

Syllabus and Course Outline

I. Course Title: Perishable Materials

II. Course Prefix and Number: EDU 589

III Credit: 1.0 Graduate credit

IV. Dates/Times:

V. Instructor: Kevin Black, Colorado Historical Society and Colorado Archaeological Society for the Museum of Western Colorado.

VI. Location: See Master Schedule

VII. Course Description:

Perishable Materials is an introduction to an often overlooked classification of artifacts. It provides individuals basic information on the recognition of perishables, cultural usage and alteration, and preservation. Not all the material offered will be applicable to every field situation. It is important to maintain at least a marginal working knowledge for the field experience that does involve perishable materials.

VIII. Course Objectives:

Students will:

- A. Be introduced to perishable materials
 - 1. Definition of perishable materials
 - 2. Importance of perishable materials
 - a. paleoenvironments
 - b. subsistence
 - c. cultural practice
- B. Define and understand perishables as archaeological evidence
 - 1. Non-tool material: fauna & flora
 - 2. unmodified faunal remains
 - a. classification system
 - b. animal classes and uses
 - c. human remains
 - 3. unmodified floral material

- a. classification system
 - b. common materials, cultural uses
4. Culturally altered materials
 - a. methods of alteration
 - b. tools, other manufactured material
- C. Discuss deterioration of perishable materials
 1. Causes of deterioration
 2. Common field problems
- D. Investigate Preservation & Conservation
 1. Principles of conservation
 2. Use of stabilizers
 3. Packaging

IX. Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources:

There are no required texts, but a syllabus, handouts, a glossary, and a comprehensive reading list are provided by the instructor. These materials, together with audiovisual materials and artifacts are used as a basis for instructing the class.

X. Relevant Colorado Content Standards:

XI. Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

1. Attendance: Roll, which is required by the Colorado Historical Society, is taken each day of the course. Attendance is required for college credit.

2. Grading Policy: All Courses are Pass/Fail.

The 13 PAAC classes, of which this is one, are intensive and comprehensive in content. In order to gain credit toward PAAC certification, participants are required to take a final exam and pass it with a grade of at least 70%. Those who do not pass the final exam can attempt to take a second (different) make-up exam which must be passed at a level of at least 70%. Those failing the second exam must repeat the course in its entirety and pass another exam to receive credit.

Most final exams have 40-60 questions and include various forms of assessment including: term definitions; multiple-choice; true-false; short answer; and a single essay question. Detailed

information on all CHS/CAS–PAAC courses can be found on the web site:
www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/programareas/paac/paacindex.htm.

3. Grade Distribution

70-100: Pass

Below 70: Fail

Note: the extensive bibliography is available upon request.