

ANTH 392 A02

GEOARCHAEOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Jeremy A. Beller

Course Description and Objectives:

The survival and evolution of humans, from the earliest hominins to ourselves, is largely reliant upon their knowledge of and interaction with their physical environments. As such, archaeologists often turn to other disciplines, including geography and geology, in order to understand the archaeological record to its fullest extent. This course is a detailed introduction to that approach: geoarchaeology. Geoarchaeology is concerned with how traces of human activity have become embedded in the physical environment and how archaeologists collect data and recover evidence. Consequently, a central theme of this course will be how geoarchaeology contributes to our understanding of human behavior. Consequently, the course content and discussions will largely focus on meaningful and comprehensive interpretations of geographic and geological data. Furthermore, this course will introduce students to various technological instruments and their applications in the lab and field.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Evaluation of evidence
- Critical reading
- Data identification and description
- Academic writing
- Information synthesis and comparison