**AHS 2210 Faunal Analysis in Archaeology**

**Course objectives:** The course is designedto teach students the basics skills necessary to identify and analyze remains of animal recovered from archaeological excavations.

**Course Description**

Emphasis will be put on laboratory work with actual archaeological collection and testing hypotheses about prehistoric human adaptive behavior. Thus the course will encompass such issues as identification of animal bones, teeth and other faunal remains from archaeological contexts. Data management on faunal remains will be carried out such as quantification minimum numbers of individuals a s well as skeletal elements, bone modification and their implications for palaeoanthropological interpretations.

**Assessment:** 30% Course Work; 70% Examination

**Course Outline**

Topic 1: Introducing the Animals’ Skeletons

* 1. Why study bones
	2. The term skeleton
	3. Parts of skeleton
	4. Classes of bones

Topic 2; Structure of Bones

2.1 Bone composition

2.2 Chemical composition of bones

Topic3: Development and Growth of Bones

 3.1 Developmental types of bone

 3.2 Bone growth

 3.3 Bone maturation

Topic 4: Basic Terms and Orientations of body

 4.1 Planes of reference

 4.2 directional terms

Topic 5; Care and Treatment of Bone

 5.1 Discovery, excavation and recovery

 5.2 Sorting an Preparation

 5.3 Preservation and restoration

 5.4 Curation

Topic 6: Measurement of Bones

 6.1 Analysis

 6.2 Age estimation

 6.3 bone modification

 6.4 Minimum numbers of individuals (MNIs)

 6.5 Minimum number of skeletal elements (MNEs)

Topic 7: THE Skull or Cranium

 7.1 Handling the skull

 7.2 Cranial anatomy

Topic 8: Teeth

 8.1 Incisors

 8.2 Canines

 8.3 Premolars

 8.4 Molars

Topic 9; Post-cranial Skeleton

 9.1 Vertebral column

 9.2 Ribs

 9.3 Scapulae

 9.4 Pelvic Girdle

 9.5 Appendages

Topic 10; Human adaptive Behaviors

 10.1 Human subsistence strategies

Topic 11: Data Management

11.1 Minimum Number of Individuals (MNIs)

11.2 Minimum Number of Elements (MNEs)

11.3 Minimum Number of Animal Units(MNUs)

11.4 Identification of surfaces bone modification

11.5 Quantification of surface bone modification

**Basic readings**

Behrensmeyer, A.K 1978. Taphonomic and ecological information from bone weathering.*Paleaobiology* 4:150-162

Binford, L. R. 1981. *Bones: Ancient men and modern myths.* New York: Academic press

Lyman, R. L. 1994. *Vertebrate Taphonomy.*Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Olsen, S.L. and Shipman, P. 1988. Surface Modification on bone trampling versus butchery.Journal of archaeological Science. 15; 535-553

Potts, R and Shipman, P. 1981. Cut marks made by stone tools on bones from Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. *Nature* 291: 577-580

Walker, R. 1985. *A Guide to post-cranial bones of eats African Animals.* Norwich: Hylochuerus Press.