

Anthropology 320  
Research/Laboratory in Archaeology  
Fall 2003 Syllabus  
Meets Tue&Thur, 3:00-4:50  
Farrell Hall Rm 227

Instructor: Aksel Casson  
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Office: Farrell Hall 320A  
Office hours: M-F 9:00-10:00  
and by appointment

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### Course Description

Research/Laboratory in Archaeology is meant to complement lectures and assignments from Anth 321 (Archaeological Methods) with intensive hands-on experience with archaeological materials. You will learn how archaeologists catalogue, describe, sort, and analyze various classes of archaeological data (i.e. artifacts), including lithics, ceramics, faunal remains, botanical remains, and archaeological sediments. You will also be introduced to some basic field methods, including surveying, sampling, and basic data collection. These laboratory exercises are designed to prepare you for future archaeological experiences by developing skills in an applied context, simulating real-world analytical situations.

### Texts and Other Readings

You will be expected to keep up with assignments from Anth 321, specifically the exercises from *Revealing Archaeology*, as they are designed to run concurrently with the laboratories and research assignments in this course. Further readings and handouts will be made available on a topical, weekly basis.

### Student Evaluation

Weekly lab exercises and a laboratory notebook constitute the major written requirements for this course. Each week we will be working on topics that will correspond roughly to lecture topics. Occasionally, in lab, we will fall behind or jump ahead of lecture topics, but the goal is for you to complete assignments on a weekly cycle. You will be expected to spend two hours, on average, on the laboratory assignments outside of class meeting times. Some assignments (e.g. ceramics and lithics) may require more time than others; assignments and deadlines will be determined on a weekly basis. If you need to access the lab to finish an assignment, please contact me for access.

You will need to purchase a laboratory notebook (\$3-5). You will be expected to keep a detailed notebook, documenting your progress through each assignment by summarizing conclusions and noting observations of all assignments. In the front of this notebook there should be a Table of Contents (with columns for page number, subject, and date entries), an example of handwriting of all letters in the English alphabet, and numbers from 0 to 9. All entries in the notebook are to be written in upper-case (i.e. 'block' letters). Each page in the notebook should be numbered. Each new lab should begin on a new page, on the right-hand side of the notebook. An introduction to each new assignment should be recorded, including the following information: the goal of the lab, materials used and the names of anyone that assisted you in completing the assignment. All notes, measurements, and analyses should be recorded in your notebook. This notebook represents a record of your time in the lab and any work you do outside of the

lab as part of any exercise. Thus, you will need to give each entry a title (and each topic a place in the Table of Contents) so that when others look through your notebook they can understand the material. The goal is for someone else to be able to accurately reconstruct what you did in the lab based on your notebook entries.

Of the weekly laboratory exercises, you will be asked to write laboratory reports for as many as five of the assignments (time permitting, these include seriation, sampling, unit formation, faunal analysis, and absolute dating).

### Grading

The course grade will be a product of the following categories:

Participation in laboratory exercises	30%
Completion of laboratory notebook	30%
Laboratory reports	30%
Participation	10%

### Grade Scale

A = 95-100	B- = 80-83	D+ = 67-69
A- = 90-94	C+ = 77-79	D = 64-66
B+ = 87-89	C = 74-76	D- = 60-63
C = 84-86	C- = 70-73	F = 0-59