

Zooarchaeology

Archaeology 340

Section: d100

Term: 2008 Fall

Instructor: Dr Bob Muir

Discussion Topics: This course covers two major aspects of the analysis of animal remains from archaeological sites: development of practical skills in identifying animal remains, and understanding the method and theory of interpretation of archaeological faunal.

There is a significant laboratory component during which students will become familiar with fish, mammal, bird and shellfish remains. Weekly quizzes evaluating identification skills will comprise a major component of the course grade. Students are expected to maintain and submit a laboratory notebook containing sketches, diagrams, and notes concerning animal osteology.

Lectures will focus on zooarchaeological method and theory including: animal taxonomy, taphonomy, quantification methods, estimation of age, sex and seasonality, environmental reconstruction, hunting and domestication. The study of human social organization, economics, and ideology through zooarchaeology will also be discussed.

Early in the semester each student will be required to prepare a short article review. This review will then be expanded into a research paper (term paper) and re-submitted at the end of the semester. Papers on human bone or forensic science are not acceptable in this course.

Grading: Laboratory notes 10%

Lab quizzes 35%

Article Review 10%

Term paper 20%

Final exam 25%

Required Texts: Zooarchaeology, 2nd Edition, by E. Reitz and E. Wing, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, 2008

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ARCH 201

Notes: Deferred grades will only be given on the basis of authenticated medical disability

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.