

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

---

1-2004

### ANTH 595.01: Seminar in Power, Prestige, and Things

John E. Douglas

*University of Montana - Missoula*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Douglas, John E., "ANTH 595.01: Seminar in Power, Prestige, and Things" (2004). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 1301.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/1301>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

# Seminar in Power, Prestige, and Things

spring 2004

*Professor:* **John Douglas**; Office: Social Sciences 233; Office hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs 1-2, Friday 11-12, or by appointment; Tel: 243-4246; email: [John.Douglas@umontana.edu](mailto:John.Douglas@umontana.edu).

*Description:* This seminar engages the social concepts of power, inequality, prestige, and leadership as seen in the archaeological record. Most readings in the seminar consider how objects, both small (artifacts) and large (monuments), create, mediate, and mark power and prestige, and how archaeologists can approach interpretation of power and prestige from the archaeological record. The processes by which different forms of inequality, prestige, and leadership emerge in societies are also considered through a variety of theoretical approaches, including: conflict theories, benefit theories, prestige economy models, heterarchy, network and corporate systems of power, etc.

The examples and study cases considered in the seminar come from around the world and from many different time periods. In the final portion of the course, data and analysis concerning societies in the prehistoric southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico during the period from A.D. 900 to 1450 are used as an extended case example.

*Texts and readings:* Mills Barbara J (editor), *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, U of Arizona Press, Tucson.

All other readings are on reserve at the Mansfield Library. Many of these articles are also available through the Library's electronic journal subscriptions, and can be read on screen or printed. These can be found at <http://weblib.lib.umt.edu/ejrn/ejrn.html>, either using a campus computer, or, after registration, your home computer.

*Course requirements:*

- A. You are expected to be a *participant*, joining in the discussion by providing thoughtful questions, opinions, and critique.
- B. You will lead the discussion for about four of the assigned readings. This requires:
  1. presenting any needed background or context;
  2. a brief summary of the arguments and approach;
  3. an identification of the school of thought and/or of any untested assumptions the author(s) make(s);
  4. the kinds of evidence the that the author(s) use(s), and the credibility of the evidence for the conclusions that are made;
  5. your perceptions of the strengths, weaknesses, and importance of the paper. You may pose questions and engage the other seminar participants as part of the presentation.
- C. You must write three essays, each 1,000 to 1,500 words (about 4-6 pages of standard double-spaced text) plus references. The due dates for these assignments are spaced approximately evenly in the semester, and must be submitted on the required date for full credit (except under extraordinary circumstances and with approval of the instructor). In general, these essays will call on you to engage the readings and discussions in a systematic and cogent manner, and can involve the use of a limited number of sources beyond those discussed in class. More specific

information on each assignment will be given in class approximately two weeks before the assignment is due.

Grades are based on the following formula: Class participation counts for 25%; seminar presentations counts for 30%; and papers counts for 45%. Please note that February 13 is the last day to add or drop a course without penalty, and March 9 is the last day to add, drop, or change grading option with signatures and fees.

## Reading List and Schedule

### January 29, introduction

### February 5, neoevolution and its demise

Flannery 1972\*

Peebles and Kus 1977\*

Feinman and Neizel 1984

### February 12, shopping for a replacement

Yoffee 1993

Wolf 1990

Brumfiel 1992

Paynter 1989\*

### February 19, new models

Blanton et al. 1996\*

DeMarrais et al. 1996\*

Hayden 1995

Crumley 1987, 1995

### February 26, critical examples

Arnold 1996

Wiessner 2002\*

### March 4, feasts, rituals, and elites (first paper due)

Blitz 1993\*

Potter 2000\*

Lucero 2003\*

Spielmann 2002\*

### March 11, production and exchange

Costin 1998

Lass 1998

Muller 1999

Trubitt 2000\*

### March 18, commodities and resistance

Miller 1995\*

Henry 1991

Orser 1992

Klein 1991

Wurst and McGuire 1999\*

### March 25, monuments and power

Trigger 1990\*

Nelson 1996\*

Leone 1984

*April 1, spring break, no class*

### April 8, regional systems in Northwest Mexico/Southwest US (second paper due)

Mills 2002

Bayman 2001

Whalen and Minnis 2001

**April 15, conceptualizing power in the Southwest**

Upham and Plog 1986

McGuire and Saitta 1996\*

Rautman 1997\*

Mills 2000\*\*

**April 22, power and leadership in the Southwest, Part 1**

Wills 2000\*\*

Graves and Spielmann 2000\*\*

Potter and Perry 2000\*\*

Scott 2000\*\*

**April 29, power and leadership in the Southwest, Part 2**

Kintigh 2000\*\*

Elson and Abbott 2000\*\*

Harry and Bayman 2000\*\*

Fish and Fish 2000\*\*

**May 6, power and leadership in the Southwest, Part 3**

Whalen and Minnis 2000\*\*

Kohler, Van Pelt, and Yap 2000\*\*

Feinman 2000\*\*

Douglas 2000

**May 10, Monday, finals week, by 5:00 P.M., third paper due**

**May 13, Thursday, finals period, 3:20-5:20, discussion and summary**

Hegmon 2003\*\*

**\*Available through UM electronic journals**

**\*\*Chapter in required text**

## Bibliography

Arnold, Jeanne E.

