ANTH/ENST 3133 Environmental Archaeology

Fall 2017, Lecture/Lab 2/2

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Lecture: BB2002 Friday 12:30 to 2:30 pm Lab: AT 3--- Monday 11:30 to 2:30 pm

Evaluation: Zooarchaeology 3 lab Quizzes (3x10%), 1 midterm test (20%)

Paleoecology Lab assignments (20%), paleoecology project (30%)

This class introduces osteological and paleo-ecological studies in archaeology. The first module focuses on zooarchaeology (Dr. Hamilton), while the second module addresses aspects of paleoecology and archaeobotany (Dr. Boyd). The class consists of 2 hours of lectures and 3 hours of lab.

No text book is assigned for the Zooarchaeology module, but a lab manual and Lecture materials are available through myCourseLink.

The suggested text for the paleoecology/archaeobotany component is:

Reitz, E.J. and Shackley, M. 2012. Environmental Archaeology. New York: Springer.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1 (Sept 5-8, 2017)

Lecture: history of Zooarchaeology

Biological, Folk and Zooarchaeological Taxonomies

Describing Bone surfaces and orientation

Bone and tooth anatomy

Lab: Bone microstructure

Axial versus appendicular skeleton

Locomotion and lifestyle Dentition, and dental formulae

Week 2 (Sept 11-15, 2017)

Lecture Taphonomy in Zooarchaeology

Inferring past environments
Inferring domestication

Lab Comparative mammalian osteology

Week 3 (Sept 18- Sept 22, 2017)

Lecture Describing individual bones

Variation within species Interpreting past environments

Inferring seasonality

Sexing and Aging Techniques

Lab lab Quiz 1 (10%)

Fish and Bird Osteology

Week 4 (Oct 2-6, 2017)

Lecture Assessing relative abundance of individual Taxa

MNI, NISP, Utility indices

Lab lab Quiz 2 (10%)

Identification of fragmentary bones

Week 5 (Oct 9-13, 2017)

Lecture Element representation, bone processing and butchering

Evaluating Human predator, processing behaviour

Lab Quiz 3 (10%)

Identification of fragmentary bones

Week 6 (Oct 16-20, 2017)

Lecture Case study: Fur Trade 'over-hunting' (Peace River)

Case study: Integrating NISP, MNI, and historic records (Brandon House)

Lab Midterm Quiz (20%)

Week 7 (Oct 24-25) Paleoecology begins

Lecture Introduction
Lab Scavenger hunt

Week 8 (Oct 31-Nov 1)

Lecture Bryophytes and vascular plants

Lab Plant macrofossil identification (10%)

Week 9 (Nov 7-8)

Lecture Plant microfossils: pollen, phytoliths and starch

Lab Plant microfossil identification (10%)

Week 10 (Nov 14-15)

Lecture Arthropods and other invertebrates

Lab Macrofossil sample processing & project description

Week 11 (Nov 21-22)

Lecture Molluscs and echinoderms
Lab Paleoecology project

Week 12 (Nov 28-29)

Lecture Viruses, bacteria, fungi, and stable Isotopes

Lab Paleoecology project

Paleoecology project due: **December 2** (Monday)

References (zooarchaeology)

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