

ANTH 402-500: Archaeological Artifact Conservation

Fall 2021 Syllabus

Course Information

Time: MW 2:45-5:00pm

Location: ANTH 102

Credit Hours: 4

Instructor Details

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Kennedy

Office: ANTH 107D, Remote via zoom (preferred)

Office Hours: MW 11:0-12:00, or by appointment.

E-mail: carolynkennedy13@tamu.edu

Teaching Assistant: Ryan Theis

Office: ANTH 102 (Conservation Lab)

Office Hours: T 10:00-12:00, or by appointment.

E-mail: ryan-theis@tamu.edu

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the techniques of stabilizing and preserving deteriorated or corroded artifacts from archaeological sites. Proper conservation techniques are introduced in seminar/laboratory sessions designed to familiarize students with the chemicals, equipment, and procedures used in the treatments. Practical experience will be gained in treating organic and siliceous materials and the various metals commonly found in prehistoric and historic sites. The emphasis will be on the basic conservation processes successfully used on the most commonly encountered artifacts recovered from archaeological sites.

Course Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Recognize the difference between archaeological preservation and archaeological conservation.
- ✓ Understand the need to conserve archaeological artifacts.
- ✓ Learn and demonstrate proper conservation treatments, both in the field and in the laboratory, of bone, wood, other organics, metals, pottery, and glass.
- ✓ Employ safe handling of artifacts and treatment chemicals.

Required Texts:

Hamilton, D.L. 2010. *Methods of Conserving Archaeological Material from Underwater Sites* (revision 2). <https://nautarch.tamu.edu/CRL/conservationmanual/ConservationManual.pdf>.

Cronyn, J. M. 1990. *The Elements of Archaeological Conservation*. London: Routledge.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on three laboratory reports, a ceramic reconstruction, and two non-cumulative exams.

Laboratory Reports

There will be three laboratory reports. Each report will **emphasize** the student's own laboratory experiences as well as pertinent observations and comparisons garnered from lectures, published data, and assigned readings. **It is essential that you take prolific notes and photos throughout the semester of everything you do and observe to produce an adequate report.** Each report should be succinct, clear, and **very** well-edited. Be sure to cite your sources in-text, with page numbers, and include a bibliography! Each report will follow a prescribed format and will have no more than 15 pages of text, not counting figures, tables, and samples. **Reports must include your treated samples.**

1. Conservation of Organic Material, Part I (emphasis on adhesives & consolidants, bone & ivory). **Due: October 4, 2021.**
2. Conservation of Organic Material, Part II (emphasis on wood, leather, and textile). **Due: November 1, 2021.**
3. Conservation of Metal (emphasis on iron, brass, lead). **Due: December 8, 2021.**

Late Reports will receive a penalty of a letter grade per day late.

Ceramic Reconstruction

During the semester, each student will decorate, destroy, and reconstruct a terracotta flower pot, which is worth 10% of your grade. The pots will be evaluated on both technical proficiency and the overall finished aesthetic. **Due: December 8, 2021.**

Exams

There will be two exams: one mid-term and one during the final week of class. Exams will be multiple choice, short & long answer. Exams are non-cumulative. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade.

Exam 1: **October 25th**

Exam 2: **December 13th**

Summary of Assignments

Lab Report 1	= 10%	Grading Scale	
Exam 1	= 20%	90-100%	A
Lab Report 2	= 20%	80-89%	B
Lab Report 3	= 20%	70-79%	C
Ceramic Reconstruction	= 10%	60-69%	D
Exam 2	= 20%	0-59%	F
Total	= 100%		

Course Schedule

(Subject to Change)

Week		Activity	Topic	Readings
1	Aug 30	Lecture	Introduction, Syllabus, Safety Discussion, Lab Tour	Syllabus
	Sept 1	Lecture	Archaeological Conservation: An Overview	
2	Sept 6	Lecture	History of the Conservation Research Lab & Projects	
	Sept 8	Lab	Tour of the CRL (**RELLIS CAMPUS**)	
3	Sept 13	Lecture	Adhesives and Consolidants	Ashley-Smith, J. et al. (1992) <u>Science for Conservators Vol. 3: Adhesives and Coatings</u> . P. 49-56; 57-89. Routledge Publishing, London. Hamilton, D. (1999) <u>Methods of Conserving Archaeological Material from Underwater Sites</u> . P. 11- 14
	Sept 15	Lab		
4	Sept 20	Lecture	Bone & Ivory	Hamilton, P. 15-16 Cronyn, J. (1990). <u>Elements of Archaeological Conservation</u> . P. 238-245; 275-282. Routledge Publishing, London.
	Sept 22	Lab		
5	Sept 27	Lecture	Wood	Hamilton, P. 22-29 Cronyn, P. 246-261.
	Sept 29	Lab		

