

ANG 6930/ ANT 4930  
SP 2013  
Steven A. Brandt

## ***Lithic Theory and Method: New Perspectives on Flaked Stone Tool Analysis, Interpretation and Methodology***

### **SYLLABUS**

#### **Description**

This seminar takes off from my introductory course on Lithic Technology by exploring new and recent directions in lithic theory and methodology. Through readings, flintknapping experiments and general discussions, we will consider such topics as:

- 1) Classification, Typology, and Culture History
- 2) Technological “Modes” and Human Evolution
- 3) Archaeoinformatics; 3-D Scanning and Pattern Recognition
- 4) Historic, Ethnohistoric and Ethnoarchaeological studies of lithic-using peoples
- 5) Landscape and Settlement Approaches
- 6) Material Culture, Materiality, Agency and Consumption
- 7) Cognition and Memory
- 8) Style and Function
- 9) Use-wear Analyse
- 10) Recovery Methods and their effects upon data interpretation
- 11) Lithic Taphonomy
- 12) Western vs NonWestern and Indigenous vs Non-Indigenoous perspectives
- 13) Life Cycles and *Chaine Operatoire*
- 14) CRM vs. Academic Approaches to Lithics, particularly as it relates to debitage analysis
- 15) Gender and Gendered Perspectives
- 16) Using Lithics to Differentiate different levels of Hunter-Gatherer and early Food-Producing societies
- 17) Lithic use in Complex Societies and “Devolution” of lithics at “Contact”
- 18) Technological and Typological “Transitions”
- 19) Composite Tool and Projectile Point Technology

This is by no means a conclusive list. Students are encouraged to **suggest** other topics/issues of interest they would like the class to consider, and as a group we will devise the course’s weekly schedule.

**Prerequisite:** At least one course in Lithic Technology

#### **Seminar and Office Hours**

- Class: Tuesdays Per. 8-10, 3-6pm, B357 Turlington Hall
- Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 pm, or by appointment.

#### **Communication**

- Office Telephone: 352-294-7599
- E-mail: [sbrandt@ufl.edu](mailto:sbrandt@ufl.edu)
- E-Learning: lss.at.ufl.edu

## **Recommended Web Sites and Readings**

**ARCHNET Lithics:** [http://archnet.asu.edu/topical/Selected\\_Topics/Lithics/general.php](http://archnet.asu.edu/topical/Selected_Topics/Lithics/general.php)

**The Lithics Site:** <http://wings.buffalo.edu/anthropology/lithics.html>

## **Course Requirements and Grading**

1. Attend class religiously (20 points). One unexcused absence is acceptable with no penalty; Two unexcused absences result in 20 points being deducted from your total points. Three unexcused absences result in an E for the class.
2. Contribute to seminar discussions by speaking regularly (and thoughtfully), and occasionally leading them. If you have difficulty in speaking in a seminar, please discuss this with me asap (30 points).
3. Prepare notes (max. 3 pages typed) on the week's readings. Arrange your notes so that they serve as tools to aid in critique and discussion of the week's topic. I may occasionally do a "spot check" of the notes (20 points).
4. Each student is to prepare a research paper of ~10 double-spaced pages for undergrads and ~ 20 pages for graduates ,on the topic of her/his choice, after discussion and approval of the topic and paper outline by Dr. Brandt. The paper will be due by the last day of class. In addition to the paper, each student is to present to the class a PowerPoint overview of their paper (30 points: 20 points for the paper and 10 points for the presentation). If you are not familiar with making a PowerPoint presentation, please contact me.
5. Grades will be based upon a 100 point scale as follows:

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	65-69
D	60-63
E	<60%

## **Official UF, Medical Or Religious Absences And Make-Up Exams**

Except for medical/disability reasons, religious reasons or official university business, there will be **no** makeup exams or excused absences. A letter signed by a physician or a university official must be obtained **before** a makeup exam will be scheduled or an absence excused. Likewise, any religious reason for missing an exam or section must also be discussed with the professor **before** a makeup exam will be scheduled or an absence excused. If you have a disability that could affect your class performance, please discuss this with the professor during the first week of class.

## **Cheating**

Needless to say, cheating in any way will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 exam score and/or possible dismissal from the course.

A tentative schedule and list of topics is presented below

Weeks

1. 1/8: Introductory Remarks; Structure of Seminar; Responsibilities and Grading
2. 1/15: Lithic Studies; What can we learn from its own history?
3. 1/22: Problems and Prospects of developing "Culture Histories":
4. 1/29: New Analytical Techniques: Archaeoinformatics; 3-D Scanning and Pattern Recognition
5. 2/5: Historic, Ethnohistoric. Ethnoarchaeological Perspectives

2/12: Systemic vs. Archaeological Context; Life Cycles and *Chaine Operatoire*: The Holy Grail of Lithic Studies or just another method?

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7. 2/19: Settlement Patterns vs. "Landscape" Approaches; Artifact Richness
8. 2/26: Material Culture. Materiality, and Consumption
9. **3/5: No Class – Spring Break**
10. 3/12: Cognition and Memory: The New Holy Grail?
11. 3/19: The Ramifications of Different Excavation and Database strategies
12. 3/26; Western/Non-Western or Indigenous/non-indigenous Perspectives
13. **4/2: No Class – At the Paleoanthropology and Society for American Archaeology meetings, Honolulu; Work on Papers**
14. 4/9: New Perspectives on Style and Function;
15. 4/16 Contact and the "Devolution" of Lithic Technology and Use
16. 4/23: PP Presentation and Discussion of Papers