

Elke ZIMMER, ANTHRO 3908, Aug. 3/79

I would like to see such a course offered on a regular basis, especially for students who plan to specialize in Archaeology or Paleoanthropology and related fields. Possibly the students should be preselected since it is an area of specific specialization.

Being able to work with a practical procedure and learning the manual and mental skill involved in making flint tools allows one to understand to a greater extent what processes were actually involved in manufacturing these implements. Early man obviously had to have a preconceived idea of how to utilize stones and manufacture them into tools. It gives one a greater appreciation and understanding.

The course should continue on the basis it has been presented. Both theory and manual work must be included (sort of 40% Theory - 60% manual) to allow an individual to perceive what was involved as it has been in this course.

The all-day sessions have the benefit of allowing a sort of immersion into this technology. I don't know if sessions based on 3 hrs. a week would provide the same enthusiasm and motivation-- but possibly.

I have greatly benefitted, for it gives me a different understanding. In the future if I, for example, found an artifact, it would allow for better analysis of an eolith and artifact. Also, it allows one to understand the literature that deals with facets of flint working/knapping. These are often found in site reports-- in correlation with artifacts found in sites excavated.

The course should also be somewhat longer and there should be stages. For example:

- I Introduction to Lithic Technology (Prehistoric)
- II Advanced Techniques to Lithic Technology
- III Specific Studies in Lithic Technology

It could probably be a regular course with several hours of theory and lab work a week under supervision of an experienced individual. A big laboratory and closed circuit television is also necessary to provide close-up shots of the flintknappers' demonstrations since not all technologies can be followed by the naked eye.

Co. 29.7.24.2