This class introduces archaeological faunal analysis or “zooarchaeology” (also known as “archaeozoology”). By the end of the semester you will be familiar with various approaches to the analysis of faunal remains recovered from archaeological (and paleontological) sites. My goal is to teach you (1) how to deal with faunal remains you might recover during excavation, and (2) how to evaluate analyses of faunal remains performed by others such that you can determine the significance of those analyses with respect to your own research.

All members of the class are expected to have read, and be prepared to discuss, all assigned chapters and articles each week. Class participation counts heavily in my assessment of your performance and your final grade (see below). Copies of articles available in JSTOR or in journals for which MU has an electronic subscription (online) are indicated. Others are on electronic reserve [ERES]; hard copies of many (but not all) items are in Ellis Library. To access electronic reserve materials (eres), go to: http://eres.missouri.edu/ Click on “Electronic Reserves and Course Materials”. Search for the course page using the course number (Anthro 4820). Once you get to the appropriate course, you will need the password, which is “Scapula#1”, to access articles.

Each student will prepare an abstract of each assigned article. An abstract should contain your summary of the major points of an article. Preparation of these abstracts will help you understand the material, and in the future will help refresh your memory as to the contents of an article. Each week’s abstracts are due on the Thursday of the week when articles are assigned.

You must select a topic in zooarchaeology (perhaps from the weekly topics on the reading list) and prepare a term paper on that topic. The required readings may be a necessary part the research you do on a topic, but they must be supplemented with additional titles. A first draft of your paper (double-spaced, typed, with maps, tables, figures, references), following American Antiquity format, must be submitted during class Nov. 12. The manuscript will be returned to you with my editorial and substantive suggestions as to how to improve it. The final draft (along with the edited first draft) is to be submitted during the final exam hour.

Grades for undergraduates will be based on: 1. quality of first draft (30%); 2. quality of second draft (40%); class participation (20%); 4. abstracts (10%). Grades for graduate students will be based on: 1. quality of first draft (30%); 2. quality of second draft (30%); class participation (30%); 4. abstracts (10%).


WEEK 1: Aug. 24 – 28: How to identify bones, teeth, shells, etc.


Week 2: Aug. 31 – Sept. 4: Traditional Approaches and Quantification I


**Week 3: Sept. 8 – 11: Quantification II**


**Week 4: Sept. 14 – 18: Sampling and Sample Size**


**Week 5: Sept. 21 – 25: Seasonality and Demography of Prey Mortality**


**Week 6: Sept. 28 – Oct. 2: Taphonomy I – Introduction**


**Week 7: Oct. 5 – 9: Taphonomy II – skeletal part frequencies**


**Week 8: Oct. 12 – 16: Taphonomy III – bone modification and distribution**


**Week 9: Oct. 19 – 23: Butchery, Sharing and Refitting**


**Week 10: Oct. 26 – 30: Recent Approaches to Human Subsistence**


**Week 11: Nov. 2 – 6: Paleoecology I – basics and approaches**


**Week 12: Nov. 9 – 13: Paleoecology II – zoogeography and paleoclimatology**


Week 13: Nov. 16 – 20: Paleoecology III – clines


Thanksgiving holiday: Nov. 23 – 27

Week 14: Nov. 30 – Dec. 4: Paleoecology IV: Extinctions, and Human Impacts I


Week 15: Dec. 7 – 9: Human Impacts II, and Applied Zooarchaeology


Wolverton, S. et al. 2007. A paleozoological perspective on white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus texana) population density and body size in central Texas. Environmental Management 39:545–552. [ONLINE: Journal]


Final exam: Wednesday Dec. 15, 8:00 — 10:00 am

Instances of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, copying from another student, plagiarism) will be reported to the Provost’s office.

Students having disabilities which might affect their work (in or out of class) should check with me as soon as possible. MU can make a variety of arrangements that help insure equal opportunity. It is your right and I am glad to work with you on this. Also, keep in touch with MU’s Office of Disability Services, A038 Brady Commons, 882-4696. For information on resources for students with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on MU’s homepage. If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. You may talk with me privately after class, or at my office—a05 Swallow Hall.