**ARCH 1775 Animals in Archaeology**  
*Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30-3:50*

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**Course Description**

Food, foe, friend: animals play all these roles, and more, in their relationship to humans, in the past as well as the present. This course will explore how zooarchaeology — the study of animal remains (bones, teeth, and shells) — allows us to reconstruct ancient human-animal-environmental interactions. We will cover a range of topics and analytical techniques, including hands-on sessions for the identification and quantification of faunal remains.

**Assessment**

Assignments are diverse because this course aims to not only provide an introduction to the many roles animals played in past human societies, but also to familiarize you with the physical skeletal remains of animals, giving you practical skills for the identification of animal bones from archaeological contexts.

- **Practical quizzes 20%**
  There will be 11 practical quizzes worth 100 points each. The lowest score will be dropped.

- **Paper 20%**
  A choice of paper topics will be provided during the second week of class. The paper should be 1500 words/5-6 pages long, due **21 March 2013**.

- **Bone report 20%**
  You will have class time to work on a faunal dataset and prepare a short summary of your findings. The report should be 6-8 pages, including graphs and data, due **30 April 2013**.

- **Final exam 30%**
  There will be a written and practical component to the exam, **10 May 2013 9:00 AM**.

- **Attendance and participation 10%**
  Regular attendance and participation in class discussions are an important component of the class and you are expected to attend all classes unless you have a valid reason.
Books and Course Materials

Only Reitz & Wing is required. Lyman and Hillson are recommended. These three books are available at the campus bookstore and all books below have been put on 24-hour reserve in the Rock. Other readings will be available on the private forum of the course wiki, http://proteus.brown.edu/animals13private/Home. The password is bones2013.


You will also need calipers and a hand lens for the practicals-these can be purchased online.

Additional Information

Student and Employee Accessibility Services Please inform me if you have a disability or other condition that might require some modification of any of these course procedures. You may speak with me after class or during office hours. For more information contact Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) at 401-863-9588 or SEAS@brown.edu

Libraries Our subject librarian is Ian Straughn (Ian_Straughn@brown.edu). You can contact him with any research or library-related questions.

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Animals in Archaeology

01/24 Lecture An introduction to the archaeology of animals
  - Reitz & Wing Ch. 1 and 2 (pp. 1-30)

Week 2: From Life to Beyond Death: Taphonomy of Animal Remains I

01/29 Lecture Natural & cultural deposition (site formation processes)
  - Reitz & Wing Ch. 5 (pp.117-152)

01/31 Practical The vertebrate skeleton
  - Reitz & Wing Ch. 3 and 4 (pp. 31-116)
Week 3: From Life to Beyond Death: Taphonomy of Animal Remains II

02/05 Lecture Natural & Cultural Bone Modification


02/07 Practical Identifying Bone Modification


Week 4 Scavenging, Hunting and Husbandry: Economic Considerations

02/12 Lecture Theory, ethnoarchaeology, and practice in reconstructing foodways


02/14 Practical Identifying Wild Animals

Week 5 Gathering and Recording Faunal Data

02/19 **NO CLASS**

02/21 Practical Creating faunal datasets

PAPER DUE

Week 6 Domestication

02/26 Lecture Domestication


02/28 Practical Identifying Domestic Animals


Week 7 Pastoralism and Agricultural Lifestyles

03/05 Lecture Ageing and Population Structure: Meat, Milk and Secondary Products

03/07 Practical Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones


Week 8 Feeding Cities

03/12 Lecture Imports, exports and economics


03/14 Practical Butchery and Utility Curves


Week 9 Biomolecular Approaches

03/19 Lecture Zooarchaeology and Stable Isotope Analyses


03/21 Lecture Zooarchaeology and Ancient DNA

• Zeder, M.A., Emshwiller, E., Smith, B.D. & D.G. Bradley. 2006. *Documenting Domestication: the intersection of genetics and archaeology*. Chapters 1, 13, 14 (pp. 1-14, 171-208)

Week 10 Spring Break

Week 11 Biomolecular Approaches II

04/02 Guest Lecture Speaker TBA

04/04 Practical Working with datasets/reconciling osteological and biomolecular data

Read selected articles depending on practical option (distributed in lecture):


Week 12 Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction

04/09 Lecture Another story: the value of microfauna in zooarchaeological studies


04/11 Practical Small Mammals, Birds, and Fishes

Week 12 The Seasonal Round

04/16 Lecture “To Everything There is a Season”: The seasonal use of animals in prehistory and antiquity and its implications for human mobility


04/18 Practical Identifying markers of seasonality

• Davis, S. 1987. The Archaeology of Animals. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Chapter 4, In what season was a site occupied?) (pp. 75-90).

Week 13 Feast and Famine

04/23 Lecture Archaeological evidence for feasting and ritual use of animals


04/25 Practical Faunal assemblages from recovery to interpretation

04/30 Revision Session

BONE REPORT DUE

5/10 FINAL EXAM 9AM.