

Course Information

Course Number:	Anthropology 606
Course Title:	Conservation of Archaeological Resources II
Time:	Tu/Th 2:00 – 4:30pm
Location:	Anthropology 102
Credit Hours:	3

Instructor Details

Instructor:	Christopher Dostal
Office:	102B
Phone:	979-845-6355
E-Mail:	dostalc@tamu.edu
Office Hours:	Thursday 12-2:00pm or by appointment

Course Description

Conservation of Archaeological Resources II is designed as a hands-on class where students obtain real-world experience working with actual artifacts from archaeological sites and learn basic casting techniques used in conservation. Each student will be responsible for every stage of conservation for a selection of artifacts over the course of the semester, from initial planning and documentation to final sealants. Additionally, each student will make casts using latex and silicone rubber molds, mother molds, two-piece molds, and the lost wax method. Some students will be required to complete natural mold casting if their artifacts require it. As a result of the class, each student will produce a conservation portfolio summarizing all of the work done during the semester that can be used in future job searches.

Note: The Conservation Research Laboratory (CRL) is a working laboratory. Therefore, all student laboratory work is expected to be performed between 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment.

Course Prerequisites

ANTH 605 with a B or above average, or approval of the instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes

Each student will obtain a comprehensive knowledge of the documentation, recording, analysis, and conservation of a variety of real archaeological materials. Additionally, students will gain experience in artifact casting and modelling using a wide variety of materials and techniques.

The physical outcome of the class is a diverse conservation portfolio.

Textbook and/or Resource Materials

.PDF's will be provided, all other readings consulted will be the responsibility of the student to aide them in their projects.

Grading Policy

As per the learning outcomes, the goal of this class is to provide a portfolio exhibiting the range of skills the student has obtained in the field of conservation. The artifact conservation outcomes, the quality of the casting projects, and the final portfolio comprise the entirety of the grade.

Each section of the portfolio should consist of a **written report, photographs, sketches, the artifact card, and the artifact itself**. There are no set due dates* apart from the final date, but I strongly encourage you to turn in sections of the portfolio throughout the semester so they can be graded and corrected before going into the final portfolio.

* The last burn-out day for lost wax casting is April 15th.

Grading Scale

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

Portfolio and all project deliverables due no later than Monday, May 3rd 2020 by 12:00pm.

Late Work Policy

Late work without a university approved excuse will lose 1 letter grade per day. (*Work submitted by a student as makeup work for an excused absence is not considered late work and is exempted from the late work policy. (See Student Rule 7.)*)

Project Descriptions

1. **Artifact conservation:** During the first week, students will select several artifacts to conserve over the course of the semester. (The number will vary semester to semester depending on artifact availability.) Artifacts must always be kept with their artifact number – **these are actual artifacts**. After initial documentation and X-rays, the students will draft individual conservation proposals on the official proposal form and submit them for approval. Once approved, the conservation of the artifact is the sole responsibility of the student. For each artifact, the student will submit the conserved artifact, artifact card, and a report. Reports should include official before, during, and after images, sketches, details of what treatments were selected and why, explanations of all processes, and historical contextualization.
2. **Casting projects:** Throughout the semester, students will complete (1) a simple two-part cast of projectile points, (2) a two-part silicone rubber cast, (3) a latex and mother-mold cast, (4) a laser scanned and 3D printed model, and (5) a lost-wax cast.

Reports must be 12pt Times New Roman with standard margins. All sources should be cited in text with page numbers, and each report should include a bibliography of all references cited. All final reports must be printed and assembled into a portfolio that covers every project in the class. There should be no casts or artifacts without a report and vice-versa.

Course Schedule

Note: This course is designed to be loosely structured. There will be very few formal lectures, but instead there are weekly walkthroughs and demonstrations. Each student is responsible for scheduling their own projects throughout the semester.

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Week 1: (Jan 19th and 21st)

Tuesday: Introduction to the course, safety overview, and artifact distribution.

Thursday: Lecture – artifact photography
Walkthrough – X-ray radiography

Week 2: (Jan 26th and 28th)

Tuesday: Demonstration – building a DC power supply

Thursday: Lab working day

Week 3: (Feb 2nd and 4th)

Tuesday: Walkthrough – Two-part casting of projectile points pt. 1

Thursday: Walkthrough – Two-part casting of projectile points pt. 2

Week 4: (Feb 9th and 11th)

Tuesday: Walkthrough – Two-part silicone rubber casting pt. 1

Thursday: Walkthrough – Two-part silicone rubber casting pt. 2

Week 5: (Feb 16th and 18th)

Tuesday: Walkthrough - latex and mother mold casting pt. 1

Thursday: Walkthrough - latex and mother mold casting pt. 2

Week 6: (Feb 23rd and 25th)

Tuesday: Lecture – Introduction to 3D Laser Scanning & 3D Printing

Thursday: - Walkthrough – 3D printing

Week 7: (March 2nd and 4th)

Tuesday – Texas Independence Day, No Classes

Thursday – Walkthrough – Lost wax casting pt. 1



Week 8: (March 9th and 11th)

Tuesday: Walkthrough – Lost wax casting pt. 2

Thursday: Lab working day

Week 9: (March 16th and 18th)

Tuesday: Lab working day

Thursday is a redefined day – students should attend their Friday classes.

Week 10: (March 23rd and 25th)

Tuesday: Lab working day

Thursday: Lab working day

Week 11: (March 30th and April 1st)

Tuesday: Lab working day

Thursday: Lab working day

Week 12: (April 6th and 8th)

Tuesday: Lab working day

Thursday: Lab working day

Week 13: (April 13th and 15th)

Tuesday: Lab working day

Thursday: Lab working day. **Final day for lost wax casting!**

Week 14: (April 20th and 22nd)

Tuesday: Lab working day.

Thursday: Lab working day

Week 15: (April 27th and 29th)

Project wrap-up, lab clean-up, semester review.

April 29th – last day of classes

***Portfolio and all project deliverables due no later than **Monday, May 3rd 2020 by 12:00pm.** ***

Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

“Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case” ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Title IX and Statement on Limits of Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University’s goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

COVID-19 Policies

Campus Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Spring 2021 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely if that option is available, and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**
- Face Coverings—[Face coverings](#) (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the [Face Covering policy](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) available on the [Provost website](#).
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- To attend a face-to-face class, students must properly wear an approved face covering. If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the [Student Conduct office](#) for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students, or dismiss the class in the case of a traditional face to face lecture.

Personal Illness and Quarantine

Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely, if that option is available, and **must not attend face-to-face course activities**. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.

Students experiencing personal injury or illness that is too severe for the student to attend class qualify for an excused absence (See [Student Rule 7, Section 7.2.2.](#)) To receive an excused absence, students must comply with the documentation and notification guidelines outlined in Student Rule 7.

Anthropology Department Diversity Statement

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts of Anthropology. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to diversity, and welcomes individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences (See <http://diversity.tamu.edu/>).