

1-2006

## ANTH 456.01: Historical Archaeology

Kelly J. Dixon

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [kelly.dixon@umontana.edu](mailto:kelly.dixon@umontana.edu)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Dixon, Kelly J., "ANTH 456.01: Historical Archaeology" (2006). *Syllabi*. 1317.  
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/1317>

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

ANTHROPOLOGY 456

# Historical Archaeology

SPRING 2006

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 11:10 TO 12:00 PM, LA 106

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kelly J. Dixon

Office: Social Sciences Building, Room 232  
Telephone: 406.243.2450  
Email: kelly.dixon@mso.umt.edu  
Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00 pm and by Appointment

---

**Historical Archaeology** is the study of post-prehistoric human cultures using physical remains, historical records, and a range of multidisciplinary techniques. Sometimes this discipline is referred to as “Historic Sites Archaeology.”

The purpose of this course is to demonstrate how historic archaeological remains, methods, and theories can be used to understand and interpret the recent past.

---

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. James Deetz, *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life* (Anchor Books, 1996).
2. Charles E. Orser, Jr. *Historical Archaeology* (HarperCollins, 2004).

### OPTIONAL TEXTBOOKS (REQUIRED FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS):

1. Anne-Marie Cantwell and Diana diZeraga Wall (2001) *Unearthing Gotham: The Archaeology of New York City*, Yale University Press.
2. Leland Ferguson (2002) *Uncommon Ground: Archaeology and Early African America, 1650-1800*. Smithsonian Institution Press.
3. Donald L. Hardesty (1997) *Archaeology of the Donner Party*, University of Nevada Press.
4. To be announced.

### COURSE STRUCTURE:

This course meets for 50 minutes, three days a week, throughout the semester. Class meetings will include lectures, in-class exercises, films, and visits to lab and archive facilities. Students may be asked to participate in class by sharing their ideas with the rest of the class in informal discussions. Throughout the semester, I may assign readings or handouts not listed in this syllabus; such items will provide you with the opportunity to examine more specific subjects in Historical Archaeology than those outlined in the required texts.

**GRADING POLICY:**

Course grades will be based upon student performance on three examinations and a series of in-class exercises. Graduate students will be responsible for all of the above *and* book reviews associated with the optional readings.

**POINTS PER ASSIGNMENT:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Exam*	50 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Exam*	50 points
Final Exam/Paper*	100 points
In-class exercises	100 points
<hr/>	
TOTAL	400 points
4 Book Reviews (Graduate Students Only)	200 points
GRADUATE STUDENT TOTAL	600 points

I will assign +/- grades for this course and final grades will be based upon the following average scores for the exams, in-class exercises, and graduate student book reviews: A (100-95), A- (94-90), B+ (89-88), B (87-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-63), D- (62-60), F (59 or less).

\* Make-up exams will be given ONLY in cases of verified and unavoidable emergencies. You must notify me IN ADVANCE if you are unable to take the regularly scheduled exam.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance will be taken during each class and will help make decisions about a student's final grade in borderline cases. Also, the in-class exercises require attendance to get full points.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

The Department of Anthropology is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documented learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to formulate a plan for accommodations. Please contact Jim Marks in DSS (243.2373, Lommasson Center 154) for more information.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<b>Week 1</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
January 23	(M) Syllabus Handout Class Assignment for the week:	Read all of Deetz <i>In Small Things Forgotten</i>
January 25	(W) NO CLASS MEETING – read your Deetz book!	
January 27	(F) Archives Visit? Fourth floor of the Library	
<b>Week 2: What is Historical Archaeology?</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
January 30	Course Outline, Intro to Historical Archaeology	Orser (Chapter 1)
February 1	What is Historical Archaeology?	Orser (Chapter 2)
February 3	Types of Historical Archaeological Sites	Orser (Chapter 3)
<b>Week 3: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
February 6	Artifacts and Material Culture: Gravestone Art	Review Deetz (pp. 89-124)
February 8	Using Artifacts to Interpret the Past	Orser (Chapter 4)
February 10	Using Artifacts to Interpret the Past	Review Deetz (pp. 165-186)
<b>Week 4: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
February 13	How to Get a Date; Time and Space	Orser (Chapter 5)
February 15	Pre-fieldwork: Historical Research	Orser (Chapter 7, pp. 171-184)
February 17	Historical Research in the Library at the U of M	
<b>GRAD STUDENTS: 1<sup>st</sup> BOOK REVIEW DUE February 17 (Cantwell &amp; Wall's <i>Unearthing Gotham</i>)</b>		
<b>Week 5: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
February 20	NO CLASS – Washington-Lincoln Birthday	
February 22	Montana Topics: Coloma Ghost Town Overview	to be announced
February 24	Montana Topics: Battle of the Little Bighorn	to be announced
<b>Week 6: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
February 27	Architecture as Artifact?	Orser (pp. 184-190); review Deetz (pp. 125-164)
March 1	X-marks the Spot: Survey and Location	Orser (Chapter 6)
March 3	X-marks the Spot: Survey and Location, cont'd	
<b>Week 7: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
March 6	Field and Laboratory Work	Orser (Chapter 8)
March 8	Artifact Curation & Artifact Databases	
March 10	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mid-Term</b>	
<b>Week 8: Explanation in Historical Archaeology</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
March 13	Theoretical Paradigms	Orser (Chapter 9)
March 15	History of Theoretical Explanation in Historical Archaeology	
March 17	How is Theory Reflected in Historical Archaeological Research?	
<b>Week 9: Historical Archaeology - Globalization and Social Groups</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
March 20	WESTERN TOPICS: The Donner Party	
<b>GRAD STUDENTS: 2<sup>nd</sup> BOOK REVIEW DUE March 20 (Hardesty's <i>Archaeology of the Donner Party</i>)</b>		
March 22	Globalization and the Archaeology of Frontiers	Orser (Chapter 11)
March 24	People Without History	Review Deetz (pp. 187-211)
<b>Week 10:</b>		
March 26		
March 28	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	

March 30

<b>Week 11: Historical Archaeology – Social Groups</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
April 3	Class, Capitalism, and Culture Change	Orser (Chapter 10)
April 5	Gender and Artifact Interpretation; Gender and Forensic Science	
April 7	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Mid-Term</b>	

<b>Week 12: Historical Archaeology and Social Groups</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
April 10	Ethnicity and Race	review Orser (pp. 251-261)
April 12	African American Archaeology	review Deetz (pp. 212-252)
April 14	African American Archaeology	

<b>Week 13: Historical Archaeology and Social Groups</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
April 17	African Burial Ground in Manhattan	
<b>GRAD STUDENTS: 3<sup>rd</sup> BOOK REVIEW DUE November 8 (Ferguson's <i>Uncommon Ground</i>)</b>		
April 19	Asian American Archaeology	
April 21	Asian American Material Culture	to be announced

\*\* Discuss final exams/final projects

<b>Week 14: Historical Archaeology and the American West</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
April 24	Overseas Chinese (Eastern Sierras and/or western Montana)	
April 26	Boomtown Saloons in an Urban Archaeology Setting	
April 28	Topic to be announced	

<b>Week 15: Historical Archaeology and the American West</b>		<b>Assigned Readings</b>
May 1	Underwater Archaeology	
<b>GRAD STUDENTS: 4<sup>th</sup> BOOK REVIEW DUE April 24</b>		
<b>Grad students present books to class</b>		
May 3	Landscape Archaeology and/or Industrial Archaeology	to be announced
May 5	Assessing Site Significance	Orser (Chapter 12)

---

May 12 (F) **Final Exam Time Slot: 10:10-12:10**