

Anthropology 499: Ancient Technology

American River College: Spring 2011

Instructor: Katrina Worley, M.A.

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Telephone: (916) 484-8621. If you call and leave a message, please make sure that you give your full name, telephone number and which class you're in, including the time and day.

Office hours and location: Davies Hall, room 366, T/Th 3:00-5:30

Class Location and Time: D-202, Thursdays, 6:00-9:05

Course description:

This course examines technological capabilities of pre-industrial societies using ethnographic and archaeological examples. Topics include construction of temporary and permanent structures, pottery making techniques, metallurgy, textile production, and lithic technology.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- describe the relationship between technology and mode of production.
- analyze major textile structures for differences in construction techniques.
- compare pottery construction and firing methods.
- define basic lithic terminology.
- compare smelting and working techniques for copper, bronze, and iron.
- categorize types of structures according to construction technique.

Textbook: "Archaeological Approaches to Technology", by Heather Margaret-Louise Miller, published by Left Coast Press. ISBN: 978-1-59874-474-3. Additional readings will be from articles or papers posted to the course website.

Course requirements:

Reading: assigned readings should be completed prior to the lecture. Please do not fall behind on your reading. You will be responsible for any information in the assigned readings regardless of whether we discuss it in class.

Exams: There are three exams. The final is not cumulative. Exams will cover reading assignments as well as material presented in class.

Term paper or experimental project: The paper is to be 1800-2000 words in length, with in-text citations (do not put citations in footnotes or endnotes), and in MLA or APA format. The experimental option would include the reconstruction of a technique or of an artifact. Both options will require the submission of a research proposal for prior approval. The research project option will include an overview of the project, a journal of the process, and an annotated bibliography, as well an oral presentation to be held towards the end of the semester. Please make sure you follow the appropriate guidelines for your choice of assignment and fill out the appropriate checklist verifying that you've followed the correct format. The guidelines and checklists are attached to this syllabus and are available on the course website.

Points:

The three tests are worth 100 points each, the term paper/experimental project is worth 100. There are 400 total points for the semester.

Grading is on a strict percentage basis:

90-100%.....A	(360-400 points)
80-89%.....B	(320-359 points)
70-79%.....C	(280-319 points)
60-69%.....D	(240-279 points)
Less than 60%.....F	(less than 240 points)

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Maximum extra credit allowed is 20 points (5% of the total points for the course).

NOTES:

- Although I have the right to drop students for excessive absences, it is your responsibility to drop this class if necessary. DO NOT expect me to drop you if you simply stop participating. By the same score, if you have an emergency and will be out for two consecutive weeks, please let me know so that I don't drop you if I do decide to clean up my rosters.
- Attendance and classroom discussion will be used to determine the final grade in borderline cases. A borderline case is one in which your grade is within 1% of the higher grade and you have submitted all assignments.
- Late assignments (term paper and the semester project) will be accepted, but lose 25% of total possible points if submitted within one week of the original due date. NO assignments will be accepted more than one week late.
- Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a score of "0" for the assignment and may result in a failing grade for the class. Make sure you understand proper citation methods. "Cutting and pasting" from

websites is NOT allowed, nor is taking a paper from another student and “rewriting” it. All work must be completely in your own words. Even a single sentence which is copied in whole or in part will result in the rejection of the assignment and a failing grade.

Please turn off any electronic devices such as cell phones and pagers before coming to class.

Date:	Topic:	Reading Assignment: Text and Additional readings
1/20	Intro to course and the syllabus. Lecture: Introduction to Experimental Archaeology	
1/27	Chapter 1- Archaeology and Technology studies Examples of the experimental approach as applied to archaeology	Textbook: Pages 1-12 <i>Spearthrower Performance</i> , Hutchings and Bruchert <i>Experimental archaeology</i> , Coles
2/3	Chapter 2- Methodology: Archaeological Approaches to the Study of Technology	Textbook: Pages 13-40 <i>Documentation Strategies for Experimental Research</i> , Schindler
2/10	Chapter 3- Extractive-Reductive Crafts: Stone/Lithics	Textbook: Pages 41-64 <i>Fire and Stone</i> , Webb and Domanski
2/17	Chapter 3- Extractive-Reductive Crafts: Cordage, Basketry, Textiles Term paper/project proposal due	Textbook: Pages 65-88 <i>The Loom and Its Prototypes</i> , Amsden <i>Textile Production in Bronze Age Cyprus</i> , Webb
2/24	Chapter 3- Extractive-Reductive Crafts: Wood, Bone, and other Sculpted Organics	Textbook: Pages 89-100 <i>Experimental archery</i> , Bergman, McEwen, and Miller <i>Green Wood Carving with Stone Age Tools</i> , Kidder
3/3	Test 1: Chapters 1-3, additional readings Chapter 4- Transformative Crafts: Fired Clay	Textbook: Pages 101-128 <i>An experimental prehistoric pottery firing at Harray, Orkney</i> , Harrison <i>Pottery making in Upper Egypt: an ethnoarchaeological study</i> , Nicholson and Patterson
3/10	Chapter 4- Transformative Crafts: Glazes, Faïences, Glass	Textbook: Pages 128-144 <i>Glass-making in Nupe</i> , Nadel <i>The techniques of Egyptian faïence</i> , Noble
3/17	Chapter 4- Transformative Crafts: Metals	Textbook: Pages 144-165 <i>Metal working in the ancient world</i> , Maryon <i>The primitive smelting of iron</i> , Rickard
3/24	Chapter 5- Thematic Studies in Technology: Technological Systems Fishing, hunting, food acquisition and processing	Textbook: Pages 167-202 <i>Great Bows From Northern Europe</i> , Insulander <i>Kiaha- the O'odham Burden Basket</i> , Abril <i>The North-Central cultural dichotomy</i> , Croes
3/31	Shelter and transportation: huts and houses, camps and compounds	<i>Interpreting Pre-historic Structures Through Modeling and Replication</i> , Butler Additional article TBA (?)
4/7	Test 2: Chapters 4-5, additional readings Chapter 6- Thematic Studies in Technology (Continued): Values, Status, and Social Relations	Textbook: Pages 203-236 <i>Prehistoric String Theory</i> , Hardy Additional article TBA (?)
4/14	Symbolic behaviors: monumental structures, art, archaeoastronomy, mummification of dead, etc...	<i>Ancient astronomy: Mechanical inspiration</i> , Marchant Additional article TBA (?)
4/21	Spring Break, No classes	
4/28	Semester Project presentations, discussion of term papers and projects	Term papers and semester projects due Presentations of Projects
5/5	Chapter 7: The Analysis of Multiple Technologies	Textbook: Pages 237-246 Additional article TBA (?)
5/12	Test 3: Chapters 6-7, additional readings	