

ZOOARCHAEOLOGY OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA
ANG6930 Sec 272D
2 credits

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Spring 2018
Rm: Ustler 105 (tentative)
Schedule: Friday p 6-7 (12:50-2:45)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we use zooarchaeological data and research approaches to explore the many theoretical questions that confront archaeologists working in Central America (including the Mesoamerican region from Mexico south, and lower Central America). Advanced knowledge of zooarchaeological methods is required because the course takes the science as the foundation for investigating anthropological and archaeological questions. The course is geared to both graduate students exploring Mesoamerican and Central American zooarchaeology and those exploring similar issues in other world areas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

PRE-REQUISITE:

Graduate or advanced undergraduate course in zooarchaeology, and some background in a culture or cultures of Mexico, Central America, or neighboring areas.

DISCUSSION ROUND-TABLES (50%): Each week will include student-led and coordinated discussion sections. You will select and distribute readings the week prior and will coordinate the discussion around those readings and additional information as appropriate. I recommend that you circulate a discussion outline and a summary of relevant literature, issues, and methods at least 24 hours in advance (earlier to me if you would like advance feedback). These are not lectures, do not expect to present more than a five minute initial overview before coordinating discussion. Each discussion section should include (1) a review of zooarchaeological studies on the weekly topic across Mexico and Central America and (2) an evaluation of zooarchaeological data-analysis methods used in these studies. We will then follow these with a final overview discussion to select methods for application to our data sets.

RESEARCH PROJECT (30%): Each of you will be responsible for analyzing zooarchaeological data sets using the methods and approaches discussed in each lecture section. These may be your own data or data that I will provide. We will propose data analysis methods for tackling each major research issue covered in the course, and you will be expected to analyze your selected dataset using those methods, evaluate the methods, and suggest new approaches. You are expected to have your data analysis substantially completed for each week's class review. Problem areas should be discussed with the group by e-mail during the week. At the end of the semester you will hand in a report on your data sets that combines your weekly analyses into a full interpretation of either the dataset, the area of inquiry, or the methods.

PARTICIPATION (20%): This is a highly interactive class. Your advance preparation, attendance, and enthusiastic participation are essential. You are expected to attend every class, to do all assigned readings before each class, and to participate in all activities.

University of Florida Policy Statements

Grades and Grade Points: For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Absences and Make-Up Work: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Online Course Evaluation Process: Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Academic Honesty: As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Software Use: All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources: Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/
- U Matter We Care, www.umatter.ufl.edu/
- Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/

Services for Students with Disabilities: The Disability Resource Center (0001 Reid Hall, 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Student Complaints: The University of Florida believes strongly in the ability of students to express concerns regarding their experiences at the University. UF Regulation 4.012 provides a procedure for filing a formal grievance:

<http://regulations.ufl.edu/regulations/uf-4-student-affairs/>

Some useful contacts are:

- Ombuds office: <http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu/> 31 Tigert Hall, 352-392-1308.
- Dean of Students Office: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/> 202 Peabody Hall, 352-392-1261

Sexual Harassment: It is the policy of The University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. Sex discrimination and sexual harassment will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to promptly report sex discrimination and sexual harassment. If you believe you have been subjected to sex discrimination or sexual harassment please report the incident any University official, administrator, or supervisor. The Office of Human Resource Services investigates all complaints. Incidents should be reported as soon as possible after the time of their occurrence.