002; Reitz and Wing Chapter 8 (pp. 273-278 only); Scott 1996

FINAL LECTURE EXAM: WEEK OF MAY 3-9
READINGS ARE FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:


