

CLASSIC READINGS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY

The agenda and conceptual apparatus of contemporary archaeological thought rests squarely upon the discipline's early intellectual foundations. These foundations are inextricably tied up with the complex emergence of both historical and anthropological theory as archaeology has long navigated the waters between these disciplinary poles. This seminar will examine the roots of archaeological thought and practice in relation to both theories of history (and the peculiar intellectual status of the "prehistoric") and "culture" (as part of the field's move toward anthropology during the 20th century). We will read recent analyses of archaeology's intellectual roots alongside classic writings, working from the early Renaissance explorations of past material culture through Walter W. Taylor's polemical study of the discipline in 1948. Through these readings we will chart the development of archaeological modes of thought from antiquarian aestheticism to culture-history and mid-century functionalism. (Prerequisites: none; Cap: 20)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to submit three 8-10 page essays during the term on assigned topics. Topics will be given out in class approximately one week prior to the due date. Students will also be required to serve as presenters/discussion leaders in class for an assigned topic. These assignments will be given out during the first week of class. Lastly, class participation will be central to success in the course. All students will be expected to join in the discussions and share their thoughts on the texts.

TEXTS

The following texts have been ordered from the Seminary Coop Bookstore. The remaining required readings are available electronically through the course site at <http://chalk.uchicago.edu>. All readings for the week **must** be completed by the designated meeting.

Barkan, L.

1999 *Unearthing the Past: Archaeology and Aesthetics in the Making of Renaissance Culture*. Yale University Press, New Haven.

Kehoe, A. B.

1998 *The Land of Prehistory*. Routledge, New York.

Marchand, S. L.

1996 *Down from Olympus: Archaeology and Philhellenism in Germany, 1750-1970*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J.

Taylor, W. W.

1983 [1948] *A Study of Archaeology*. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale.

Trigger, B.

1989 *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSIONS AND READINGS

Introduction to Archaeological Theory: Between History and Anthropology

Jan. 3

Archaeology and the Historical Imagination

Jan. 8/10.

Stanford, M.

1998 *An Introduction to the Philosophy of History*. Blackwell, Oxford. Ch. 1-3

Archaeology and Aesthetics I: The Renaissance

Jan. 15.

Barkan, L.

1999 *Unearthing the Past: Archaeology and Aesthetics in the Making of Renaissance Culture*. Yale University Press, New Haven. Introduction and Ch. 1.

Jan 17.

Barkan, Ch. 2-3

Archaeology and Aesthetics II: Humanism and Science in the 19th Century

Jan. 22.

Marchand, S. L.

1996 *Down from Olympus: Archaeology and Philhellenism in Germany, 1750-1970*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. Ch. 1, 3.

Jan 24.

Marchand, Ch. 5

Kehoe, A. B.

1998 *The Land of Prehistory*. Routledge, New York. Ch. 1.

*******Paper 1 Due January 28 by 5pm*******

Shifting Histories: Prehistory and Biblical Archaeology

Jan 29.

Kehoe, Ch. 2-3

Jan 31.

Kuklick, B.

1996 *Puritans in Babylon: The Ancient Near East and American Intellectual Life, 1880-1930*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. Ch. 5, 7, 9.

Victorians, Speculative Histories and Nation Building

Feb. 5.

Daniel, G. E. and C. Renfrew

1988 *The Idea of Prehistory*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.
Pp. 41-78.

Feb 7.

Willey, G. R. and J. A. