

University of Mary Washington
Department of Historic Preservation
HISP 462: Laboratory Methods in Archaeology
Fall 2019

9:30-10:45 T/TH Combs #012

Instructor:	Dr. Lauren McMillan	Office hours:	Mon 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Office:	Combs 128		Tue 11:00am - 1:00pm
Phone:	540-654-1314 (voice mail)		Thu 2:00 - 3:00pm
e-mail:	Lmcmi6lq@umw.edu		and by appointment

Course Description

This course encourages students to understand and experience how laboratory procedures form an integral part of the archaeological research process. The recovery of artifacts and other data from an archaeological excavation or survey marks only the beginning of interpreting people's actions in past societies. Studying material culture in relation to a research design within the stages of laboratory methods comprises the crucial middle ground of organizing, analyzing, and interpreting information.

In the lab artifacts from the field are processed, catalogued, analyzed, conserved, and stored. Data from artifacts and field records are critical types of information that are recast in the lab and form the basis for reports, publications, and interpretations made available to various audiences. This multifaceted, indoor set of procedures not only informs and re-directs ongoing field archaeology, but critically affects site interpretations and research conclusions. Archaeological studies are never complete until the lab work is done and reports are produced. In addition, the lab supports key administrative and collections management tasks for archaeologists.

Through readings and lectures, discussions, and hands-on experience, this course provides students the opportunity to acquire the basic skills essential to proper laboratory methods and analytical techniques. Such skills are critical to archaeological careers. In addition, students will become acquainted with quantitative methods having archaeological applications. Statistics, the numerical summaries and descriptive interpretations of data, are integral and commonplace to archaeology. This class emphasizes applied statistics, those of practical use to archaeologists concerned with better ways to understand and communicate information.

Course Objectives

To gain a working knowledge of:

- (1) How archaeological laboratories are organized, as well as the common purposes and functions for these indoor spaces;
- (2) Standard archaeological laboratory methods and procedures;
- (3) Basic archaeological analytical methods; and,
- (4) Basic archaeological quantitative methods.

Texts:

Archaeological Laboratory Methods, An Introduction by Mark Q. Sutton and Brooke S. Arkush (6th edition, 2014). Additional readings will be made available through Canvas.

Instructor Policies

Honor Code: All graded work is bound by the provisions of the Honor Code and must be pledged, signed, and dated. You can find out more about the Honor Code [here](#).

Written Assignments: In an effort to safeguard the environment, all written homework assignments (except where noted) are to be submitted using Microsoft Word. No other formats are accepted. Assignments are due by the beginning of class unless otherwise specified and are to be submitted via Canvas. *Late submissions will be marked down ten points per day.* Spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors will reduce the overall grade on assignments, so students are strongly encouraged to proofread carefully and not rely solely on computer spelling/grammar checkers! Students are also encouraged to take advantage of the [Writing Center](#)'s assistance prior to submitting assignments.

Preparation & Participation: Keeping up with readings and assignments, participating in class, and interacting with classmates/teammates in a respectful manner will enrich the learning experience for everyone. Participation will count toward a substantial portion of final grades in all courses, as noted in the grade distribution on the course-specific page.

Attendance & Behavior: Attendance is vital both for learning and for lively class discussion. Attendance for all in-class exercises and presentations is required; these cannot be made up at a later date. Attendance is required in this class and will be checked at the beginning of each session. I will not excuse absences for medical reasons that are not supported by doctor notes. You are allowed to miss one class, unexcused, during the semester.

Students are expected to display civil and respectful behavior during class. Cell phones must be silenced in class sessions and laptops may only be used if used in a non-disrupting manner (no instant messaging, games, or sound). Violators will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentile
A	4	93-100%
A-	3.7	90-92%
B+	3.3	87-89%
B	3	83-86%
B-	2.7	80-82%
C+	2.3	77-79%
C	2	73-76%
C-	1.7	70-72%
D+	1.3	67-69%
D	1	60-66%
F	0	<60%

A mid-semester report of unsatisfactory (U) will be reported if a student has a C- or below in the course at the time reports are submitted.

Email: Email is the official means of communication between the university administration and students. Canvas and individual emails between the instructor and students are the primary means for communication outside of class for this course. Please read email and check Canvas for announcements daily. Students who are not reading their UMW email are missing critical information.

Office of Disability Resources

The [Office of Disability Resources](#) has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs and bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you have not made contact with the Office of Disability Resources and have accommodation needs, (note taking assistance, extended time for tests, etc.), please contact them at (540) 654-1266.

Title IX Statement

University of Mary Washington faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's *Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Harassment and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence*. Under Title IX and this Policy, discrimination based upon sex or gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. ***While you may talk to me, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, I MUST report to UMW's Title IX Coordinator what you share.*** If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, please contact the below confidential resources. They can connect you with support services and help you explore your options. You may also seek assistance from UMW's Title IX Coordinator. Please visit <http://diversity.umw.edu/title-ix/> to view UMW's *Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Harassment and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence* and to find further information on support and resources.

