ANT353E (31555) ARCHAEOLOGICAL LAB ANALYSIS

Fall 2017 T&Th 11-1:30; SAC 4.174
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Office: SAC 4.150 Email: mfranklin@austin.utexas.edu

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Course Description:

This is a lab-based course where students will work directly with artifacts recovered from a historic site in central Texas. The assemblage largely consists of a wide spectrum of household-related artifacts including ceramics, container glass, decorative objects, personal effects, and so on. The general goal is to train students in basic archaeological lab methods, technical report writing, and preliminary artifact analysis. These are foundational skill sets applicable to all practices of archaeology.

Individuals who are interested in material culture studies and archaeology may find this course of interest and useful to pursuing further study in these related fields. Students who are looking for opportunities to learn a subject through a more active, “hands on” approach where working independently is encouraged may also find this course a good fit. Students will discover that the course will test – and help them to develop – their organizational skills, attention to detail, competence in problem solving, and their ability to describe, categorize, and synthesize data.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students should be able to demonstrate…:

- …proficiency in identification and dating of historic artifacts from circa 1900 to the 1960s. Students should have the ability to distinguish between major artifact categories, identify common diagnostic traits, and know which sources to seek out in order to accurately identify and date various artifact types.
- …the proper procedures for cataloging artifacts for curation by filling out lab forms and labels accurately, and entering data into Excel.
- …how to employ Excel to create artifact tables and graphics.
- …the process for synthesizing archaeological data to conduct a preliminary descriptive analysis of historic artifacts.
- …basic skills in technical report writing in archaeology.
- …the ability to assess various artifact types in terms of their potential to address different research questions (e.g., site dating, site transformation processes, household economy, etc.).

Course Requirements:
1. **Attendance is required.** You are allowed three absences (this includes those for which you have a legitimate excuse). Each additional absence will result in 3 points deducted from your final grade. If you miss 10 classes – including the allowed absences – the highest final grade you can earn is a “C”. There are no “make up” classes/lab times.

*Attendance is taken at the beginning of class.* If you’re not there, you’re marked absent for the day.

2. **Exams** (15 points each; 30 points total). There are 3 exams, and the lowest score will be thrown out. The exams will largely consist of identifying and dating various artifacts that will be assembled specifically for each exam.

3. **Reading Summaries (RS1-RS5)** (2 points each; 10 points total). You will be required to submit responses to questions regarding specific assigned readings (see schedule below). The questions are posed along with the link to each reading in Canvas. Please note that, although each reading summary is weighted equally, some will require an essay while others only ask for short responses. The readings will familiarize you with the history of Antioch Colony and its community, and assist you with artifact identification and dating.

There will be additional required readings for this course posted on Canvas. These will largely be interpretive works illustrating how archaeologists rely on historic artifacts to address various research questions about the past. Although reading summaries are not required for these, for most there will be a set of questions to help guide you through the articles.

4. **Reference Sheet** (0 points). This 1-2 page document will consist of your notes on artifact identification. It is your compilation of the most commonly identified artifact types, production dates, etc. observed for our collection. You can use this for exams, but no other notes or readings will be allowed. Please note: your reference sheet may be revised for each exam, but you are only allowed to use one of these. Examples of what these look like are posted on Canvas (see the “Assignments and Exam Reviews” page).

5. **Excel Pivot Table Exercise** (5 points). Artifact tables are required for all of the reports, and these must be constructed using Excel. This exercise will help students learn the basics needed to create tables for their reports. The instructions and files for this assignment are posted on Canvas on the “Excel” page.

6. **Artifact Reports** (first two reports = 10 pts each; last report = 5 pts; 25 points total). As you process your artifact assemblage, you’ll submit a brief descriptive report of your glass, ceramics, and metal artifacts. **You will receive a different handout on what needs to be in each report as the specifics will vary.**

Receiving a grade for each report is contingent upon ensuring that the artifact assemblage it is based on was cataloged properly. All forms, bags, data entry into Excel, and artifact labels for each assigned lot will be checked to ensure that there is a form for every bag, ID #s are in consecutive order, etc. You are required to construct your tables and graphs using Excel and will need to submit your Excel file with your final tables/graphs along with each report.

7. **Technical Report** (topic will be provided; one rough draft for 5 points, and the final report for 25 points = 30 points total). Your final assignment for the course will consist of a 5-page (single-spaced; page count does not include graphics or tables) technical report on artifacts from the
Antioch Colony site. Specific instructions on what needs to be included in the report (e.g., tables and figures, references cited) will be provided. In order to receive a grade for the report you must submit your preliminary draft by the due date.

**Late work policy:** an assignment submitted past its due date must have the prior approval of the instructor and is subject to a reduction of 50% of the grade earned on the late assignment. No more than one late assignment will be accepted.

**Grading Scale:**
- 93.5-100 = A
- 89.5-93.4 = A-
- 86.5-89.4 = B+
- 83.5-86.4 = B
- 79.5-83.4 = B-
- 76.5-79.4 = C+
- 73.5-76.4 = C
- 69.5-73.4 = C-
- 66.5-69.4 = D+
- 63.5-66.4 = D
- 59.5-63.4 = D-
- 59.0 and below = F

**Canvas:** Grades, readings, and assignment handouts are all accessible through Canvas (canvas.utexas.edu). There is a “Resources and Lectures” page on Canvas where you can access lectures and source materials on various artifacts. For cataloging glass, see especially the “Container Glass ID” powerpoint.

