ANTH410/510
LITHIC ANALYSIS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Instructor: W. Ayres

Anthropology 410/510 provides an introductory and practical approach to lithic or stone artifact analysis in archaeology. This is a new course.

Designed as a class for undergraduate archaeology students (but available also for graduate credit), we will review basic concepts in archaeology as a foundation for considering technological evolution, procurement and production of stone tools, typology, debitage analysis, style, ethnicity, and experimental technology. The class exposes students to the mechanics of lithic tool production and the laboratory procedures and techniques used in the analysis of a wide range of stone materials encountered in archaeological research.

Stone tools and materials from a variety of time periods will be investigated. The basic analytic techniques for flaked stone tools, which are fundamental to archaeology from the Lower Paleolithic through the late Neolithic, and later developments of ground stone tool technology will be reviewed. The latter includes stone axes and similar tools as well as stone beads, bowls, and statuary. We will conclude with a discussion of stone as a building material, including examples ranging from Egypt to Polynesia, and of stone conservation issues. Students will be introduced to the basics of technological and functional analyses, and will be reading about some of the major issues in typological studies, debitage analysis, use-wear approaches, and related topics. Laboratory work will take place during the regular class period as well as in additional laboratory time slots. Research on artifact collections will be a part of the class.

Key words: lithic analysis, stone tools, technological analysis, flint knapping, debitage, tool typology, provenance study, stone construction, styles of lithic materials.

Contact:
William S. Ayres
Professor, Anthropology, UO
wsayres@uoregon.edu