



Department of Anthropology AN 1480 Fall 2024

## Food and Fire: Archaeology in the Laboratory

**Instructor:** Katherine M. Moore, Ph.D. ([kmmoore@upenn.edu](mailto:kmmoore@upenn.edu)),  
Center for the Analysis of Archaeological Science, Department of Anthropology-  
Office (Museum 338 in Academic Wing) Phone 215-898-6306  
Student appointment hours (Office): Thurs 9:30-11:30 am ; Lab office hours Monday 2:50-4:30  
Zooarchaeology Lab (Museum 160) 8-4060  
CAAM Director: Marie-Claude Boileau Ph.D. ([mboileau@upenn.edu](mailto:mboileau@upenn.edu), office: Museum 184)

**Class Schedule** Lectures Mon and Wed 1:45-2:45 pm in Widener Lecture Hall

**Recitation Sections.** Recitations will meet in the **CAAM Classroom Museum 190**. Recitations are essential, unique chances for you to learn core material, build skills and begin graded work. Recitations are NOT OPTIONAL nor are they review sessions.

Section 402 Thurs 1:45-2:45 pm  
Section 403 Thurs 3:30-4:30 pm  
Section 404 Friday 12-1pm  
Section 405 Friday 1:45-2:45 pm

**Course Description:** In “Food and Fire”, students explore the essential heritage of human technology through archaeology. People have been transforming their environment from the first use of fire for cooking. Since then, humans have adapted to the world they created using the resources around them. As we follow the human innovation through the use of stone tools, the manufacture of pottery, the development of textiles and the evolution of metal implements we will also experience analytic approaches covered in CAAM. These include animal bones, plant remains, human skeletons, ceramics, metals, and stone. Students will become familiar with the Museum’s collections and the scientific methods used to study different materials. Recitation/lab sections will cover analytical techniques, hands-on examination of raw materials, and study of Penn Museum collections. Students will do a final object study of an object or group of objects from the Penn Museum collections.

- College-Sector - Humanities & Social Science (AUHS)
- ANCH Greco-Roman Culture (AANB)
- ANCH Minor Courses (AANN)
- ANTH Archaeology (AAAR)
- ANTH Ctr Analysis Archeology Material Minor (AAAM)

- CLST Classical Studies Minor Attribute (ACLN)
- CLST Classical Studies Related Crs Other Dept (ACLB)
- CLST Clscal Stds Med Arch Track: Arch Sci Course (ACLA)
- CLST Clscal Stds Med Arch Track: Intro Med Arch (ACLI)
- NU Nutrition Major Elective (NUNE)
- NU Nutrition Minor Elective (NUNM)
- NU Sector Global&Cultural Studies (NUGC)
- NU Sector History&Traditions (NUHT)
- NU Sector Society&Soc Struct (NUSS)
- SEAS Humanities (EUHS)
- WH UG CCP Non-US (WUCN)
- WH UG SS: Social Science (WUSS)
- Wharton UG Core Flex GenEd (WUFG)

### **Objectives:**

- To become familiar with basic archaeological research methods, scientific analysis of archaeological materials and museum practice
- To learn how archaeologists study change in a technological context
- To learn the most important materials transformed by humans and studied by archaeologists (stone, bone, plant materials, fibers, ceramics, metals)
- To learn how human skeletons from archaeological sites are handled and analyzed
- To practice the major techniques of description and analysis in archaeological research and conservation
- To become familiar with key instruments and laboratory approaches and with digital data storage and analysis
- To communicate about archaeological research to different audiences

**Content Advice:** Class presentations, readings (including the course textbook) and Museum displays will involve images of human remains and in some cases viewing human remain on exhibit. We may handle replica, but no real human remains. Please let your instructors know if you have questions.

**Table Seating Policy:** to encourage sharing different learning styles and ensure equal access to all, students will sit at assigned tables (you may choose your seat). Let me know if you need specific accommodations that involve seating.

### **Graded Coursework:**

**Attendance** (15%) to all classes and recitations, including preparation for discussion, participation (includes working with study guides of Materials Boxes used in class and ungraded work in class and recitation) You must submit a Course Absence Notice for any missed class or missed recitation/lab to avoid a grade penalty.

**Written assignments and ungraded assignments** (30%) (6 of these will be graded as indicated on the course schedule in this syllabus and on Canvas; another 4-5 will be checkoffs, for which you'll get feedback but no grade) Due dates on syllabus and on Canvas. You will practice using Museum exhibits, measuring and describing objects, using microscopes, tracing evidence for materials and manufacture, and experiments with foods, clay, metal and more.

**Exams:** Midterm (20% of grade) In Class; short answer and essay. No Final exam

**Final Project:** (35%) Artifact biography of a Museum object you choose, with multiple steps (Proosal, background, description, analysis, museum label; 10-12 pages plus illustrations and bibliography) and presentation in recitation !

**Course textbook:** *Archaeological Essentials: Theories, Methods, Practice*, 5<sup>th</sup> (2024) ed., by Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn. (Thames and Hudson. ISBN 978-0-500-29157-7.).

**Materials Boxes:** The boxes hold the basic materials for archaeology, and you are responsible for learning them. You will examine, touch, compare, and even listen to each material in the box and use the use study guide for each box. Each table group will work as a team with a single box of materials.

**Laptop Policy:** Laptops may be used to take notes in class, but not to distract others or yourself with email, social media, or work for other classes, violations will be reflected in participation grades. No laptops in recitations.

**Weingarten Learning Center:** Services including Student Disability Services, the official channel for receiving accommodations in the course. You must be registered with the WLC to get any special classroom accommodation such as help with note-taking or alternative exam arrangements.

**Museum Library:** Location of most of the books you might want to consult for the course, study spaces, specialist librarians, and printing resources. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Museum, see Canvas and the library website.

University of Pennsylvania Museum You will swipe with your PennCard in every time you enter the building, either by a secure door or at a Visitor Services desk. Galleries are open until 5pm Tues to Sun, but NOT MONDAY. Offices and Library are open on Monday through the CAAM entrance or the East entrance with your Penn Card. Reach classrooms and library in the evening through the East entrance. You will show your Path@Penn profile photo on your phone if you don't have your Penncard.

Help with Canvas and Information technology: [http://guides.library.upenn.edu/canvas\\_students](http://guides.library.upenn.edu/canvas_students) . Also resources of Wiegand Information Commons: <https://guides.library.upenn.edu/computingindex/computing/wic>

Help with Academic Conduct: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/>. This page summarizes the standards for academic work and appropriate use of scholarship. **All your work** must adhere to the Code of Academic Integrity.

About Artificial Intelligence in archaeology. You will be using many different sources to find information for assignments and projects. We provide specific sources that are the most appropriate in the modules that support the projects. While some topics may be easy to access using a ChatGPT-type resource, others will not. You are responsible to get to the original literature and source for everything you cite. You will be responsible for all the information that you use in your written work. In particular, your own experience and observations are key in the work that you will be doing in class. We will be supporting you at every step of your learning in the course, and expect you to refrain from using inappropriate source material, no matter where you found it.

Help with Student Stress: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/caps/>. Counseling and Psychological Services provides free support to CAS and LPS students. Normally open to 5 pm, open until 7pm on Wednesday and Thursday. Other wellness resources on Canvas and will be updated there.

Help with course costs and other issues with access to a Penn education: <https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/gic/>