

# Faunal Analysis

## 3 credit course

When confronted with a bone or tooth, the first question that is usually asked is, 'What is it?' with 'How old?' being a close second. Animal bones are often a component of an archaeological site, and faunal analysis (along with that of seeds and pollen, respectively carpology and palynology) is comprised of a set of tools to gain insight into the character and range of human behavior that took place there. This course aims to teach identification and analysis of animal bones and shells. We start by learning how to observe (through drawing) and from observation step to identification, of anatomical element, of species, age, and sex. After identification comes counting, measuring, and general analysis for characterizing the faunal assemblage, in which theoretical and methodological issues will be examined

## Course prerequisites

Either Introduction to Archaeology (01.070.105).

## Instructor

Hylke de Jong

Office hours Tuesday and Friday 9.15-10.45 AM or by appointment

Room: BIO 204B

## Class meetings

Thursday: 3.55-6.55 PM BIO-315 in the Biological Sciences Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Douglass Campus.

## Materials

Resources available on Sakai.

## Learning goals

- Identification of bone elements.
- Determination of age and sex.
- Methodology of faunal analysis.
- Archaeological aims of faunal analysis

## Grading

Grading will be based on attendance (20%), a midterm testing anatomical knowledge (30%), a lab book with drawing assignments (20%), and a report based on the bone collection data on a chosen domain (taphonomy, population, etc.) of faunal analysis (30%).

## Course Policies

*Academic Integrity:* Cheating lowers the value of a Rutgers degree and the learning experience for all students. No form of cheating, including plagiarism, will be tolerated. One commits plagiarism when one represents the text or ideas of others as one's own creation. Please visit the website of the Rutgers Office of Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>) for a fuller explanation of plagiarism and of the penalties for it. Convicted plagiarists may receive a disciplinary F in the course and possibly face expulsion from the University.

*Student Absences:* Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

## Schedule

1. Week 1: **19 Jan** Introduction
2. Week 2: **26 Jan** Lab practicum
3. Week 3: **2 Feb** *ditto*
4. Week 4: **9 Feb** *ditto*
5. Week 5: **16 Feb** *ditto*
6. Week 6: **23 Feb** *ditto*
7. Week 7: **Feb/2 Mar** *ditto*
8. Week 8: **9 Mar** *ditto*
9. Week 9: **16 Mar** No Class-SPRING RECESS
10. Week 10: **23 Mar** *ditto*
11. Week 11: **30 Mar** *ditto*
12. Week 12: **6 Apr** *ditto*
13. Week 13: **13 Apr** *ditto*
14. Week 14: **20 Apr** *ditto*
15. Week 15: **27 Apr** Last week of class