1996 Archaeology of Complex Hunter-gatherers. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 3(2):77-126.

Bayman, James M.

2001 The Hohokam of Southwest North America. *Journal of World Prehistory* 15(3):257-311.

Blanton, Richard E., Gary M. Feinman, Stephen A. Kowalewski, and Peter N. Peregrine

1996 A Dual-Processual Theory for the Evolution of Mesoamerican Civilization. *Current Anthropology* 37(1):1-14.

Blitz, John H.

1993 Big Pots for Big Shots: Feasting and Storage in a Mississippian Community. *American Antiquity* 58(1):80-96.

Brumfiel, Elizabeth M.

1992 Distinguished Lecture in Archeology: Breaking and Entering the Ecosystem-- Gender, Class, and Faction Steal the Show. *American Anthropologist* 94(3):551-567.

Costin, Cathy Lynne

1998 Housewives, Chosen Women, Skilled Men: Cloth Production and Social Identity in the Late Prehispanic Andes. In *Craft and Social Identity*, edited by Cathy Lynne Costin and Rita P. Wright, pp. 123-141. Archeological Papers of the AAA, No. 8, Washington.

Crumley, Carole L.

1987 A Dialectical Critique of Hierarchy. In *Power Relations and State Formation*, edited by Thomas C. Patterson and Christine W. Gailey, pp. 155-169. Sheffield Publishing Company, Salem.

1995 Heterarchy and the Analysis of Complex Societies. In *Heterarchy and the Analysis of Complex Societies*, edited by Robert M. Ehrenreich, Carole L. Crumley, and Janet E. Levy, pp. 1-5. Archeological Papers of the AAA, No. 6, Washington.

DeMarrais, Elizabeth, Luis Jaime Castillo, and Timothy Earle

1996 Ideology, Materialization, and Power Strategies. *Current Anthropology* 37(1):15-31.

Douglas, John E.

2000 Exchanges, Assumptions, and Mortuary Goods in Pre-Paqimé Chihuahua, Mexico. In *The Archaeology of Regional Interaction*, edited by Michelle Hegmon, pp. 189-208. University Press of Colorado, Boulder.

Elson, Mark D., and David R. Abbott

2000 Organizational Variability in Platform Mound-building Groups of the American Southwest. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 207-224. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Feinman, Gary M.

2000 Dual-processual Theory and Social Formations in the Southwest. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 3-18. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Feinman, Gary M., and Jill Neitzel

1984 Too Many Types: an Overview of Prestate Societies in the Americas. In *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory, Vol. 7*, edited by Michael B. Schiffer, pp. 39-102. Academic Press, New York.

Fish, Suzanne K., and Paul R. Fish

2000 The Institutional Contexts of Hohokam Complexity and Inequality. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 154-167. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Flannery, Kent V.

1972 The Cultural Evolution of Civilizations. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 3:399-426.

Graves, William M., and Katherine A. Spielmann

2000 Leadership, Long-Distance Exchange, and Feasting in the Protohistoric Rio Grande. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 45-59. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Harry, Karen G., and James M. Bayman

2000 Leadership Strategies Among the Classic Period Hohokam: A Case Study. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 136-153. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Hayden, Brian

1995 Pathways to Power: Principles for Creating Socioeconomic Inequalities. In *Foundations of Social Inequality*, edited by T. Douglas Price and Gary M. Feinman, pp. 15-86. Plenum Press,

New York.

Hegmon, Michelle

2003 Setting Theoretical Egos Aside: Issues and Theory in North American Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 68(2):213-243.

Henry, Susan L.

1991 Consumers, Commodities, and Choices: a General Model of Consumer Behavior. *Historical Archaeology* 25(2):3-14.

Kintigh, Keith W.

2000 Leadership Strategies in Protohistoric Zuni Towns. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 95-117. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Klein, Terry H.

1991 Nineteenth-century Ceramics and Models of Consumer Behavior. *Historical Archaeology* 25(2):77-91.

Kohler, Timothy A., Matthew W. Van Pelt, and Lorene Y. L. Yap

2000 Reciprocity and its Limits: Considerations for a Study of the Prehispanic Pueblo World. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 169-180. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Lass, Barbara

1998 Crafts, Chiefs, and Commoners: Production and Control in Precontact Hawai'i. In *Craft and Social Identity*, edited by Cathy Lynne Costin and Rita P. Wright, pp. 19-30. Archeological Papers of the AAA, No. 8, Washington.

Leone, Mark P.

