

1-2006

ANTH 456.01: Historical Archaeology

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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 st Exam* | 50 points |
| 2 nd 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:

| Week 1 | | Assigned Readings |
|---|--|--|
| 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 | |
| Week 2: What is Historical Archaeology? | | Assigned Readings |
| 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) |
| Week 3: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology | | Assigned Readings |
| 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) |
| Week 4: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology | | Assigned Readings |
| 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 | |
| GRAD STUDENTS: 1st BOOK REVIEW DUE February 17 (Cantwell & Wall's <i>Unearthing Gotham</i>) | | |
| Week 5: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology | | Assigned Readings |
| 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 |
| Week 6: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology | | Assigned Readings |
| 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 | |
| Week 7: Research Methods in Historical Archaeology | | Assigned Readings |
| March 6 | Field and Laboratory Work | Orser (Chapter 8) |
| March 8 | Artifact Curation & Artifact Databases | |
| March 10 | 1st Mid-Term | |
| Week 8: Explanation in Historical Archaeology | | Assigned Readings |
| 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? | |
| Week 9: Historical Archaeology - Globalization and Social Groups | | Assigned Readings |
| March 20 | WESTERN TOPICS: The Donner Party | |
| GRAD STUDENTS: 2nd BOOK REVIEW DUE March 20 (Hardesty's <i>Archaeology of the Donner Party</i>) | | |
| March 22 | Globalization and the Archaeology of Frontiers | Orser (Chapter 11) |
| March 24 | People Without History | Review Deetz (pp. 187-211) |
| Week 10: | | |
| March 26 | | |
| March 28 | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK | |

March 30

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

| Week 12: Historical Archaeology and Social Groups | | Assigned Readings |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 | |

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

** Discuss final exams/final projects

| Week 14: Historical Archaeology and the American West | | Assigned Readings |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| 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 | |

| Week 15: Historical Archaeology and the American West | | Assigned Readings |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| May 1 | Underwater Archaeology | |
| GRAD STUDENTS: 4th BOOK REVIEW DUE April 24 | | |
| Grad students present books to class | | |
| 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**