

# *The Legacy of Ancient Technology*

**UHON 222-002 | T R | 2:00-3:15 | SHC 8 | 37527**

**Fulfills A&S Group IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Dr. Troy Lovata

This course is focused on the construction, use, and hands-on study of ancient technologies. Understanding the past requires more than knowledge of the dates of momentous events or the names of significant persons. Material culture and evidence of everyday lives are keys to explaining what happened in the past and why people made the choices they did. Ancient technologies set the stage for modern tools and serve as important comparisons to how and why we use technology today. Students in this course will study ancient technology first-hand. They will test and apply what they will learn about how the past worked. Students will construct and experiment with a range of tools used in many different aspects of past people's lives--from grinding corn to crafting stone tools, from throwing spears to grinding corn to casting adobe block. This course will also expose students to issues of both historical and modern resource use, preservation, consumerism and fashion, and our relations to both the larger natural world and the built environment.

## **Readings**

*Flintknapping: Making and Understanding Stone Tools* by John C. Whittaker

## **Requirements**

This is an experiential course. Students will complete a series of hands-on experiments with ancient forms of technology. Experiments will range from fashioning stone tools to throwing atlatls to twisting cordage to making adobe blocks. Students will keep a portfolio chronicling their activities and complete a series of short papers and worksheets that let them to consider how technologies function and the roles they play in both past and present societies. There is a required course fee of \$50.

## **About the Instructor**

Troy Lovata is a tenured, Associate Professor in the University Honors Program. His courses explore our cultural relationship with the world around us and examine our connections to the past. Dr. Lovata holds a Doctorate in Anthropology, with a focus on Archaeology, from The University of Texas.