

ANTH 4205/5205 Wild Cognition
Syllabus

Academic Texts:

Gladwin, T. (1970). *East is a Big Bird*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Hutchins, E. (1995). *Cognition in the Wild*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

Keller, C., & Keller, J. (1996). *Cognition and Tool Use: The Blacksmith at Work*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[These are classics of the cognitive anthropology literature, and will provide an excellent content basis for the course]

Practical texts:

The Foraging Spectrum: Robert Kelley

Ultimate Guide to Wilderness Living: John McPherson and Geri McPherson

Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Rockies: Linda Kershaw

Pre-course reading assignment: All of Gladwin; all of Keller and Keller; Chapter 1 of Hutchins.

Daily Schedule: Many of the activities require extensive physical practice. Thus, each topic includes lecture material as an introduction, but much of the instruction time will be demonstration, followed by individual practice.

The first twelve days will take place either on campus, or at a 'developed' camp site. Contact hours will be 8+ each day.

Day 1

AM: Welcome, Cognition and Lithics Lecture

PM: Stone Knapping/Fire Management

Day 2

AM: Hunter-Gatherer Navigation Lecture/Navigation Exercise

PM: Foraging and Navigation Exercise/Stone Knapping

Day 3

AM: Fire and Human Evolution Lecture/Fire Starting technologies

PM: Fire Starting technology/Stone Knapping

Day 4

AM: Archaeology of Organic Materials Overview/Fire Starting Practical

PM: Cordage Processing and Manufacture/Throwing Stick Practice

Day 5

AM: Containers and Archaeology/Basket and Burn Bowl

PM: Container Making (Baskets and Burn Bowl)

Day 6

AM: Hunting Technology Lecture/Hunting Tech Practical

PM: Atlatl and Bow and Arrow Manufacture/Pitch and Tar manufacture

Break

Day 7

AM: Cooking and Evolution/Food Preparation

PM: Cooking/Fire Maintenance/Grass Blanket Manufacture

Day 8

AM: Evolutionary Psych Lecture/Trapping Technology Overview

PM: Traps and Snares and game sign/Throwing sticks/Stone Knapping

Day 9

AM: Experimental Research and Design Lecture/Stone Knapping

PM: Shelter Construction Practical

Day 10

AM: Art, Creativity and Music Lecture/Shelter Construction continuation

PM: Bone and Wood Tool Working

Day 11

AM: Neanderthal vs Homo Sapien Technology Lecture/Wood working

PM: Hide Processing

Day 12

AM: Welcome to the Stone Age Lecture

PM: Intro to Stone Age Camp

Stone Age Camp

Day 13-Guided Day-

AM: Animal Butchering

PM: Animal Processing

Day 14-21

Experimental Project utilizing participants who will live as Stone-Age humans. Instructors will provide direction and refresher training only when necessary and will step in to manage matters of safety. Students will seek instructor's advice on all matters relating to edible foods and food processing.

Evaluation

Students will produce several written products that will form a partial basis for evaluation. At a minimum these will include, a journal, and a final reflective essay. Because of the nature of the experience, the instructor will be required use more subjective forms of evaluation that will include a student's ability to work cooperatively, take initiative, and think creatively. The instructor will clearly establish these expectations at the beginning of the course.

Graduate students will also be required to write a formal research design, and a summary of results at completion of the course.

Additional Readings:

Gobet, F. (1998). Expert memory: A comparison of four theories. *Cognition*, 66, 115-152.

Malafouris, L. (2008). Beads for a plastic mind: the 'Blind Man's Stick' (BMS) hypothesis and the active nature of material culture. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, 18(3), 401-414.

Rossano, M. (2003). Expertise and the evolution of consciousness. *Cognition*, 89, 207-236.

Rossano, M. (2007). Did meditating make us human? *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, 17(1), 47-58.

Wadley, L. (2010). Were snares and traps used in the Middle Stone Age and does it matter? A review and a case study from Sibudu, South Africa. *Journal of Human Evolution*, 58(2), 179-192.

Wrangham, R. W., Jones, J., Laden, G., Pilbeam, D., & Conklin-Brittain, N. (1999). The raw and the stolen: Cooking and the ecology of human origins. *Current Anthropology*, 40, 567-594

Wynn, T. (2009). Hafted spears and the archaeology of mind. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 106(24), 9544-9545.