Standard Course Syllabus

**ARCH 372-5 MATERIAL CULTURE ANALYSIS**

Calendar Description: Analysis and interpretation of archaeological material culture. This lecture and laboratory course combines the practical problems of recognition and interpretation of archaeological specimens, typology, seriation, and statistical procedures with the basic principles of archaeological theory. Prerequisite: ARCH 201.

Example Course Outline Description[[1]](#footnote-2): This course will provide students with an introduction to the identification, analysis and interpretation of major types of cultural materials commonly recovered from archaeological sites. Emphasis will be placed on developing practical skills and knowledge related to conducting analyses and reporting results of archaeological investigations. The course will provide an overview of a broad range of cultural materials including: stone tools, ceramics, shell and bone artifacts, historical artifacts, and culturally modified trees. In addition, students will be introduced to basic method and theory with respect to: classification and typology, measurement, and descriptive statistics.

The course has a significant laboratory component during which students will obtain "hands-on" experience with artifacts and other archaeological materials. Lab assignments and quizzes comprise a major component of the course grade.

The following topics must be covered:

* Classification and Typology
* Experimental Archaeology
* Lithics
* Ceramics

In addition, instructors should cover at least three additional topics from the list below:

* Bone/Antler/Shell
* Wood/Culturally Modified Trees
* Textiles/Fabrics/Basketry
* Rock Art
* Architecture
* Sediments/Stratigraphy/Dating Methods

Possible Textbooks: (in order of preference):

(2016) Department currently uses:

Hurcombe, Linda M. 2007. Archaeological Artefacts as Material Culture. Routledge NewYork.

Other choices could include:

Balme, Jane and Alistair Paterson. 2005. *Archaeology in Practice: A Student Guide to Archaeological Analyses*. Blackwell Publishing.

Banning, E.B. 2000. *The Archaeologist’s Laboratory: The Analysis of Archaeological Data*. Kluwer Academic/Springer.

1. Course coverage and materials are at the discretion of the instructor, but major changes in ARCH 372 course content should be approved by Archaeology Department Chair well in advance of the first day of classes. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)