

Arky 531: Plants, Sediments, Tools

Class number 76617

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Office hrs: Open door policy

Venue: ES 822/811 (lecture/lab respectively)

We. 12:00-2:45pm

Description

This course is a lab based practical exercise for the specialized analysis of ethnobotanical collections, sediments, and tools for plant residue. It covers the theoretical and day-to-day detection, removal, and analysis of plant remains in a clean room context including qualitative and quantitative analysis and microscopy of extracted remains. The student is given a choice to write a paper on the analytical procedures learned or contribute to upcoming publication of the materials under analysis.

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be familiar with the basic procedures to:

1. Process modern plant specimens to extract phytoliths and starches
2. Retrieve phytoliths from sediments
3. Conduct residue plotting and extraction from stone tools

Requisites

This is a practical course, and therefore student participation and attendance to all sessions are keys to passing this class. Evaluation will follow these criteria:

Reading (theory)	10%
Laboratory practice	60%
Paper (laboratory report) OR Contribution to publishable paper	30%

NOTE: Because of the practical nature of this course, missing sessions results in credit loss: 5% of the final grade per session missed.

Grade Scale

%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade
97-100	A+	87-89	B+	75-79	C+	63-66	D+
94-96	A	84-86	B	71-74	C	59-62	D
90-93	A-	80-83	B-	67-70	C-	<58	F