ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS

Anthropology 290 -- Spring 2008

John Whittaker
Office: Goodnow 207
Office hours: MWF 9-10, MF 1-2 or by appointment.
CLASS MEETS: Goodnow 206 MWF 11:00-11:50, LAB W 1:15-4:05

The goal of this course is to make you think like an archaeologist, critically evaluating and interpreting material evidence. We will read and discuss archaeological literature with an emphasis on archaeological method and theory, and how we study past human cultures, rather than on what happened at particular times. Although we will probably not be able to do any excavation, we will visit sites in the field and work in the labs with most of the common types of material remains. The first half of the course will be oriented toward archaeological analysis of material remains, the second toward more theoretical issues and larger scale analyses.

This will be a fairly heavy course and participation is an essential part. In particular, attendance at the labs is a must; some of them will require written reports. In the second half of the semester there will be some field trips starting at class time Wednesdays and running through lunch and the lab period.

Readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned so we can discuss them. The Patterson exercises take a lot of time. They will form the basis for some classes, and some exam questions will be similar to them.

Texts

Other readings will be available electronically, and copies of many of the books are also in the Student Project Room (304) in Goodnow. The electronic reserve password for this class is q2326.

Requirements and Grading
Exam I -- 20%
Exam II Practicum -- 20%
Exam III Final -- 20%
Analysis Project -- 20%
Participation and labs etc. -- 20%
COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

-- Read: Renfrew, Chapters 1-2. Kamp, Chapters 1-3.
-- handout Grinnell Surface Archaeology

1/23 W -- Ceramic technology.
-- Film: Daughters of the Anasazi.
-- Read: Renfrew pp 341-344
-- Kamp, Chapters 4, 5.

LAB - Basic ceramic manufacture.

1/25 F -- Formation of the archaeological record, types of sites.
-- Discuss Grinnell Surface Archaeology.
-- Read: Renfrew Chapters 2, and 3. Kamp Chapters 6, 7.

1/28 M -- Digging it up: Archaeological Excavation.
-- Read: Kamp, Chapter 8 to end.

1/30 W -- Ceramic analysis and typology.

LAB -- Analysis of Fortress Hills sherds

2/1 F -- Putting things in order: Seriation and Stratigrapy.
-- Harris Diagrams
-- Patterson exercises 1, 2, 3 (We will discuss these most of class time -- Prepare or Beware!)
-- Read: start Renfrew Chapter 4 (read pp 121-136).

2/4 M -- Ceramics and behavior: What people do with pots.
-- optional (later if not now): Flannery EMV pp. 251-272
2/6 W -- Stone Tools: Knapping demo
   -- Kamp and Whittaker 1999 Surviving Adversity: The Sinagua of Lizard Man Village. Univ. Utah Anthropological Papers No. 120. (Chapter 5, Flaked Stone Tools and Debitage) (you can read this as you do the lab write-up if you don’t get to it before class)

LAB -- Lithic Analysis I: Debitage.

2/8 F -- How Old Is It? Dating.
   -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 4 (finish: pp 136-174).

2/11 M -- Dating continued.

2/13 W -- Finish Dating or Lithics

LAB - Lithic Analysis II. Questions of function and tool typology
   -- **Read:** Whittaker, *Flintknapping* Chapter 11.
   -- Renfrew Chapter 8.

2/15 F -- **EXAM I.** Dating, Stratigraphy, Etc.

2/18 M -- Burials, Bones, and Human Osteology.
   -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 11, Chap 7 pp 311-316.
   -- Jelderks, John 2002 Opinion and Order No 96-1481-JE (Kennewick case ruling - skim for story and outcome)

2/20 W -- Looking at Skeletons, Seeing People

LAB - Human Osteology.

2/22 F -- Botanical Remains.
   -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 7 pp 275-310.
   -- Gasser, Robert. 1979. Seeds, Seasons, and Ecosystems: Sedentary Hohokam Groups in the Papagueria. *Kiva* 44(2-
3/10 M -- Historical Archaeology, Vestigial Features and Symbolic Uses of Technology.
   -- **Read:** Costello, Julia 2004 The Chinese in Gum San (Golden Mountain). The SAA Archaeological Record 4 (5): 14-17.

3/12 W -- How to excavate New York City: Sampling strategies.
   -- **Read:** Renfrew pp 80-81.

LAB **EXAM II**: Lab Practicum.

3/14 F -- Experimental Archaeology, Hypotheses, and Data

**SPRING BREAK 3/15-3/30**

3/31 M -- "Father, Mother, 3.5 kids, and one anthropologist": Living Units and Intrasite Variability.
-- Patterson exercises 5, 6.
-- **Read**: Renfrew Chapter 5.
-- Flannery *EMV* pp 13-47.

4/2 W Firing Pottery (in my back yard, weather permitting) and Introduction to Atlatls

4/4 F [NO CLASS JW Madrid]

4/7 M [No Class JW Madrid]

4/9 W -- Intrasite variability continued.
-- Patterson Exercise 7.
-- **Read**: Flannery *EMV* pp 72-90.

LAB Recording Spatial Relationships – Mapping

-- Patterson Exercise 8.
-- **Read**: Flannery *EMV* pp 91-117.

4/14 M -- Settlement systems continued.
-- **Read**: Flannery *EMV* pp 161-180.

4/16 W LAB – Lab/Field Trip. Visit Amanas to look at sites

-- **Read**: Renfrew Chapter 9.
-- Flannery *EMV* pp 251-254, 255-272.
4/21 M -- Exchange continued
    -- Read: Flannery EMV pp 283-311.

4/23 W -- Political Organizations and Religion.
    -- Flannery EMV pp 329-344.
    -- Renfrew Chapter 10
    -- Data for Analysis Project due
LAB - further mapping

4/25 F Atlatl practice, prepare for event

4/26 SATURDAY - RAGING COW ATLATL MEET

4/28 M -- Social Stratification.
    -- Read: Renfrew Chapter 5.
    -- Patterson exercise 11.

    -- Read: Renfrew Chapter 12.
    -- Flannery EMV pp 345-368.

- LAB/Field Trip -- Mapping at Turner

5/2 F -- The development of American Archaeology: Where we are today and why.
    -- Read: Renfrew Chapters 1, 13.

5/5 M -- Cultural Resource Management and Public Archaeology.
    -- Read: Renfrew Chapters 13, 14.

5/7 W Class session -- Archaeology today.
    -- Read: Flannery EMV pp 369-375.
LAB - project presentations

5/9 F -- Concluding Remarks
-- Analysis Project due

Final Exam as Scheduled: Wednesday 5/14 2:00 pm