



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
ANTH 226
SUMMER 2013
CREDIT COURSE

ANALYTICAL METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY

INSTRUCTOR: N. A. Easton, M.A.
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COURSE OFFERING: Summer, 2013
DAYS & TIMES: Mon to Sat, 9:00 am-5 pm; ANTH 226 runs concurrently with ANTH 225 (May 29 - July 17) plus July 22 - 29
LOCATION: Field School Locations and Earth Sciences Laboratory, Ayamdigut Campus, Whitehorse

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ANTH 226 introduces students to a range of anthropological techniques of analysis related to data collected during the course of the field school, ANTH 225: Field Methods in Subarctic Archaeology and Ethnography. This will include completion of basic artefact, faunal, feature, sediment, and stratigraphic analyses related to archaeological excavation; organization of ethnographic data and an introduction to their domain, taxonomic and componential analyses; practice in linguistic transcription and the mapping of place names and ordering of genealogies; and the creation of elements of a final technical report, a summary publication report, and an illustrated community presentation on the results of the fieldwork undertaken in ANTH 225 / ANTH 144.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- Understand the relationship between the collection of Anthropological data in the field and the construction of meaning through analytical procedures
- Develop methodical approaches to the organization, measurement, and curation of archaeological artifacts and other samples
- Organize and interpret the stratigraphic context of archaeological materials
- Practice the coding and analysis of ethnographic data
- Be introduced to and practice phonetic transcription of aboriginal place names and other linguistic features
- Work collaboratively with other students and the instructor in the creation of a series of reports related to the data collected

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Second-year standing in the School of Liberal Arts or School of Science, or permission of the instructor.

COURSE COREQUISITES

ANTH 226 runs concurrently with ANTH 225 and requires an additional week of lectures and laboratory work at Ayamdigut campus at the end of the field program. Students enrolled in ANTH 144 are eligible for registration on recommendation of the ANTH 144 Instructor and approval of the ANTH 226 Instructor.

COURSE FORMAT

This is primarily a laboratory analysis course. A series of lectures and demonstrations, introducing various analytical techniques, will be given throughout the course in the field while students are engaged in ANTH 225 / ANTH 144, and applied to research collections at the Little John field lab and in the Ayamdigut Campus Earth Sciences lab in Whitehorse after the completion of fieldwork. While the nature of the data generated by ANTH 225 will provide specific student foci, topical areas listed in the syllabus below will be covered by lectures and demonstrations. Additionally, students will receive personal tutorial direction from the instructor(s) that is relevant to their specific course assignment. Field trips to local archaeological sites, museums, and other relevant locations will occur. This course emphasizes the inter-disciplinary and team-orientation of contemporary analytical archaeology and ethnography in practice, requiring students to work collaboratively towards a common goal of documentation and analysis of data generated by anthropological fieldwork.

EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation

Students will participate in ANTH 225 (May 29 - July 17 2013) and July 22-29 at Ayamdigut Campus Whitehorse. Post-fieldwork classes are daily, 9 am-5 pm with a one hour lunch break. Students will also need to devote time in the evenings to readings and assignment work.

Assignments

Each student will:

- complete a set of analytical procedures as assigned.
- summarize the data generated by their analysis in an appropriate format, as discussed with the instructor.
- contribute to the creation of:
 - a final technical report
 - a summary report suitable for publication
 - a plain-language, illustrated community presentation.

Examinations

There will be a mid-term test which will examine student's knowledge on basic artefact, sediment, and componential analysis. This will take place in week five of the field program.

Fifty percent of the final Take-Home examination will test student's appreciation of the

integrated results of the fieldwork undertaken in ANTH 225, as revealed by the analysis undertaken by the entire course. This will require review and study of other student's analytical results. The other 50% of the examination will test student's understanding of a range of analytical techniques practiced in the course.

Percent Breakdown

The final grade will reflect a percentile equivalent of the marks achieved within the following distribution:

Criteria	Marks	Percent
Attendance & Participation	40	20
Assignments	60	30
Mid-term Test	40	20
Final Exam	60	30

n.b.: Assignments are due at the class time of the due date. A penalty will be levied against assignments submitted past the due date and time (**i.e., the beginning of class on the due date**) at a rate of 1 mark per day, unless extension is legitimately warranted and discussed with the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS

EASTON, N. A. (ED.) 2013.

ANTHROPOLOGY 226 - COURSE READER. WHITEHORSE: YUKON COLLEGE.

BANNING, T. 1990

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S LABORATORY: THE ANALYSIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA. NEW YORK: KLUWER ACADEMIC / PLENUM PUBLISHERS.

SPRADLEY, JAMES P. 1980.

PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION. TORONTO: HOLT, RHINEHART, & WINSTON

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Kooyman, Brian D. 2000. *Stone Tools and Archaeological Sites*. Calgary: U of Calgary Press.

Lewis Douglas W. & David McConchie. 1994. *Analytical Sedimentology*. New York: Chapman and Hall.

Renfrew, Colin & Paul Bahn. 1996. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. London: Thames and Hudson.

COURSE EQUIVALENCY/TRANSFERABILITY

Currently under negotiation

Course Syllabus

The precise topics that will be covered by the course will vary according to the nature of the data set generated by Anthropology 225. Minimally, however, students will be introduced to and expected to understand the following post-fieldwork procedures:

Artefact Description and Analysis

basic metric categories and measurement; micro-wear and refit studies; classification; statistical representation; normal, observed, and expected frequency distributions; drawing, photographing, scanning, and enhancing artefact representations; conservation and curation of artefacts

Faunal Analysis

- skeletal elements and identification; minimum number of identified specimens and minimum number of individuals; age of death; bone mass and bone volume; taphonomy and seasonality.

Sediment Analysis

- the description of sediments; working with bulk samples; particle analysis; organic content; micrological constituents; statistical representations of sediments.

Stratigraphic Analysis

- reconstructing stratigraphy; representing horizontal features and vertical profiles; natural layers and cultural levels; the Harris matrix; site formation and post-depositional reconstructions.

Sampling for Specialized Analyses

- radio-carbon and other chronometric samples; mineralogical and trace element analyses and correlations to sources of origin; sampling for insects, pollen, phytoliths, diatoms, and foraminifera.

Working with Field Tapes and Photographs

- inventories, summaries, transcriptions, indexing, editing, and archiving tapes and photos; transcription, translation, and transliteration of indigenous personal and place names; genealogical and GIS computer programs.

Ethnographic Analysis

- organizing ethno-historical and ethno-botanical data; representing traditional and contemporary land-use; coding ethnographic data; domain, taxonomic, and componential analyses of qualitative data; comparative ethnology.

Preparation of Technical, Summary, and Community Reports

- the integrative approach; conventions of style in reporting archaeological and ethnographic data analyses; tables, matrices, illustrations, and abstracts; the proper use of technical terms; focusing technical results for publication; plain language summaries and community presentations.