



**Spring 2025**

Section A450 (Class 22444)  
Monday, Periods 6-8 (12:50-3:50)  
Turlington B357

Coordinator: Kenneth E. Sassaman  
Office hours: Weds. and Fri. 10:30-noon  
Office: Turlington B372; phone: 352-294-7601  
Otherwise at Lab: Tues. and Thurs. 8:30-4:00  
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**Instructors:**

Kenneth E. Sassaman, Department of Anthropology ([sassaman@ufl.edu](mailto:sassaman@ufl.edu))  
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**Description:** *Materials Analysis* (ANG 5931) is a practicum in the identification, classification, and analysis of archaeological materials routinely encountered in the practice of cultural resource management and related aspects of public archaeology, as well as research in academic archaeology. Emphasis is on materials common to the American Southeast, although many of the skills developed in this course are transferrable to research areas worldwide.

The course is divided into four modules of three weeks each that correspond to four major categories of material remains archaeologists working in the American Southeast encounter routinely: (1) lithic materials; (2) Indigenous pottery; (3) invertebrate and vertebrate faunal remains; and (4) historic-era artifacts.

**Required Text:** all readings for this course will be provided free-of-charge to students via the Canvas course page.

**Format:** Each module consists of three weeks and is presented in this general sequence: (Week 1) hands-on examination of the archaeological materials one expects to see routinely in the American Southeast; (Week 2) review of current methods of classification and quantification, using case material; (Week 3) exercise of skills acquired through basic sorting and cataloging of a small assemblage.

**Graded Assessments:** Practical exams at the end of each module comprise 15 percent each of the final grade (60 percent total). These exams assess both technical skill and the conceptual grasp of pattern recognition and problem orientation.

Another 20 percent of final grades is assessed on the accuracy and consistency of cataloging exercises at the end of four modules. The final 20 percent is earned through attendance and participation.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:** All students must comply with the University of Florida's Student Honor Code, which can be found online at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

On all work submitted for credit by students 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."

**Special Accommodations:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation. The Disability Resource Center is located in Reid Hall, Room 001. Phone there is 352-392-8565. More information can be found at <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

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### **Introduction and Orientation**

Schedule:

Jan. 13: Introduction and Orientation

Jan. 20: MLK DAY – no class.

### **Module 1: Lithic Materials (Sassaman)**

Primary texts:

Andrefsky, William. 2005. *Lithics* (second edition). Cambridge University Press, New York.

Whittaker, John C., 1994. *Making and Understanding Stone Tools*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Adams, Jenny L. 2014. *Ground Stone Analysis: A Technological Approach* (second edition). University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Select Identification Guides (mostly American Southeast):

Bullen, Ripley P. 1975. *A Guide to the Identification of Florida Projectile Points*. Florida Anthropological Society, Gainesville.

(NOTE: online guide of Florida Museum much more up-to-date and useful:

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/flarch/blog/identify-your-florida-projectile-point/>)

Cambron, James W. and David C. Hulse. 1964. *Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part I:*

*Point Types* (edited by David L. DeJarnette). Alabama Archaeological Society, Huntsville.

Charles, Tommy, and Christopher R. Moore. 2018. *Prehistoric Chipped Stone Tools of South Carolina*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing.

Daniel, I. Randolph, Jr. 2021. *Time, Typology, and Point Traditions in North Carolina Archaeology: Formative Cultures Reconsidered*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Justice, Noel D. 2009. *Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points of the Midcontinental and Eastern United States: A Modern Survey and Reference*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

McGahey, Samuel O. 2004. *Mississippi Projectile Point Guide* (revised edition). Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Whatley, John S., and John Arena, Jr. 2021. *An Overview of Georgia Projectile Points and Selected Cutting Tools* (second edition). Independently published.

#### Schedule:

Jan. 27: Identification of lithic raw materials and forms of flaked, ground, and polished lithic tools.

Feb. 3: Analytical and quantitative approaches to lithic tools and the by-products of their manufacture.

Feb. 10: Practical exercise and exam in the identification, cataloging, and quantification of lithic tools and the by-products of their manufacture.

#### **Module 2: Indigenous Pottery (Sassaman)**

##### Primary texts:

Rice, Prudence M. 2015. *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Skibo, James M. 2013. *Understanding Pottery Function*. Springer, New York.

