

PREHISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

PURPOSE

The goal of this course is to introduce the student to various forms of architectural analysis used when investigating prehistoric sites in the American Southwest. This course will encompass the goals, methods, and techniques that archaeologists undertake to derive various interpretations of the different architectural components and overall site configurations observed in the prehistoric record. This course will expose the student to both classroom and field situations; thus, both lecture and fieldwork are requisites for completion.

OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define what architecture is.
2. Identify known architectural variability between the three principal culture groups of the American Southwest, the Hohokam, Mogollon, and Anasazi, and variability expressed through time for each culture area.
3. Identify common inferences and analogies employed between the prehistoric archaeological record and historic and modern architectural studies.
4. Understand various scales of analysis when applied to archaeological architectural analysis.
5. Demonstrate the ability to create architectural profiles.
6. Demonstrate the ability to plot plan view maps of various room features and architectural room configurations.
7. Demonstrate the ability to undertake feature and room recordation on appropriate forms.
8. Begin to interpret site growth patterns and interpret spatial analysis for features, rooms, courtyards, plazas, and other site components in terms of architectural configuration.

FORMAT

The course is designed to be presented in 70 hours, with 20 hours of lecture, 30 hours of field analysis/experience, and 20 hours of archaeological field trips to at least three different archaeological sites where architectural variability will be studied. To complete the field analysis portion of the class, it will be necessary for the student to work on two different archaeological sites containing different forms

of architectural expression.

PREREQUISITE

To enroll in the Prehistoric Architectural Analysis class, the student should have completed Prehistory of the Southwest and Crew Member I.

COURSE OUTLINE

- A. Introduction
 1. What is architecture?
 - a. Use of space in world context.
 - How and why people partition space.
 - Why do archaeologists study prehistoric architecture.
 - Various forms of prehistoric Southwest architecture.
- B. Various Materials Used in Architectural Construction
 1. Material variability (a world perspective).
 - a. How people find, create, and use building materials around the world.
 - b. How people reuse available material.
 2. The use of material and space in new world prehistoric architecture.
- C. Architecture and Ethnography
 1. Inferences and analogies of historic and modern architectural units to prehistoric architecture.
 - a. Pueblo architectural analogies.
 - b. Navajo/Apache ethnographic analogies.
 - c. Pima/Papago ethnographic analogies.
 - d. Historic Anglo analogies.
- D. Architectural Variability
 1. Architectural attributes.
 2. Functions of architectural components.
 3. Use of space and architecture in the American Southwest and the development of major Southwestern architectural traditions.
 - a. The early periods.
 - Archaic period architecture.
 - Archaic to ceramic period transition architecture.
 - b. Anasazi architectural variability.
 - c. Mogollon architectural variability.
 - d. Hohokam architectural variability.
- E. Scale of analysis
 1. Differences of scale between features, rooms, components, sites, and site complexes.
 2. Determining what scale or level of analysis is appropriate for particular archaeological problem sets.

F. Recording Prehistoric Architecture

1. Architectural documentation.
 - a. Forms.
 - b. General note-taking.
 - c. Specific architectural documentation.
 - Standard approaches.
 - Computerization.
 - d. Feature recordation.
2. Mapping architectural variability.
 - a. Plan view mapping.
 - b. Architectural profiles.
 - c. Computerized mapping.
3. Photographing architectural variability.
 - a. Feature photography.
 - b. Room photography.
 - c. Site photography.
 - d. Aerial photography.

G. Architectural Interpretation

1. Interpreting site/room function.
 - a. Identifying habitation units.
 - b. Identifying storage units.
 - c. Identifying ceremonial units.
 - d. Identifying multi-functional units.
 - e. Identifying intra-mural versus extra-mural areas.
2. Identifying spatial relationships (between features, rooms, courtyards, plazas, site components).
 - a. Identifying intrusions.
 - b. Identifying superpositioning.
 - c. Identifying disturbance/transformation processes (natural and cultural).
3. Identifying site growth.
 - a. Identification of bonding and abutment patterns.
 - b. Identification of exterior versus interior wall surfaces.
 - c. Identification of superpositioning of architectural components.
 - d. Identification of multiple floor surfaces and the relationships between multiple floor surfaces.
4. Identification of intra-site relationships.
5. Identification of inter-site relationships.
6. Identification of environmental relationships and architectural configurations.

See next page for REFERENCES.

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