ANT 395: Experimental Archaeology and Ethnoarchaeology

Instructor: Kathy Kamp, Goodnow 208, ext 3140

Office Hours—Email (kamp@grinnell.edu) for an appointment; I’m around a lot.

The Problem: Archaeological evidence consists of items of material culture and the patterns in which they are found. Nevertheless, archaeologists, as anthropologists strive to make statements about human culture.

The Goal of Ethnoarchaeology and Experimental Archaeology: To study the relationship between material culture and human behaviors in order to facilitate the interpretation of archaeological remains.

Organization of the Class

This class will be run like a true seminar, thus it is vitally important that you come prepared to evaluate the articles you are reading. In addition to the traditional discussions, the class will include some group projects/ laboratory exercises.

A primary focus of the class will be the planning and execution of a professional-quality experimental project. This can be done either individually or collaboratively in pairs. I will work intensively with you and will provide guidance on project topics, research, and write-up.

During the first half of the semester, we will do communal background readings and a class lab project. In addition, you will select a topic for independent research, do the literature review, and create an experimental design.

During the second half of the semester, you will be working on your independent projects. You will be responsible for one class period for which you will assign the rest of the class reading. During the class, you will lead a discussion of the assigned articles and, if desired, a lab session during which students in the class will help you collect data for your project.

NOTE: The reading assignments will be heavier at first” to allow you more time later for work on your individual projects. Some days we will not meet as a class in favor of individual lab sessions and/or conferences.
Requirements

1. **Regular class attendance and participation**—20%. This is a seminar, so you should expect to come prepared and to participate actively every time.

2. **Analysis of one individually-selected article**—10%

3. **Annotated Bibliography**—10%

4. **Experimental Design Proposal, including placing the project within the context of the literature**—20%

5. **Work and discussion session(s) for project**—10%

6. **Major experimental project**—Final written report and final presentation—30%

Date | Assignment
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1/22 | Introduction—No Assignment
1/24 | The Archaeological Need for Middle Range Theory

**READ and ANALYZE:** Crown, Patricia L. and W.H. Wills. 1995. Economic Intensification and the Origins of Ceramic Containers in the American Southwest. In *The Emergence of Pottery: Technology and Innovation in Ancient Societies*, edited by W.K. Barnett and J.W. Hoopes, pp. 241-254. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.  **Note the way each statement/ argument is being supported.** Pay attention to citations and check in the bibliography for the references to which they refer. Come to class with a list of contentions made by Crown and Wills about the way archaeological remains relate to actual behaviors/social patterns and for each either 1) the evidence they use to make the contention OR 2) a note that the contention is unsupported.

### Historical and Theoretical Background

**READ:**


### Preliminary Design of Experiment

### Background on Ceramic Experimentation

**READ:**


### Finalize first stage of Experimental Design.

### Making and Using Artifacts—I


### Making and Using Artifacts—II


**Article Analysis Paper due. Be ready to comment on your analysis in class.**
Testing Artifact Properties—Finalizing the Materials Testing Part of the Experiment

The class will divide into 2 groups and each will be responsible for one of the 2 topics.

Strength Testing


Thermal Properties


Ethnoarchaeological case study

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| 2/19  | Social Organization I                      | **Project topics with preliminary bibliography (at least 6 sources) due.**  


| 2/28  | Project Discussion                        | Annotated bibliography with a minimum 10 sources due. For class, be prepared to provide a short description of the relevant literature and an outline of your proposed research. The class will collaborate on your research design.  


**3/6**

**The Meaning of Artifacts--II**


**Conferences with Instructor about Research Plan—Experimental Design Due**

Please prepare a written outline of your research design before the conference. You may well modify it later. If you wish to start on your project earlier (not a bad idea), this conference can be scheduled at an earlier date (BUT NO LATER than today!)

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**3/11**

**The Formation of Archaeological Sites I**


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**3/13**

**The Formation of Archaeological Sites II**

**READ:**


**Experimental design proposals due.** NOTE: If you need supplies or equipment for your experiment, you will have to discuss this with me well before this, so there is time to order it (assuming it is fairly inexpensive.)

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**Spring Break**

4/1 Conferences and project work day.

4/3 Discussion of Ceramic Project

**READ:**


4/8 In class discussion of project and project work session—Readings to be assigned by project director.
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<td>In class discussion of project and project work session—Readings to be assigned by project director.</td>
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<td>5/13</td>
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