

ANT 3186 Introduction to Zooarchaeology
Class #26454
Spring 2025

Dr. Susan D. deFrance
1350-B Turlington
Office hours: Tuesday 11:30 - 12:30 pm
Thursday 2:00 - 4:00 pm and by appt

INTRODUCTION TO ZOOARCHAEOLOGY

Required Texts

Zooarchaeology by Elizabeth J. Reitz and Elizabeth S. Wing,
Cambridge University Press, 2008, Second Edition

Additional readings are pdf files on the class Canvas site.

Course Objectives

Zooarchaeology is the study of faunal remains (bone and shell) from archaeological contexts to understand human use of animals for both food and other purposes. This class provides an introduction to the method, theory, and practice of zooarchaeology. We examine the application of zooarchaeology to different types of research questions and archaeological assemblages. We also examine the factors related to both natural and human modification of bone and shell (e.g., taphonomy, butchering practices, tool production).

You are required to master a variety of biological data related to vertebrate skeletal structure using modern animal skeletons. Once you have mastered skeletal biology and systematics (taxonomy for different vertebrates), you will identify a sample of vertebrate faunal material from an archaeological assemblage and prepare a report on that material.

Course Requirements

You are required to attend all class lectures and labs. It will not be possible to make up missed labs, quizzes, or exams without a medical excuse (doctors signed notice) or permission in advance if related to university business (documentation is required). You must be present at the start of class; excess tardiness will count as absence. You are expected to be in class for the entire class period. On those days that we have lab activities, early departure from lab counts as an absence.

CEL PHONES TO OFF/SILENT. No in-class texting.

Grading

Attendance and Participation 10 %

Lab Practicals = 5 in-class quizzes
4 count for 5% each; lowest grade is dropped 20
You must take ALL five to drop 1 quiz

Lab Assignments (5 @ 5% each) 25

Midterm Exam (take home) 20

Research Project and Paper (see next page) 25

(No Incomplete grades will be assigned)

Extra Credit assignments – 2 optional extra credit written assignments will be available for you to complete (each will count as 2.0% of total grade) Due dates TBA

Grading scale:

A = 92-100	C = 72-77.00
A- = 90-91.99	C- = 70-71.99
B+ = 88-89.99	D+ = 68-69.99
B = 82-87.99	D = 62-67.99
B- = 80-81.99	D- = 60-61.99
C+ = 78-79.99	E = <60

Note: A C- grade will not count for major, minor, or general education credit. Please see <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> for more information on grading policy.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The DSO will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.
www.dso.ufl.edu

PLAGARISIM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Your final report and some of the lab assignments will require you to review and cite published literature. If you plagiarize sources, I will file a formal grievance with the Dean of Students Office for judicial affairs and it will become part of your permanent record. You will receive a zero on the assignment.

Zooarchaeology Lab Procedures

We will be having class in the archaeology lab (B357 Turlington). Several other classes meet in this room. You cannot work in the lab when other classes are in session. You will be provided with access to the lab using the key pad on the lab door.

We use comparative collections (modern animal specimens) specifically for teaching. These are modern skeletal specimens that are complete; some are articulated. Countless hours have been spent in their collection and curation. Please be extremely careful when using them. Many of the specimens have been sorted (i.e., the black box will contain several smaller boxes and or vials with various elements). **DO NOT MIX SPECIMENS FROM DIFFERENT BOXES.**

When using a comparative specimen, place the elements in a tan sorting box or on a plastic tray. Do not place specimens on bare table tops. Be careful to keep comparative specimens separate when you are comparing two or more taxa. Be careful to return all vials and smaller boxes to the original box. Return all specimens to the shelf in the lab from which it was removed so that your classmates have access to the material. Do not leave specimens with your sample.

Do not remove any material (skeletal collections, books, tools, archaeological samples) from the lab, with the exception of illustrations that I have indicated can be removed for photocopying.

DO NOT REMOVE EITHER YOUR SAMPLE OR MODERN COMPARATIVE MATERIAL FROM THE LAB. REMOVAL OF MATERIAL IS CONSIDERED THEFT OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTY. You are under student honor code to comply with this policy. If you violate this policy, I will contact Campus Police and file a judicial grievance with the Dean of Students office. You will also fail the course.

