

# ARKY 611

## Advanced Geoarchaeology

### Instructor

Andrea Freeman

Office: ES 842

Office Hours: Monday 10:30am-noon & 4-4:30pm, or by appt.

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### Course Hours

Mondays 1-4, ES 822

### Course Summary

This course will use critical evaluation of case studies and field examples to explore analytical methods and interdisciplinary theoretical approaches used in geoarchaeology. Students are expected to have a working knowledge of general geoarchaeological methods, however, we will begin with a brief but thorough review of the principles of geoarchaeology to ensure that all students are familiar with the language and major principles of the field. Seminar discussions of methodological and analytical approaches to geoarchaeology will be guided by student research interest. Advanced undergraduate students are encouraged to take the course with the permission of the instructor. Student papers may include lab and/or field projects.

### Course Structure and Requirements

While some course materials will be presented in lecture form, student participation is seen as a key element in the success of the course. Each class period will begin with a brief introduction of the topic, followed by class discussion. Students will be required to prepare reading notes or other presentation materials for each class period. Class participation is required from each student. Each student will also be required to submit a preliminary outline for the final course paper, a final course paper, and a web site on a topic relevant to geoarchaeology.

### Evaluation

Students will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

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| <i>Class participation</i> (including preparatory materials, discussion) | 40% |
| <i>Paper Topic &amp; Bibliography</i> (due: October 12, 2009)            | 5%  |
| <i>Final Paper</i> (due: December 7, 2009)                               | 35% |
| <i>Web Site</i> (due: November 23, 2009)                                 | 20% |

### Course Text

Required Text: Goldberg, Paul and R.I. Macphail 2006. *Practical and Theoretical Geoarchaeology*.

Recommended Texts: Goldberg, P., et al. (eds.) 2003. *Earth Sciences and Archaeology*, Waters, M.R. 1992. *Principles of Geoarchaeology*, Rapp, G. and C. Hill 1998. *Geoarchaeology: The Earth-Science Approach...*, Stein and Farrand 2002. *Sediments in Archaeological Context*.

## Tentative Schedule

- 14 Sep *No lecture, organization of class.* Read G&M, chapters 1-3
- 21 Sep *Soils, Sediments, and Stratigraphy.* Read G&M, chapters 15-17.
- 28 Sep *Depositional Processes.* Read G&M, chapters 4-8 with emphasis on chapters 4 & 5.
- 5 Oct *Chronological and Paleoenvironmental Interpretations.* BB Readings.
- 12 Oct *. River Valleys and Soils.* BB Readings, Paper Topics & Bibliographies Due
- 19 Oct Freeman @ GSA, course will be conducted via BB: *Student Selections*, G&M chapters 9-14
- 26 Oct *Ethnogeoaerchaeology.* *Student Driven Selections*, BB Readings
- 2 Nov *Student Driven Selections*, BB Readings
- 9 Nov *Student Driven Selections*, BB Readings
- 16 Nov *Student Driven Selections*, BB Readings
- 23 Nov *Student Driven Selections*, BB Readings, websites due
- 30 Nov *Student Driven Selections*, BB Readings
- 7 Dec *Student Driven Selections*, BB Readings

### Course Papers Due 8 December 2009

### Student Selections:

The first set of student selections will be chosen from one of the six chapters (9-14) of Goldberg and Macphail. Additional student driven selection topics will be chosen by the class, based on student research interest. The instructor will help students select appropriate readings that cover these topics. It is expected that each student will lead discussions at least twice during the term.

### Website

Students will construct a single page of a website based on a topic of interest in the field of geoarchaeology. The webpage may have links to additional pages, and must have links to external sources on that topic. The object of this task is to learn to organize material in a different format than a course paper. The task should prepare students for different presentation modes. If the student is considering presenting a poster at a conference, a poster may be substituted for the website. The topic chosen for the webpage may be one of the chapters of Goldberg and Macphail or may be another student driven topic.

### Communication, Academic Integrity, & Expectations

Because course participation is integral to the function of this course, students are expected to regularly attend classes. Students should communicate with the instructor via email (preferable) or phone if unable to attend. Students should be acquainted with the principles of academic integrity. All presented

materials should be written or verbalized in their own words, with citations used to credit the work of others.