**Supplies:** You will need to have two items. These include a 3-ring binder and Microsoft Excel (which is available with MS-Office 2016 via the Campus Computer Store). The current price as of August 2017 for MS-Office is $19.99 for students. Be sure to purchase the 2016 edition of the software.

**Academic Integrity:**

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will be reported to the Dean of Students. If anyone is caught falsifying excuses in order to make-up a required assignment or plagiarizing, the case will be submitted to SJS for arbitration. Please refer to the Student Judicial Services web site for more information: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

**Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)**

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations needs to contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 512-410-6644 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

**Observance of Religious Holy Days**

Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code states that a student shall be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy requires students to notify each of their instructors as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made.
# COURSE SCHEDULE

*All readings are posted on the “Readings” page in Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topics, Readings, &amp; Lab Work</th>
<th>Assignments Due &amp; Exam Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8/31 Th | Course Introduction  
The Antioch Colony Project  
Readings (RS1): Lindsey, SHA “Glassmaking…”; Lindsey |                              |
| 9/5 T  | Glass Artifacts  
Cataloging: glass |                              |
| 9/7 Th  | Excel data entry  
Cataloging: glass  
Reading (RS2): Lindsey, SHA “Bottle finishes…” | Summary 1 due |
| 9/12 T  | Artifact Categories in Historical Archaeology  
Cataloging: glass  
Reading (RS3): Sitton & Conrad; Myers pp. 57-94; Franklin | Summary 2 due |
| 9/14 Th  | Excel Pivot Tables  
Cataloging: glass  
Reading: Hinson |                              |
| 9/19 T  | Writing Your Reports  
Cataloging: glass  
Reading (RS4): Miller et al.; Feit and Jones pp 116-127 | Summary 3 due |
| 9/21 Th  | Dating with Artifacts  
Cataloging: glass | Summary 4 due |
| 9/26 T  | EXAM 1  
Cataloging: glass | Bring your reference sheet to class. |
| 9/28 Th  | Cataloging: glass  
Reading (RS5): Stelle; Samford & Miller | Excel Pivot Table Exercise due |
| 10/3 T  | Cataloging: glass (wrapping up) | Summary 5 due |
| 10/5 Th  | Intro to Historic Ceramics  
Cataloging: ceramics  
Reading: Greer |                              |
| 10/10 T  | Excel Graphs  
Cataloging: ceramics |                              |
| 10/12 Th  | Cataloging: ceramics | Glass Artifacts Report |
| 10/17 T  | Archaeology technical or “site” reports  
Cataloging: ceramics (wrapping up)  
Reading: Norment & Boyd (choose sections to read) |                              |
| 10/19 Th  | Clothing-related Artifacts; Nails  
Cataloging: metals  
Readings: Owens; Pool |                              |
| 10/24 T  | Cataloging: metals |                              |
| 10/26 Th  | Cataloging: metals | Ceramics Report |
| 10/31 T  | Domestic assemblages and gender roles  
Cataloging: metals  
Reading: Gutman |                              |
### Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/2 Th</td>
<td>Race and consumerism</td>
<td>Dates</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cataloging: metals</td>
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<td>Reading: Mullins</td>
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<td>11/7 T</td>
<td>EXAM 2</td>
<td>Bring your reference sheet to class.</td>
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<td>Cataloging: metals</td>
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<td>11/9 Th</td>
<td>Cataloging: metals (wrapping up)</td>
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<td>11/14 T</td>
<td>Cataloging: 2nd assemblage (material will vary by student); ceramic</td>
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<td>labeling</td>
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<td>Reading: Feit pp 171-180</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/16 Th</td>
<td>Cataloging: 2nd assemblage; ceramic labeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21 T</td>
<td>Report draft.</td>
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<td>11/23 Th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/28 T</td>
<td>Cataloging: 2nd assemblage; ceramic labeling</td>
<td>Metal Artifacts Report (tables and graphs only)</td>
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<td>Reading: Franklin</td>
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<td>11/30 Th</td>
<td>EXAM 3</td>
<td>Bring your reference sheet to class.</td>
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<td>Cataloging: 2nd assemblage; ceramic labeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/5 T</td>
<td>Cataloging: 2nd assemblage; ceramic labeling</td>
<td>Final submission of artifacts and related materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7 Th</td>
<td>Last class day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bibliography

Readings listed in order of assignment.

Lindsey, Bill

Lindsey, Bill

Sitton, Thad and James H. Conrad

Myers, Terri

Franklin, Maria

Lindsey, Bill

Hinson, Dave

Miller, George, Patricia Samford, Ellen Shlasko and Andrew Madsen

Feit, Rachel and Bradford M. Jones

Stelle, Lenville J.

Samford, Patricia and George L. Miller

Greer, Georgeanna H.

Norment, Aaron R. and Douglas K. Boyd

Owens, Victoria

Pool, Juliann C.

Gutman, Marta

Mullins, Paul R.

Feit, Rachel

Franklin, Maria