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ANTH 595.01: Seminar in Power, Prestige, and Things

John E. Douglas

University of Montana - Missoula

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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.

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**

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