

# Zooarchaeology

Zooarchaeology, ANG5126  
Fall 2015  
Section 2224  
[www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdef/](http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdef/)

Dr. Susan D. deFrance  
1112 Turlington  
T and Th 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
and by appointment

## Required Texts

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

A required lab packet is available at Book iT, 1250 W. University Avenue, Unit 2  
Additional materials will be posted on the class elearning site

## Course Objectives

The goal of the class is to provide an understanding of zooarchaeological methods and analysis. We will also cover a variety of theoretical issues related to zooarchaeological research; however, the primary goal of the class is develop skills in the identification and analysis of zooarchaeological materials.

### Student Learning Outcomes, at the end of the class students will:

- Know the historical development zooarchaeology as a specialization
- Know a range of biological information related to skeletal biology and taxonomy of different vertebrate classes
- Recognize proper zooarchaeological recovery, analytical, interpretative, and curation procedures
- Interpret archaeofaunal collections with problem oriented objectives

## Course Requirements

The first third of the class will provide the biological foundation for zooarchaeological research. You will then conduct an analysis of zooarchaeological material. The analysis will consist of the sorting of the material, identification, quantification, and preparation of a report describing your findings. In your report you will contextualize the sample in terms of location and chronological placement, problematize your sample, and compare your findings to other faunal studies. An additional handout on the format of your report will be provided (see also Reitz and Wing Appendix A3-2, Pg. 374). You will also present an oral presentation on your findings to the class.

### Grading

Attendance and Participation (CEL phones OFF)	10 %
Lab Practicals (5 – drop one score, must take all 5)	20
Assignments (3) 5% each	15
Midterm take-home exam	20
Research Project and Paper	25
15 minute Oral Presentation	10

**Please do not email me your assignments to me. Bring hard copies to class.**

### Honor Code:

**The UF Honor 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.**

For all work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied:  
**"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."**

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. Please register with the Dean of Student's office if you require assistance. They will provide you with documentation to present to your professor. [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

**Use of the Archaeology Lab – B357**

The archaeology lab is used for teaching and student lab projects. You may use the lab anytime that a class is not in session including nights and weekends. You **MUST** return the key to the lock box on the door. Do not leave the lab door open and unlocked. Always close the door and make sure that it is locked.

Food and drinks are not allowed in the lab. You must clean the table tops of dirt and return all items to the storage shelves along the walls of the room before you leave.

Your respect and consideration of other individuals is essential. Please keep your voices to a minimum. Please be considerate of your use of space and your belongings (bookbags).

There are some comparative skeletal specimens specifically for teaching. However, the majority of the specimens will be from the zooarchaeology comparative collection. These are modern complete skeletal specimens. Countless hours have been spent in their collection and curation. Please be extremely careful when using them. They are in black boxes. Many of the specimens have been sorted (i.e., the black box will contain several smaller boxes and or vials with various elements).

Once your samples are selected, comparative specimens appropriate to your geographic region will be stored on shelves in the lab.

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 skeletal specimens from the lab B357.

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. 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 each lab session.

You will be responsible for labeling your assemblage with proper information for curation purposes. Once your preliminary identifications are complete, you will prepare analysis forms with detailed identification information. Once I have checked your identifications, you will be able to prepare permanent labels for you assemblage and transfer your assemblage to ziploc plastic bags for curation.

You are not to remove specimens, samples, or work materials (scales, microscope) from B357. If you do, I will file a grievance with student honor court for inappropriate use of university material and you will fail the course.

Date	Topic	Readings
<b>Week 1</b>		
Aug. 24	Introduction	Reitz and Wing Ch. 1 and 2
Aug. 26	History and Theory of Zooarch Taxonomy, field guides, basic sources fish and mollusk guides	Intro to zooarch Bib
	<b>Homework 1 assigned-taxonomy and habitat</b>	various field guides in lab Sisson and Grossman
	Skeletal and Basic Biology and appendices illustrations	Reitz and Wing Ch. 1 and 2
<b>Week 2</b>		
August 31	Skeletal and Basic Biology	
Sept. 2	Mammalian biology and skeleton Lab: Mammals <b>Homework 1 due</b> Lab: Mammals	Reitz and Wing Ch. 3 Sisson and Grossman; Gilbert Reitz and Wing A2-3 other lab materials
<b>Week 3</b>		
Sept. 7	Mammal remains case study	
Sept. 9	Lab: Birds <b>Quiz: Mammals</b>	Howard 1929 Reitz and Wing A2-4-A2-10 Olsen 1972 (part 4), Gilbert et al. 1981
<b>Week 4</b>		
Sept. 14	Avian remains case study	Reitz and Wing Ch. 4
Sept. 16	Lab: Reptiles and Amphibians <b>Quiz: Birds</b>	Romer 1956, Olsen 1968 Reitz and Wing A2-11-A2-13
<b>Week 5</b>		
Sept. 21	Basic Ecology	Reitz and Wing Ch. 5
Sept. 23	Lab: Fish <b>Quiz: Reptiles and Amphibians</b>	Gregory 1933 Reitz and Wing A2-14-A2-20 Wheeler and Jones 1989
<b>Week 6</b>		
Sept. 28	Site Context and Recovery Guest lecture	Reitz and Wing Ch. 6
Sept. 30	<b>Visit FLMNH labs – details to follow</b>	

**Week 7**

Oct. 5	Primary Zooarchaeological Data	Reitz and Wing Ch. 7, 8
Oct. 7	Taphonomy Taphonomy exercise <b>Homework 2 assigned</b> <b>Quiz: Fish</b>	elearning readings

**Week 8**

Oct. 12	Secondary Zooarchaeological Data <b>Homework 3 assigned</b>	elearning readings
Oct. 14	Lab: receive samples, begin sorting samples <b>Quiz: All vertebrates</b>	

**Week 9**

Oct. 19	Domestication <b>Homework 2 due</b>	Reitz and Wing Ch. 9
Oct. 21	Ethnoarchaeology Distribute Take-home Midterm Exam	Reitz and Wing Ch. 10 and 11

**Week 10**

Oct. 26	<b>Homework 3 due</b> Work on samples	
Oct. 28	MIDTERM EXAM due start of class Work on samples	read project literature

**Week 11**

Nov. 2	Work on samples	read project literature
Nov. 4	Work on samples	

**Week 12**

Nov. 9	Work on samples <b>I will begin to check identifications</b>	read project literature
Nov. 11	VETERAN'S HOLIDAY	

**Week 13**

Nov. 16	Work on samples	read project literature
Nov. 18	Work on samples	

***Week 14***

Nov. 23

Work on samples

All identifications must be completed for me to verify  
begin quantification of data, NISP, MNI, Biomass and Percentages

Nov. 25

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

***Week 15***

Nov. 30

Work on samples

Dec. 2

Work on samples

All corrections to identifications must be completed

***Week 16***

Dec. 7

Student Presentations

Dec. 9

Student Presentations

Friday, Dec. 11

**all curation of identified samples must be complete by 4 p.m.**

***Week 17***

**Final project papers DUE Monday, December 14, 4:30 pm  
to my mailbox in Turlington 1112**

**(please print out a hard copy of your report; do not email them to me)**