

ANT 4930 – African Archaeological Analysis
Spring 2012
Clément Ménard

Class Meetings:

Mondays and Wednesdays, Periods 3-5 and 7-9,
9:35am-12:35pm, 1208H Turlington Hall and
1:55-4:55pm, B357 Turlington Hall

Office Hours and Communication

Office hours: B353 Turlington Hall, Fridays, 9am-5pm (or by appointment);
Telephone: 352-222-1713 (cell);
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Course Objective:

What is lithic technology? How does understanding the way that lithics were made enable us to reconstruct past societies? This course will introduce the students to the diversity of Prehistoric artifacts and to the different existing methods of analysis. Lectures on general aspects and case studies will alternate with sessions of experimental knapping. Students will also work with collections and learn how to identify, sort and analyze artifacts.

Required readings (only specific chapters, see below):

- Holdaway, S. and Stern, N., *A record in stone: the study of Australia's Flaked Stone Artefacts*, Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press, 2004
- Inizan, M.-L., Reduron-Ballinger, M., Roche, H., Tixier, J., *Technology and Terminology of Knapped Stone*, Nanterre: CREP, 1999 (out of print, .pdf)
- Whittaker, J.C., *Flintknapping: Making and Understanding Stone Tools*, Austin: U. Texas Press, 2005

Relevant book chapters will be listed during each course; extra papers will be sent in .pdf format.

Weekly schedule of lectures (subject to modifications):

- Mon 01/09, periods 3-5 – General principles and definitions.
- Mon 01/09, periods 7-9 – Practice: stone percussion; making the difference between flakes and cores, between tools and waste.

- Wed 01/11, periods 3-5 – The *chaîne opératoire*: from raw materials to discarded artifacts.
- Wed 01/11, periods 7-9 – Practice: orienting, identifying and describing artifacts.

- Mon 01/16, periods 3-5 – From artifacts to behavior: case studies from the Old World.
- Mon 01/16, periods 7-9 – Work on collections: sorting and refitting.

- Wed 01/18, periods 3-5 – Classifications, typologies and attribute analysis.
- Wed 01/18, periods 7-9 – Work on collections: recording information.

Mon 01/23, periods 3-5 – Shaping and transforming blanks: cultural and functional diversity.
Mon 01/23, periods 7-9 – Work on collections: recording information.

Wed 01/25, periods 3-5 – Evolution of techniques: changes of blanks and knapping methods through time.

Wed 01/25, periods 7-9 – Work on collections: preparation of reports.

Grading:

- Quizz: 100 points
- Course participation: 50 points
- Essay: 150 points

Percentile breakdown:

90-100% = A; 86-89% = B+; 80-85% = B; 76-79% = C+; 70-75% = C; 66-69% = D+; 60-65% = D; <60% = E