6	Oct 4	Lecture; Lab 1 (A&C and B&I) Due	Wood (cont.); Leather	<p><u>For Wood:</u> Historic England (2010) Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation, and Curation of Waterlogged Wood. McCawley, J. (1977) Waterlogged Artifacts: The Challenge to Conservation. <i>Journal of the Canadian Conservation Institute.</i> Vol. 2 pp 17-26.;</p> <p><u>For Leather:</u> Hamilton, P. 30-33 Cronyn, P. 263-274.</p>
	Oct 6	Lab		
7	Oct 11	Lecture	Textile, Rope, Other Organics Lecture; Lab	Hamilton, P. 34-37. Cronyn, P. 284-293.
	Oct 13	Lab		
8	Oct 18	Lecture	Glass, Pottery, & Stone	Hamilton, P. 17-21. Cronyn, P. 102-159.
	Oct 20	Lab; Exam Review		
9	Oct 25	Exam 1	Exam 1; Introduction to Metals Lecture	Hamilton, P. 38-48. Cronyn, P. 160-176.
	Oct 27	Lecture		
10	Nov 1	Lecture; Lab Report 2 Due	Iron, Electrolytic Cleaning	Hamilton, P. 49-72. Cronyn, P. 176-202.
	Nov 3	Lab		
11	Nov 8	Lecture	Copper, Brass, Bronze	Hamilton, P. 73-77. Cronyn, P. 213-230.
	Nov 10	Lab		
12	Nov 15	Lecture	Lead, Tin, Pewter	Hamilton, P. 85-87. Cronyn, P. 201-213.
	Nov 17	Lab		
13	Nov 22	Lecture	Silver and Gold; Modern Metals	Hamilton, P. 78-84, 88. Cronyn, P. 230-237.
	Nov 24	Reading Day – No Class!		

14	Nov 29	Lab Catchup Day		
	Dec 1	Lab	Final day to work on Ceramic Project	
15	Dec 6	Redefined Day – NO CLASS.		
	Dec 8	Lab Report 3 Due; Ceramic Project Due; Lab cleanup; Course materials pickup; Exam Review		
Final Exam Period		Exam 2 to be held December 13th from 3:30pm-5:30pm		

Late Work Policy

Late work will be penalized by one letter grade (10%) every day late. (Work submitted by a student as makeup work for an excused absence is not considered late work and is exempted from the late work policy. See [Student Rule 7.](#))

Laboratory Policies

- **Be safe** – Appropriate PPE must be worn at all times, no exceptions. Failure to comply will result in removal from the lab.
- **Be informed** – You cannot reason with a chemical burn or hazardous exposure; you MUST be informed on the chemicals and materials you will be using before you use them.
- **Be clean** – A clean lab space minimizes risks to health and safety and prevents accidental damage to the artifacts. If you use something, clean it and put it back where it belongs when you are done. My assistant can help direct you to where things belong. Your work station should be spotless when you are not actively working.
- **Be organized** – Every procedure you follow should be fully delineated before you begin, and you should then carefully follow that procedure. All materials and containers needed for the procedure must be collected *before* starting any work. All procedures must be approved by me before you begin.

No eating or drinking allowed in the lab. Closed toed-shoes and long pants are mandatory for lab days.

Class Format

Class meets for 2h15min twice per week. The Monday class each week will typically be the lecture and technical demonstrations, and the Wednesday class will be a lab day. Exceptions are noted in the schedule.

The Conservation Research Laboratory (CRL) is a working laboratory. Therefore, all class and laboratory work is expected to be performed between 2:45 pm and 5:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Additional time needed in the lab can be organized with Dr. Kennedy or the course teaching assistant.

Diversity in the Anthropology Classroom

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts of Anthropology. Anthropological research provides perspectives and data that can be used to examine many current social issues that may be appropriate to discuss in this class. Students and faculty should expect to both defend and critique diverse points of view in a respectful manner. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. There is no justification for discrimination or hateful speech or behavior in any form. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to diversity, and welcomes all individuals regardless of all age, background, citizenship, disability, education, ethnicity, family status, gender, gender identity, geographical origin, language, military experience, political view, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and work experience (See <http://diversity.tamu.edu/>).

Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

“The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. ([See Student Rule 24.](#))

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

“Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case” ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at <https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>.

***NOTE:** Faculty associated with the main campus in College Station should use this Academic Integrity Statement and Policy. Faculty not on the main campus should use the appropriate language and location at their site.*

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit <https://disability.tamu.edu>. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University and the College of Liberal Arts are committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws provide guidance for achieving such an environment. Although class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to student record policies and laws, University employees — including instructors — cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues that jeopardize the health and safety of our community. As the instructor,

I must report (per Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.01) the following information to other University offices if you share it with me, even if you do not want the disclosed information to be shared:

Allegations of sexual assault, sexual discrimination, or sexual harassment when they involve TAMU students, faculty, or staff, or third parties visiting campus.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In many cases, it will be your decision whether or not you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Student Counseling Service (<https://scs.tamu.edu/>).

Students and faculty can report non-emergency behavior that causes them to be concerned at <http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu>.

Campus Safety Measures

To help protect Aggieland and stop the spread of COVID-19, Texas A&M University urges students to be vaccinated and to wear masks in classrooms and all other academic facilities on campus, including labs. Doing so exemplifies the Aggie Core Values of respect, leadership, integrity, and selfless service by putting community concerns above individual preferences. COVID-19 vaccines and masking — regardless of vaccination status — have been shown to be safe and effective at reducing spread to others, infection, hospitalization, and death.