Your paper must be no longer than 20 pages (excluding references and figures), double spaced throughout, and using a 12pt font with 1” margins. You MUST follow the citation and referencing style given in the Society of American Archaeology Style Guide (http://www.saa.org/Publications/StyleGuide/styframe.html).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You will receive a score of zero on the paper if you are found to have plagiarized any part of your paper and your case will be turned over to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Please see the Dean of Students web page for more information.

You may choose one of the following topics for your research paper or devise an original paper topic in consultation with Professor Brantingham.

1. Analysis of stone raw material procurement and transport is generally dependent upon knowing where stone raw materials come from. Survey the variety of techniques used to identify the source locations of stone raw materials. How accurate and precise are these techniques? What can be done to analyze stone raw material procurement if the source locations of materials are not known?

2. Stone core technologies are characterized by a series of different technological modes including Mode I – Oldowan, Mode II – Acheulian, Mode III – Levallois/Middle Paleolithic, Mode IV — Upper Paleolithic blade, and Mode V – Microlithic. Compare and contrast the life histories of two of these technological modes. Are these technological modes mutually exclusive, or are their life histories overlapping in their characteristics?

3. It is surprisingly difficult to figure out what stone tools were actually used for. Survey the current status of lithic use wear analysis and make a determination about whether it works or not.

4. Debate continues as to whether retouched stone tools form discrete types that are reflective of the cultural norms of the societies that produced them, or whether the tool types observed by archeologists are merely the last stages of dynamic tool reduction processes not related to discrete cultural norms. Weigh in on this debate with the analysis of a particular class of stone tool (e.g., Middle Paleolithic scrapers, Paleoindian projectile points). Which position is correct? Or are both possibly correct some of the time?

5. Stone tools are discarded for a range of reasons including just simply loss. Using one or more stone technological types, discuss the range of possibilities for how and why tools may be discarded. Analyze how these different possibilities effect our understanding of other stone tool life history stages. Hint: Look at work by Mike Schiffer (1987) on archaeological site formation processes.

6. Stone tools are transformed by natural geological forces once those items have become part of the archaeological record. Discuss how archaeologists determine what geological forces have disturbed a site and how sever that disturbance might be. Examine one or more case studies if you like.