Zooarchaeology

Zooarchaeology, ANG5126/ANT4930
Fall 2025
Course #543989
M - Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM)
W - Periods 4-5 (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM)

Dr. Susan D. deFrance (sdef@ufl.edu)
Office: 1350B Turlington
Office Hours -

Monday & Wed 9:30-10:30 am
Wednesday 3:00-4:00 pm
(except 9/10, 10/8, 11/12)
and by appointment

Required Texts

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

Required lab documents and illustrations are available on the class Canvas elearning site. Additional materials/readings will be posted on the elearning site

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

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 to develop skills in the identification and analysis of zooarchaeological materials. You will master a range of biological information related to skeletal biology and taxonomy. You will then apply that knowledge to a sample of archaeologically recovered faunal remains. The class will also provide you with the skills to make decisions regarding recovery methods in field situations.

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	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
Various portions of the project are graded separately to reach 25% - details to follow	
Informal Presentation of your sample to class	10

Please submit written assignment via Canvas.

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/

UF Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those polices and for resources for students, please see this link or paste this web address into your browser: https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/.)

Use of the Archaeology Lab – B357

Students will have access to B357, the archaeology teaching lab 24/7 with access through the keypad on the door using your UF ID.

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. 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 tabletops 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 (backpacks).

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 tabletops. 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 your assemblage and transfer your assemblage to ziploc plastic bags for curation (IF appropriate; some samples may be able to be labelled by NOT put in bags depending on the sample). Curation is a part of the final project and must be properly completed to receive a grade for the class.

You are not to remove specimens, samples, or work materials (scales, microscopes) 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
Week 1		
August 25	Introduction	Reitz and Wing Ch. 1 and 2
Aug 27	History and Theory of Zooarchaeology	SKIM pre-1970 readings Lyman; Albarella; Thomas; Corona; Wing
Week 2		
Sept 1	Labor Day Holiday	
Sept 3	Taxonomy, field guides, basic sources fish and mollusk guides	field guides, web sites, ITIS
	Assignment 1 assigned-taxonomy and habitat	
Week 3		
Sept 8		
Sept 10	Skeletal and Basic Biology and appendices illustrations	Reitz and Wing Ch. 1 and 2 Sisson and Grossman
Week 4		
Sept 15	Basic Ecology	Reitz and Wing Ch. 4
Sept 17	Mammalian biology and skeleton Lab: Mammals **Assignment 1 due**	Reitz and Wing Ch. 3 Sisson and Grossman; Gilbert in lab Reitz and Wing A2-3 Canvas lab materials
Week 5		
Sept 22	Site Context and Recovery Tacahuay Birds Case Study	Reitz and Wing Ch. 5
Sept 24	Lab: Birds **Quiz: Mammals**	Howard 1929 Reitz and Wing A2-4-A2-10 Olsen 1972 (part 4), Gilbert et al. 1981 Canvas lab materials
Week 6		
Sept 29	Primary Zooarchaeological Data	LeFebvre and Sharpe 2018 Driver 1991
Oct 1	Lab: Reptiles and Amphibians **Quiz: Birds**	Romer 1956, Olsen 1968 Reitz and Wing A2-11-A2-13 Canvas lab materials

Week 7		
Oct 6	Secondary Zooarchaeological Data **Assignment 2 assigned**	Reitz and Wing Ch. 7, 8 elearning readings
Oct 8	Lab: Fish **Quiz: Reptiles and Amphibians**	Gregory 1933 Reitz and Wing A2-14-A2-20 Wheeler and Jones 1989 Canvas lab materials
Week 8		
Oct 13	Domestication **Assignment 2 due**	Manin et al. 2017 Bogaard et al. 2021
Oct 15	**Quiz: Fish** Lab - Taphonomy Taphonomy exercise **Assignment 3 assigned**	Reitz and Wing Ch. 10 and 11 Fisher; Seetah
Week 9		
Oct 20	aDNA and Isotopic analyses	Reitz and Wing Ch. 9
Oct 22	**Quiz: All vertebrates** Lab: receive samples, begin sorting samples **Distribute Midterm Exam Essay and Practical**	Lord et al. 2020 Delsol et al. 2022
Week 10		
Oct 27	Andean Case Study – Middle Horizon sites	Nash and deFrance
Oct 29	MIDTERM EXAM ESSAY due start of class – submit to Canvas **Turn in hard copy of practical primary data sheet at start of class** Work on samples	
Week 11		
Nov 3	New Orleans Historical Case Study **Assignment 3 due**	deFrance and Kennedy
Nov 5	work on samples	read project literature
Week 12		
Nov 10	Translocating Fauna	Lefebvre et al. 2019
Nov 12	work on samples	

Week 13

Nov 17	Ritual and Symbolic Uses of Animals	Flores-Blanco et al. 2022
	I will begin to check identifications	read project literature
Nov 19	Work on samples	

Week 14

Nov 24 - 26	Thanksgiving Holidays If you are in town, I can meet with you in the lab on Monday, if you want.

Week 15

Dec 1	Work on samples **All identifications must be completed for me to verify**
Dec 3	Work on revisions of identifications Begin quantification of data, NISP, MNI, and Percentage

Student share details of samples, interesting specimens (NOT POWERPOINT)
This is show and tell with YOUR sample specimens.

All curation of identified samples must be complete by midnight.

FINAL REPORTS DUE Tuesday, Dec 9 by midnight
Submit via Canvas – report with taxonomic summary table in the report; your primary data must be included as an appendix

Do NOT leave your sample on tables in the lab at the end of the semester. Curate all samples in the white cabinets or on shelves in lab. Do NOT put your specimens in ziploc bags.