

## ARCH 2500

## Experimental Archaeology and Ethnoarchaeology

Experimental Archaeology - archaeologists try to replicate how things were done in the past through experimentation.

- Through trial and error process, archaeologists try to figure out how things were done and what variables were important to this process
- Examples
  - Moai statue experiments
  - Bone breakage experiments
  - Flintknapping

Ethnoarchaeology - the study of modern day behaviors and material culture as a means of understanding the process of how the archaeological record is formed.

- Observe modern day behaviors to try to link to archaeological findings
- Ethnographies of material culture
- Examples
  - Observing modern hunter gatherers to understand butchery patterns
  - Observing how modern nomads set up their living spaces to understand prehistoric settlement patterns
  - Observing modern potters to understand the variables that determine how pots are made

In the movie, “Flintknapping”, Bruce Bradley demonstrates how to make stone tools. Provide an example from the movie where Bradley is talking about flintknapping in a way that would be considered processual (culture process), and an example that might be considered reconstruction.

In the movie, “Daughters of the Anasazi”, the Lewis family demonstrates how they make pottery. You are an ethnoarchaeologist studying pottery manufacture. Give an example of the type of information you could learn from these potters that would be used in processual archaeology. Come up with an example of how the information gained from studying these potters would be used by a culture reconstructionist.