Course description and objectives
This course examines material culture in its many forms: archaeological artifacts, ethnographic objects, and modern material culture. During the course of this class we will look at specific objects and develop observational and methodological skills for interpreting them. We will explore the ways that researchers have looked at material culture and analyze objects from the past and from our own lives. Hands-on analysis and scientific research is the primary focus of the course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Recognize and identify artifacts commonly recovered from historical sites
2. Demonstrate knowledge of scientific research methods employed in an anthropological laboratory setting (CO 9)
3. Develop competencies in understanding artifact chronologies and changing morphologies based on technological and stylistic variation through class discussion and written assignments
4. Articulate the functional and symbolic meanings of artifacts through contextual analysis with particular attention to the relationship between historical societies and historical technologies (CO9)
5. Employ mathematics, science, and computing techniques in a systematic, comprehensive, and rigorous manner to support the study of anthropological artifacts (CO9)
6. Show competency in laboratory research including record keeping, by designing, executing, and presenting a short research project (CO9).

Students will demonstrate competence in these realms through several different metrics:

- Laboratory attendance
  - Labs will be held on Tuesday. There are a total of 12 labs in the class. You must complete 10 of the 12 labs in class.
- Laboratory worksheets
  - Lab worksheets are due at the end of class unless otherwise stated.
- Class discussion
Class discussion is another important element of this class. You are to complete the readings prior to the class period and come to class prepared to discuss them. Contributing to class discussion is a major component of your grade!

Question preparation
- In order to foster class discussion, students must bring to class a set of three questions/comments based on the assigned reading selections. These must be typed. Students will turn these in at the end of class.

Collection analysis
- You will prepare an analysis of a collection and present a brief overview of the collection. This project is designed to allow you to put some of the ideas discussed in class to work. You will receive additional information about this project. You must receive approval of your collection from me by April 5.

This course satisfies Core Objective 9: Science, Technology, and Society. Students will be able to connect science and technology to real-world problems by explaining how science relates to problems of societal concern; be able to distinguish between sound and unsound interpretations of scientific information; employ cogent reasoning methods in their own examinations of problems and issues; and understand the applications of science and technology in societal context. Students will obtain this knowledge through their demonstration of scientific research methods in a laboratory setting through multiple lab based assignments, by articulating the relationship between historical societies and historical technologies through artifact chronologies and changing morphologies, and by demonstrating laboratory research skills and techniques by designing, executing and presenting a research project.

Course Format. This course will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and laboratory assignments. On Tuesdays we will have a laboratory exercise to be completed in class. Thursdays will be a combination lecture and discussion based on the laboratory and the readings for the week.

Students with disabilities:
The Department of Anthropology is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documental physical disabilities, documented learning disabilities, and documented psychological disabilities. If you have a documented disability, please come see me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and the staff of the Student Services Center to formulate a written plan for appropriate accommodations.

Academic integrity:
Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported for possible further disciplinary sanction.

Statement on Audio and Video Recording: Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by UNR Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.

Texts

Required texts are available for purchase at the ASUN bookstore; other readings for the course will be available on the course web site or on electronic reserve.

Grading

- Class participation = 20%
- Question/comment preparation = 10%
- Laboratory exercises = 50%
- Collections project = 20%

100 points possible in class: Plusses and minus will be given to delineate performance within gross A, B, C and D grade categories (see below). The following table describes this in more detail:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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Meeting Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1. Introduction to the course
Tuesday, January 24 Course overview
Thursday, January 26 What is material culture?


**Week 2. Artifacts of the past and present**

Tuesday, January 31  
Lab 1

Thursday, February 2  
Artifact Analysis


**Week 3. The Prown Approach**

Tuesday, February 7  
Lab 2

Thursday, February 9  
The Prown Approach


**Week 4. The Present as the Past, Burning Man, Part I**

Tuesday, February 14  
Lab 3: *Bring a shoe in a paper bag*

Thursday, February 16  
What is Burning Man and why do people go?

Lee Gilmore and Mark Van Proyen, Ch. 1. Introduction. *Afterburn*.

Lee Gilmore, Fires of the heart: ritual, pilgrimage, and transformation at Burning Man, Ch. 3. *Afterburn*.

**Week 5. Sensory Awareness**

Tuesday, February 21  
Lab 4

Thursday, February 23  
No class

**Week 6. Cooking and Eating**

Tuesday, February 28  
Lab 5: Take home lab

Thursday, March 1  
How people make food


**Week 7. Household things**

Tuesday, March 6  
Lab 6

Thursday, March 8  
Toys and Lava Lamps


**Week 8. Advertising and Consumer Desire**

* Tuesday, March 13  Lab 7

**Week 9. SPRING BREAK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Week 10. Burning Man Material Culture**

* Tuesday, March 27  Lab 8
  Thursday, March 29  Burning Man I

**Week 11. Bodies and Material Culture**

* Tuesday, April 3  Lab 9
  Thursday, April 5  Tattoos

**Week 12. Historical Glass**

* Tuesday, April 10  Lab 10
  Thursday, April 12  Glass in context

**Week 13. Burning Man Material Culture**

* Tuesday, April 17  Lab 11
  Thursday, April 19  Burning Man II
  Kozinets , Robert V. and John F. Sherry, Jr., “Welcome to the Black Rock Café,” *Afterburn*.
  Northrup, JoAnne, “Kaleidoscopic cortege: art cars at Burning Man, and beyond,” *Afterburn*.
Week 14. Lithics
Tuesday, April 24       Lab 12. Lithics.
Thursday, April 26     No class (work on collections project)

Week 15. Collections projects
Tuesday, May 1          Student presentations
Thursday, May 3         Student presentations

Week 16. Collections projects
Tuesday, May 8          Student presentations

Final May 10, 5-7 PM
Collections project due