

Anthropology 4308 – Readings and Research: Zooarchaeology and Human/Horse Relationships

Fall 2026, Mondays 1:00 – 3:50

Instructor: Dr. Devin Pettigrew, Office: Ferguson 114B

Readings and Research courses are fashioned around topics of interest to a student and professor, in order to accommodate a specific subject not taught in the usual course catalog. The student and professor will decide on the specific topic that will best accommodate the student's desired research and career goals, and on the readings and assignments to be pursued. The student is expected to read assigned material diligently and come prepared to discuss—these are one-on-one seminar style courses, not traditional lectures, so the student is expected to contribute to the discussion. Certain lab or fieldwork assignments and research papers may also be required in these special courses depending on the topic and student's goals.

Student learning outcomes (slos):

- 1) The students will acquire a basic understanding of the subject matter of the determined course and be able to regurgitate said information in a coherent way.
- 2) The students will also demonstrate understanding of theoretical underpinnings that have guided research around their subject, and a self-awareness of their own theoretical position and the implications of that for the questions they ask and methods they pursue.
- 3) The students will be able to formulate new problems in the said subject matter and devise ways to solve them in a professional research setting.

Goals and objectives: In this particular Readings and Research course we will investigate the field of zooarchaeology, develop an understanding of how it is used in archaeology and the theoretical and methodological development of this field, and then apply it to a particular case study—the domestication of horses and human/horse relationships through time as evidenced in the archaeological record. The student will come away from the course with a better understanding of their own career and academic goals associated with this problem and a research paper that will assist development of their academic and professional CV.

Grading: Attendance and participation are mandatory and accounts for 60% of grade. The final 40% of the grade will be based on a final research paper.

CLASS POLICIES AND RESOURCES

TECHNOLOGY

With exception of students with university-documented accommodations and those joining us virtually, **electronic devices with screens, cameras, audio recording or audio playback (e.g., phones, laptops, tablets, earbuds, headphones) are not permitted during class.** For both in class and virtual students, notes should be taken using non-electronic methods. Studies indicate improved comprehension of materials when hand-writing over typing notes. Using a computer in class encourages surfing the internet or other distractions. ***These are also distractions to those around you.*** Failure to keep

technology turned off and put away will result in dismissal from the classroom.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules and regulations. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.

Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu. Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to

engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Using AI generated text on papers and assignments is a form of plagiarism. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of your college degree and higher education overall.

CLASSROOM RESPECT

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Reading and assignment schedule—TBD