

**Arky 603: Plants, Sediments, Tools**

Class number 76617

Instructor: Julio Mercader

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Office hrs: Open door policy

Venue: ES 822/811 (lecture/lab respectively)

We. 12:00-2:45pm

**Description**

This course is a lab based practical exercise for the specialized analysis of ethnobotanical collections, sediments, and tools for plant residue. It covers the theoretical and day-to-day detection, removal, and analysis of plant remains in a clean room context including qualitative and quantitative analysis and microscopy of extracted remains. The student is given a choice to write a paper on the analytical procedures learned or contribute to upcoming publication of the materials under analysis.

**Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Process modern plant specimens to extract phytoliths and starches
2. Retrieve phytoliths from sediments
3. Conduct residue plotting and extraction from stone tools

**Requisites**

This is a practical course, and therefore student participation and attendance to all sessions are keys to passing this class. Evaluation will follow these criteria:

Reading (theory)	10%
Laboratory practice	60%
Paper (laboratory report) OR Contribution to publishable paper	30%

NOTE: Because of the practical nature of this course, missing sessions results in credit loss: 5% of the final grade per session missed.

**Grade Scale**

%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade
97-100	A+	87-89	B+	0-79	F
94-96	A	84-86	B		
90-93	A-	80-83	B-		