

STT-Soil Micromorphology

Archaeology 367

Section: D100

Term: 2014 Spring

Instructor: Dr. Francesco Berna

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Discussion Topics: This course is concerned with the microscopic examination of natural soils and sediments, and archaeological materials, features, and deposits (e.g. ceramics, bricks, hearths and ashes). This technique is used as a means to interpret (1) the local or regional history of Quaternary landscapes that entails sedimentation and soil formation; and (2) the mechanisms of archaeological site formation. The student will obtain proficiency with the petrographic microscope, including description and interpretation of petrographic thin sections, illustrating how microscopic observations reflect upon both geologic and soil phenomena and past human behaviors. The course will be presented weekly as a 2-hour lecture and a 3-hour hands-on lab. The class will consist of background lectures, readings on selected topics, and microscope observation. Students will conduct their own final project that will be completed during lab hours. The final project should be a work-up of a number of thin sections from an archaeological site or material (e.g. pottery, plaster, etc.)

Grading: Midterm I	25%
Weekly assignments	25%
Project presentation	20%
Final project	30%

Required Texts: George Stoops. 2003. Guidelines for Analysis and Description of Soil and Regolith Thin Sections. Soil Science Society of America.

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

All students are expected to read and understand SFU's 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.

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