

Lithics Analysis

HUM 4930 (independent study)

CRN 25799

Dept of Humanities & Philosophy, University of Central Oklahoma

Spring 2020

Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:30 in LAN 205

Instructor: Dr. Joey Williams

Office: LAN 205G

Hours: Tues., 1-2:00, Wed., 12-3:30, Thurs. 2-2:00, or by appt.

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Course Description: This independent study is intended to provide practical, hands-on experience with the analysis of chipped and ground stone tools from archaeological sites in Oklahoma and elsewhere in North America. The student in this course will gain an understanding of stone tool analysis, the major typologies of lithics found in Southern Plains archaeological sites, and a working knowledge of the history and of ongoing issues in lithic study. Working experience with lithics will be gained by the student's analysis of an artifact assemblage provided by the Oklahoma Archeological Survey. The student will analyze this assemblage with the help of the instructor and with various guided readings. The student will prepare a weekly summary of their work with the assemblage, to be discussed at each meeting. At the end of the independent study, the student will present a catalog of the artifacts to be submitted to the Oklahoma Archeological Survey. This catalog will include a description of the artifacts, including typological study, as well as an interpretation derived from the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the whole assemblage.

Student Learning Outcomes: The student in this introductory course will engage with the methods, techniques, and ideas central to archaeological lithics analysis. The student will attain the following learning outcomes:

1. Understand the theoretical and methodological foundations of lithics analysis;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of lithic typologies common to Oklahoma and the Southern Plains;
3. Apply their knowledge of lithics analysis to an assemblage of artifacts from sites in Oklahoma;
4. Create a catalogue and report on the assemblage for presentation to the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey according to the guidelines provided by the director of the state archaeology lab.

Transformational Learning Objectives: The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered institution committed to transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. This course addresses three of the university's transformative learning goals: Discipline Knowledge, through coverage of materials and ideas core to archaeology, a discipline closely linked to both History and Humanities; Problem Solving, by requiring oral and written analysis of archaeological artifacts; Global & Cultural Competencies, through the analysis of cultures from a variety of eras and locations.

Grading:

Weekly analysis reports (50%): the student will provide regular updates on their progress with the assemblage, including both qualitative and quantitative analysis, reflection on their work, and synthesis of their analysis with larger issues in archaeology and lithics analysis.

Final project (50%): at the end of the independent study, the student will present a comprehensive catalogue of the assemblage, created according to the requirements of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and the state repository. This catalogue will also include a term-paper length analysis of the assemblage and the data collected during the cataloguing process.

Readings drawn from:

Archaeological Laboratory Methods: An Introduction, Brooke Arkush & Mark Sutton (2019)

Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis, William Andrefsky (2005)

Lithic Technology: Measures of Production, Use, and Curation, William Andrefsky (2008)

Lithic Analysis, George Odell (2004)

Stone Tools: Theoretical Insights into Human Prehistory, George Odell (2004)

Academic Affairs Student Information Sheet: <http://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/>

Week 1, Jan 15 – introduction to lithics and lithics analysis

Week 2, Jan 22 – preliminary analysis of assemblage

Week 3, Jan 29 – collecting and recording data

Week 4, Feb 5 – catalogue guidelines

Week 5, Feb 12 – independent work on assemblage

Week 6, Feb 19 – independent work on assemblage

Week 7, Feb 26 – independent work on assemblage

Week 8, Mar 4 – independent work on assemblage

Week 9, Mar 11 – independent work on assemblage

Week 10, Mar 18 – spring break

Week 11, Mar 25 – preliminary presentation of the catalogue

Week 12, Apr 1 – independent work on assemblage

Week 13, Apr 8 – independent work on assemblage

Week 14, Apr 15 – independent work on assemblage

Week 15, Apr 22 – independent work on assemblage

Week 16, Apr 29 – final preparation of the catalogue and report