

Zooarchaeology

Archaeology 340

Section: D100

Term: 2010 Spring

Instructor: Dr. David Maxwell

Discussion Topics: Zooarchaeology is the identification, analysis, and interpretation of animal remains from archaeological contexts. This course will consist of a lecture component that will provide background into the method and theory underlying faunal analysis and interpretation. Topics will include the study of taphonomy and formation processes such as bone burning and weathering, the quantification of vertebrate and invertebrate remains, the role of hunting, gathering, and fishing in human societies, animal domestication, the ritual use of faunas, worked bone and bone artifacts, and zooarchaeology in historical archaeology.

Lectures are complimented by the lab component of the course. Lab time will be spent learning the basics of animal taxonomy and bone and shell identification. Students will learn how to recognize the more common elements of bony and cartilaginous fish, reptiles and amphibians, birds, and the major mammalian groups: lagomorphs (rabbits), rodents, carnivores, and hoofed mammals; domestic animals and marine mammals will also be discussed. Lab time will also be devoted to recognizing different types of taphonomic damage, including weathering, burning, and mineral staining.

A term paper is required. Papers can deal with any topic related to zooarchaeology, whether theoretical or regional in focus. Paper topics must be approved by the instructor

Grading: Weekly bone quizzes: 10%

Mid-term exam: 30%

Final exam: 30%

Term paper: 30%

Required Texts: Reitz, Elizabeth J. and Elizabeth S. Wing. 2008. Zooarchaeology. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology. Cambridge University Press.

Additional readings will be made available as photocopies.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ARCH 201

Notes: Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities 778.782.3112 or csdo@sfu.ca.

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All students are expected to read and understand SFUs policies with regard to academic honesty and student conduct (S10). These policies are available at the following web address: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/Students/index.html>

Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

February 15-26 Olympic Games break. All classes cancelled. Offices open. TAs will not be available for consultation during this time.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.