1984 Interpreting Ideology in Historical Archaeology: Using the Rules of Perspective in the William Paca Garden in Annapolis, Maryland. In *Ideology, Power and Prehistory*, edited by Daniel Miller and Christopher Tilley, pp. 25-35. Cambridge Press, Cambridge.

Lucero, Lisa J.

2003 The Politics of Ritual: The Emergence of Classic Maya Rulers. *Current Anthropology* 44(4):523-558.

McGuire, Randall H., Saitta, Dean

1996 Although They Have Petty Captains, They Obey Them Badly: The Dialectics of Prehispanic Western Pueblo Social Organization. *American Antiquity* 61(2):197-216.

Miller, Daniel

1995 Consumption and Commodities. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:141-161.

Mills, Barbara J.

2000 Alternative Models, Alternative Strategies: Leadership in the Prehispanic Southwest. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 3-18. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

2002 Recent Research on Chaco: Changing Views on Economy, Ritual, and Society. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 10(1):65-117.

Muller, Jon

1999 Southeastern Interaction and Integration. In *Great Towns and Regional Politics in the Prehistoric American Southwest and Southeast*, edited by Jill E. Neitzel, pp. 143-158. University

of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Nelson, Ben A.

1996 Complexity, Hierarchy, and Scale: a Controlled Comparison Between Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, and La Quemada, Zacatecas. *American Antiquity* 60(4):597-614.

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

1992 Beneath the Material Surface of Things: Commodities, Artifacts, and Slave Plantations. *Historical Archaeology* 26(3):95-104.

Paynter, Robert

1989 The Archaeology of Equality and Inequality. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42:369-399.

Peebles, Christopher S., and Susan M. Kus

1977 Some Archaeological Correlates of Ranked Society. *American Antiquity* 42(3):421-448.

Potter, James M.

2000 Pots, Parties, and Politics: Communal Feasting in the American Southwest. *American Antiquity* 65(3):471-492.

Potter, James M., and Elizabeth M. Perry

2000 Ritual as a Power Resource in the American Southwest. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 60-78. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Rautman, Alison E.

1998 Hierarchy and Heterarchy in the American Southwest: a Comment on McGuire and Saitta. *American Antiquity* 63(2):325-333.

Sebastian, Lynne

1991 Sociopolitical Complexity and the Chaco System. In *Chaco and Hohokam: Prehistoric Regional Systems in the American Southwest*, edited by Crown, Patricia L., and W. James Judge, pp. 109-134. School of American Research Press, Santa Fe.

Spielmann, Katherine A.

2002 Feasting, Craft Specialization, and the Ritual Mode of Production in Small-Scale Societies. *American Anthropologist* 104(1):195-207.

Trigger, Bruce G.

1990 Monumental Architecture: a Thermodynamic Explanation of Symbolic Behaviour. *World Archaeology* 22(2):119-132.

Trubitt, Mary Beth D.

2000 Mound Building and Prestige Goods Exchange: Changing Strategies in the Cahokia Chiefdom. *American Antiquity* 65(4):669-690.

Upham, Steadman, and Fred Plog

1986 The Interpretation of Prehistoric Political Complexity in the Central and Northern Southwest: Toward a Mending of Models. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 13:223-231.

Van Keuren, Scott

2000 Ceramic Decoration as Power: Late Prehistoric Design Change in East-central Arizona. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 79-94. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Whalen, Michael E., and Paul E. Minnis

2000 Leadership at Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 168-179. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

2001 The Casas Grandes Regional System: A Late Prehistoric Polity of Northwestern Mexico. *Journal of World Prehistory* 15(3):313-364.

Wiessner, Polly

2002 The Vines of Complexity: Egalitarian Structures and the Institutionalization of Inequality Among the Enga. *Current Anthropology* 43(2):233-269.

Wills, W. H.

2000 Political Leadership and the Construction of Chacoan Great Houses, A.D. 1020-1140. In *Alternative Leadership Strategies in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Barbara J. Mills, pp. 19-44. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Wolf, Eric R.

1990 Distinguished Lecture: Facing Power -- Old Insights, New Questions. *American Anthropologist* 92(3):586-597.

Wurst, LouAnn, and Randall H. McGuire

1999 Immaculate Consumption: A Critique of the "Shop Till you Drop" School of Human Behavior. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 3(3):191-199.

Yoffee, Norman

1993 Too Many Chiefs? (or Safe Texts for the '90s). In *Archaeological Theory: Who Sets the Agenda?*, edited by Norman Yoffee and Andrew Sherratt, pp. 60-78. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

**The following books are on reserve for this class:**

Dietler, Michael, and Brian Hayden.

2001 *Feasts: Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives on Food, Politics, and Power*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington.

Miller, Daniel, and Christopher Tilley

1984 *Ideology, Power and Prehistory*. Cambridge Press, Cambridge.

Neitzel, Jill E.

1999 *Great Towns and Regional Polities in the Prehistoric American Southwest and Southeast*. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Price, T. Douglas, and Gary M. Feinman

1995 *Foundations of Social Inequality*. Plenum Press, New York.