Arch 334-3
Special Topics: Molecular Bioarchaeology
T 1230 - 1520
2007-1

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Description  Ancient DNA research involves the extraction of DNA from ancient remains and the analysis of ancient genetic information. It offers anthropologists and archaeologists a unique opportunity to address many important issues including human evolution, diseases and health of past populations, and the domestication history of animals and plants. In addition, ancient DNA techniques can be readily applied to forensic skeletal remains for DNA identification and well as to trace tissues for the genetic study of endangered species for wildlife conservation. While students will have opportunity to learn the fundamental principles and methods of ancient DNA research, the focus of the class will be on the applicability of ancient DNA techniques in archaeology and physical anthropology. Students are expected to gain a better understanding of the pros and cons of ancient DNA analysis, and to develop their ability in considering the applicability of ancient DNA analysis to real questions in physical anthropology, archaeology, forensic investigation, and conservation biology. Students are encouraged to select topics of their interests at the beginning of the class and then to work throughout the whole semester to form a simulated research proposal. This problem-based learning approach will be facilitated through structured class discussion, seminar presentation and class participation.

Grading  Mid-term exam 40%  Seminar presentation and class participation 30%  Research proposal 30%


Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.