

ANTH 319

RESEARCH METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL & BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy A. Beller

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will examine some of the basic research methods and techniques employed by archaeologists and biological anthropologists through engagement with several different sets of data. Week by week, this course will engage in the research process – developing a research proposal and hypotheses; collecting, organizing, interpreting, and presenting data; conducting basic data analyses; designing and pursuing research projects; and communicating findings. This will be complemented by discussions of best practices and ethics in research as well as of the biases inherent to all research that reflect our social, economic, and academic environment. While there will be some lectures, most classes will be conducted in a “research group” setting: talking about research, designing group research projects, working through problems, and collaborating.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Ultimately, students will

- 1) develop effective skills in the implementation of different aspects of research,
- 2) train to present information about their research in different formats, and
- 3) critically assess and evaluate published research.