

ARTIFACT STUDY

Anthropology 367-011

Spring 2008

The purpose of this assignment is to give students hands-on experience working with a real artifact. The assignment involves having each student document, study, and write about a prehistoric object from the collections of the University Gallery.

When they choose, document, and study their artifacts, students will be supervised by Janet Broske, Curator of University Museums, Her office is in 116 Old College; and she can be reached by email at moosie@udel.edu and by phone at 831-1043. Students will be expected to make appointments with Ms. Broske well in advance of their one required and one extra credit artifact study sessions.

This project is worth 150 points, which includes 100 points for the written paper, 25 points for the oral presentation, and 25 points for meeting the scheduled deadlines. Students can also earn 5 extra credit points by making a second, optional visit to study their artifact in the gallery.

The schedule for the completion of this project is:

Wed, 3/26 – 1st half of the class will meet with Ms. Broske in Room 201 in Old College to select their artifacts for study (1pt)

Fri, 3/28 – 2nd half of the class will meet with Ms. Broske in room 201 in Old College to select their artifacts for study (1 pts)

Fri, 4/7 – students will submit their artifact choice (each students must choose a different topic) (1 pt)

Fri, 4/18 – students will have completed their required artifact visit and submit their paper topic choice and 5 relevant references (3 pts)

Fri, 4/25 – students will submit a preliminary outline of their paper along with a list of 5 more relevant references (5 pts)

Wed, 4/30 – students meet individually with professor to discuss paper progress (5 pts)

Wed, 5/7 – students will have completed their optional, extra credit artifact visit (5 pts)

Wed, 5/14 – draft paper due (10 pts)

TBA (scheduled final exam period) – final paper (100 pts) and oral presentations (25 pts) due

Students will be given 0 points for missed deadlines. Penalty points will be deducted for late final papers. The penalty clock will start at the beginning of class on the due date. The penalty will be 5 pts for after class on the due date and 10 pts for each additional day, including the day when the late paper is turned in. Exceptions will be made only if the student has a written excuse from a physician or the health center or has made prior arrangements with the instructor.

The formats of individual papers will vary depending on the artifact and its related topic. However, all papers must:

- 1) begin with an introduction that clearly states the purpose of the paper, the author's thesis, and the organization of the paper's body
- 2) an illustration of the artifact (e.g., photo, drawing)
- 3) a section that describes the artifact, summarizes any other information that was found about it in the gallery's files, and provides background information on the artifact's cultural context (e.g., what culture, when, where, type of object, function, etc)
- 4) a section that summarizes in a coherent and thorough manner research that the student has done on a topic prompted by or related to the artifact
- 5) a conclusion
- 6) a bibliography of at least 10 references with no more than 5 web sources

The completed paper should be 7-10 pages long. It should be typed double-spaced with normal margins and font and stapled in the top left corner. Do not add a plastic or cardboard cover. Three points will be deducted from papers that are not stapled.

Papers will be graded on the clarity of the thesis statement, the thoroughness of the artifact description, the creativity in the choice of the related research topic, the thoroughness of the research done on that topic, the organization of the different parts of the discussion into a coherent whole, and the overall quality of the writing. One-half grade notch will be deducted for poor writing. Students are encouraged to visit the university's writing center for assistance in improving the quality of their writing.