The archaeological faunal sample for your project will be housed in boxes on a metal tray. You can use tan trays for the sorting and storage of your specimens. Do not write on the tan boxes. Place temporary identification labels in the boxes (printed computer labels that you generate in MS. Word or Excel). These will contain both provenience information and taxonomic information. You will be responsible for returning your project assemblage to the metal cabinet or storage area assigned after working with your sample. All tables must be clean and specimens returned to their storage location at the end of class or work sessions. Please use dust pan and tray in wooden drawers below articulated specimens.

RESEARCH PAPER GRADING

Identifications and Primary data	5 %
Secondary data	5
Paper write-up (including references)	10
Lab and research conduct	5

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1		
Jan. 14	Introduction	Reitz and Wing Ch. 1 and 2
Jan. 16	History and Role of Zooarchaeology	Reitz and Wing Ch. 1 and 2
Week 2		
Jan. 21	Taxonomy (www.itis.gov)	
Jan. 23	Basic Biological Data, Skeletal Structure Geographic Habitats	Reitz and Wing Ch. 3
	Lab Assignment 1 distributed - taxonomy and animal habitats	
Week 3		
Jan. 28	Site Context Recovery Methods	Reitz and Wing Ch. 5
Jan. 30	Recovery Methods-cont. Lab Assignment 1 due Lab Assignment 2 distributed - recovery methods	
Week 4		
Feb 4	Basic Ecology	
Feb 6	Lab-types of bone modifications, Taphonomy Lab Assignment 2 due Lab Assignment 3 distributed - Taphonomy	Reitz and Wing Ch. 4
Week 5		
Feb. 11	Primary Data	Reitz and Wing Ch. 8
	Feb 11 - Lab Assignment 3 (<u>first submission</u>)	
Feb. 13	Skeletal Biology: Class Mammalia Lab- examine mammalian specimens	Reitz and Wing Ch. 9; Packet
Week 6		
Feb. 18	Historical Zooarch. and Mammal Use: French Colonial Shipwreck Example Mammal skeletal parts worksheet (counts as part of quiz) Lab Assignment 3 due (final)	

Feb. 20	Quiz 1 - Mammals (skeletal elements, taxonomy) Lab - Skeletal Biology: Class Aves packet various Lab – examine avian specimens
	Feb 20 - Mammal skeletal parts worksheet due
Week 7	
Feb. 25	Avian Exploitation in the Prehistoric Past Canvas reading Example from Southern Peru
Feb. 27	Quiz 2 – Aves Skeletal Biology: Reptiles and Amphibians Lab: Reptiles and Amphibians
Week 8	
March 4	Secondary Data Lab Assignment 4 Distributed- Secondary measures
March 6	Quiz 3 - Reptiles and Amphibians Skeletal Biology: Fish packet various Lab: Fishes Reitz and Wing Ch. 7
Week 9	
March 11	Fishing in Different Geographic Regions: Human Behavior, Technology Lab Assignment 4 due Midterm distributed (DUE March 13 ONLINE SUBMISSION)
March 13	Quiz 4 – Bony and Cartilaginous Fishes Complementary approaches to zooarch: isotopes, ZooMS, aDNA
Week 10	
March 18, 20	SPRING BREAK
Week 11	
March 25	Domestication and pathologies, Secondary products
March 27	Quiz 5 - All Vertebrates Lab- Archaeological Project samples distributed Begin sorting samples Lab Assignment 5 distributed - archaeological background bibliography

Week 12

April 1 New Orleans Historical Assemblages

April 3 Work on project samples

Week 13

April 8 Integrating zooarchaeological data with other archaeological material Reitz and Wing Ch. 11
Presentation of zooarch data best practice
Lab Assignment 5 due

April 10 Work on project samples

Week 14

April 15 Ritual/Symbolic Uses of Animals: Examples from Peru

April 17 Work on project samples

Week 15

April 22 **Complete project samples**
***** taxonomic identifications must be completed before April 22**
For me to check and confirm your identifications

Revise identifications after my confirmation of your taxonomic identifications
Lecture - Course Summary

Tuesday, April 29 REPORTS DUE (upload to Canvas)