Resources

Tiffany W. Oldfield, J.D.
Title IX Coordinator
Office of Title IX
Fairfax House
540-654-5656
toldfiel@umw.edu

Off-Campus

Myranda Thomson
Title IX Deputy for Students
Area Coordinator
540-654-1184
mthomson@umw.edu

Confidential Resources

On-Campus

Talley Center for Counselling Services –
Lee Hall 106

Student Health Center
Lee Hall 112

Empowerhouse
540-373-9373

RCASA
540-371-1666

Course Assignments:

Class Participation (5%): Students are expected to participate in class meetings, discussions, field trips, and practical exercises.

Readings Discussions (15%): Three times in the semester, on prearranged dates, we will have a class discussion on an article in depth. You are required to participate in this class activity.

Laboratory Hours (10%): Students are required to do 10 hours throughout the semester working in the lab, outside of class time. Lab hours will be posted, and you will be required to sign up for hours ahead of time. You CANNOT show up unannounced and expect to fulfill your required hours.

Blog Posts (10%): You will be required to submit two blog posts reflecting upon the course content, field trips, and class exercises as related to class lectures and assigned readings.

Assignment 1: Distribution Analysis (20%): An analysis of the density contours of different artifact types and soil chemicals on a given site

Analytical Homework (10%): You will have two homework assignments focused on artifact data analysis. The purpose of these two assignments is to prepare you for the final Analytical Project.

Assignment 2: Analytical Project (30%): An analysis of different types of archaeological data, requiring students to apply different statistical methods and to interpret the results in relation to specific cultural contexts.

Class Participation	All Semester	5%
Readings Discussion	September 10, October 17, and November 19	15%
Laboratory Hours	Throughout the Semester	10%
Blog Posts	September 26 and November 7	10%
Assignment 1: Distribution Analysis	October 3	20%
Analytical Homework	October 24 and November 21	10%
Assignment 2: Analytical Project	December 10 th , 11am	30%

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Week 1: Course Intro	Aug. 27	Class Intro and Syllabus		
	Aug. 29	The Lab: Tour and Processes	Sutton and Arkush Chapter 15	
Week 2: Artifact Processing	Sept. 3	Artifact Processing Exercise	Sutton and Arkush Chapter 1	
	Sept. 5	Artifact Processing Exercise	Sutton and Arkush Chapter 2	
Week 3: Distribution Analyses	Sept. 10	Spatial and Distribution Analyses	King and Miller 1987	Come Prepared to Discuss the Article!
	Sept. 12	Spatial and Distribution Analyses, cont.		Discuss Assignment 1
Week 4: Intro to Artifacts	Sept. 17	Spatial and Distribution Analyses, cont.		
	Sept. 19	Artifact Analysis	Sutton and Arkush Chapter 9 (pp.141-172)	
Week 5: Artifact Analyses	Sept. 24	Intro to Statistics		
	Sept. 26	Historic Ceramics	Sutton and Arkush Chapter 9 (pp. 173-186)	Blog Post 1 Due
Week 6: Ceramics	Oct. 1	Historic Ceramics, cont.	Breen 2004	Discuss Assignment 2
	Oct. 3	<i>No Class- MAC Lab Workshop</i>		Assignment 1 Due
Week 7: Ceramics, cont.	Oct. 8	Historic Ceramics, cont.	McMillan et al. 2014	
	Oct. 10	Historic Ceramics, cont.		
Week 8: Cemeteries	Oct. 15	<i>No Class- Fall Break</i>		
	Oct. 17	Historic Ceramics, cont.	Gary 2012	Come Prepared to Discuss the Article!
Week 9: Cemeteries	Oct. 22	Cemetery Analysis	Deetz 1996	
	Oct. 24	Cemetery Analysis, cont.	Strangstad 2013	Ceramic analysis homework due
Week 10: Cemeteries	Oct. 29	Cemetery Analysis, cont.		
	Oct. 31	Cemetery Analysis, cont.		

Week 11: Tobacco Pipes	Nov. 5	Cemetery Analysis, cont.		
	Nov. 7	Clay Tobacco Pipes	Bradley 2000	Blog Post 2 Due
Week 12: Tobacco Pipes	Nov. 12	Clay Tobacco Pipes, cont.	McMillan 2016 (pages 18-29)	
	Nov. 14	Clay Tobacco Pipes, cont.	Cox et al. 2005	
Week 13: Documentary Evidence	Nov. 19	Clay Tobacco Pipes, cont.	Reckner 2001	Come Prepared to Discuss the Article!
	Nov. 21	Clay Tobacco Pipes, cont.		Pipe analysis homework due
Week 14: Lab Tours	Nov. 26	Lab Tour at Dovetail		
	Nov. 28	<u>No Class- Thanksgiving</u>		
Week 15: Cataloging and Conservation	Dec. 3	Lab Tour at Ferry Farm		
	Dec. 5	Underwater Archaeology Labs		
	Dec. 10	Final Paper Due 11am		