##### Select Identification Guides:

Fuller, Richard S. 1996. *Mississippi through Early Historic Period Shell Tempered Pottery in the Pensacola Culture Area: How to Classify Types, Varieties, and Modes*. Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa.

Wiley, Gordon R. 1949. *Archaeology of the Florida Gulf Coast*. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections 13. (reprinted 1998 by University Press of Florida, Gainesville).

*For modern perspective of the type-variety system as it applies to Weeden Island:*  
Rice Prudence M., and Neill J. Wallis. 2022. Thoughts on Weeden Island Pottery Classification: The Type-Variety System (again). *Southeastern Archaeology* 41:145-154.

Florida Museum digital ceramic type collection:  
<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/histarch/ceramic-types/>

#### Schedule:

Feb. 17: Identification of Indigenous pottery by temper, form, and surface treatment.

Feb. 24: Analytical and quantitative approaches to Indigenous pottery.

Mar. 3: Practical exercise and exam in the identification, cataloging, and quantification of Indigenous pottery.

### **Module 3: Invertebrate and Vertebrate Faunal Remains (Blessing)**

Primary texts:

Reitz, Elizabeth J., and Elizabeth S. Wing. 2008. *Zooarchaeology* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Cambridge University Press, New York.

Select Identification Guides:

Olsen, Stanley J. 2004. *Mammal Remains from Archaeological Sites: Southeastern and Southwestern United States* (reprint of 1964 edition). Papers of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Olsen, Stanley J. 2004. *Fish, Amphibian and Reptile Remains from Archaeological Sites* (reprint of 1968 edition). Papers of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Olsen, Stanley J. 2004. *Osteology for the Archaeologist: No. 3. The American Mastodon and the Woolly Mammoth; No. 4. North American Birds: Skulls and Mandibles* (reprint of 1972 edition). Papers of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Schedule:

Mar. 10: Identification of major classes of vertebrate and invertebrate faunal remains.

Mar. 17: SPRING BREAK

Mar. 24: Analytical and quantitative approaches to vertebrate and invertebrate faunal remains.

Mar. 31: Practical exercise and exam in the identification, cataloging, and quantification of vertebrate and invertebrate faunal remains.

### **Module 4: Historic-Era Artifacts (Davidson)**

Select Identification Guides and Related Sources:

#### *Bottles and Glass*

Firebaugh, Gail S. 1983. An Archaeologist's Guide to the Historical Evolution of Glass Bottle Technology. *Southwestern Lore* 49(2):9-29.

Farnsworth, Kenneth B., and John A. Walthall (editors). 2011. *Bottled in Illinois: Embossed Bottles and Bottled Products of Early Illinois Merchants from Chicago to Cairo, 1840-1880*. Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Champaign, IL

Jones, Olive, and Catherine Sullivan, with contributions by George L. Miller, E. Ann Smith, Jane E. Harris, and Kevin Lunn. 1989. *The Parks Canada Glass Glossary, for the Description of*

*Containers, Tableware, Flat Glass, and Closures*. Revised Edition, Studies in Archaeology, Architecture and History, National Historic Parks and Sites, Canadian Parks Service, Environment, Canada.

Lorrain, Dessamae. 1968. An Archaeologist's Guide to Nineteenth Century American Glass. *Historical Archaeology* 2:35-44.

Miller, George L., and Tony McNichol. 2012. Dates for Suction Scarred Bottoms: A Chronology for Early Owens Machine-Made Bottles. *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 41(1):75-95.

#### *Ceramics*

Hunter, Robert, and George L. Miller. 1994. English Shell Edged Earthenware. *The Magazine Antiques* (March):432-443.

Hunter, Robert, and George L. Miller. 2009. Suitable for Framing: Decorated Shell-Edge Earthenware. *Early American Life* (Aug):8-19.

Kwas, Mary L. 1999. *A Guide to The Identification of Historic Refined Earthenwares*. Arkansas Archaeological Survey, Fayetteville.

#### Schedule:

Apr. 7: Identification of major classes of historic-era artifacts.

Apr. 14: Analytical and quantitative approaches to historic-era artifacts.

Apr. 21: Practical exercise and exam in the identification, cataloging, and quantification of historic-era artifacts.