

ANT 4930 – African Archaeology  
Spring 2012  
Clément Ménard

**Class Meetings:**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 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);  
E-mail: clement.menard@ufl.edu

**Course Objective:**

This course is an introduction to the African singular archaeological record and specific context, with an emphasis on the Ethiopian documentation. We will consider the great changes that occurred in the African societies from the earliest stone-tools producers to the latest foragers. We will also focus on the emergence of complex societies, the historic times and ethnoarchaeology from case studies. Some sessions will be devoted to the practice and the explanation of specific technologies.

**Required readings:**

- Barham, L. and Mitchell, P., *The first Africans: African archaeology from the earliest toolmakers to most recent foragers*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008
- Finneran, N., *The archaeology of Ethiopia*, New York: Routledge, 2007 (.pdf)

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

**Weekly schedule of lectures (subject to modifications):**

Tue 01/10, periods 3-5 – The African record and context: general introduction.

Tue 01/10, periods 7-9 – Introduction to hominins Evolution.

Thu 01/12, periods 3-5 – From the earliest stone tools to the Acheulean.

Thu 01/12, periods 7-9 – Practice: bipolar percussion; shaping of handaxes and cleavers.

Tue 01/17, periods 3-5 – The Middle Stone Age and the emergence of Modern Humans.

Tue 01/17, periods 7-9 – Practice: Levallois methods.

Thu 01/19, periods 3-5 – The Later Stone Age and the shift to food production.

Thu 01/19, periods 7-9 – Practice: Blades, bladelets and microliths production.

Tue 01/24, periods 3-5 – Emergence of complex societies: the case of Aksum.

Tue 01/24, periods 7-9 – Historical archaeology: the Ethiopian medieval kingdoms.

Thu 01/26, periods 3-5 – Ethnoarchaeology: the case of hide working in Ethiopia.

Thu 01/26, periods 7-9 – Ethnoarchaeology: the case of hide working in Ethiopia (continued).

**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