

ANTH 395

LITHIC ANALYSIS

INSTRUCTOR: Jeremy A. Beller

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Lithics encompasses the stone material that has been modified by humans. These mostly appear as chipped and ground stone artifacts and constitute the earliest, most abundant, and longest-lasting archaeological remains. This is especially true for prehistoric and hunter-gatherer cultures. It is essential that any prehistoric archaeologist become familiar with the analysis of stone tools. Much of the course will be devoted to exploring the behavior that can be interpreted from stone tools and debitage, particularly a technological reconstruction. It will focus on many aspects of both chipped and ground stone artifacts, including their typology, procurement, and manufacture. In addition, more specialized topics will also be discussed, such as skill, sourcing, and use-wear. An emphasis will be placed on the lithic assemblages of Paleolithic foragers and hunter-gatherer groups of North America, allowing students to trace and compare technological developments over time and space. Although this is not a flintknapping course, students will be introduced to flintknapping and are permitted to experiment with lithic material from the department. Students should bring safety goggles and firm-grip protective gloves to class. A \$40 material fee is also assessed.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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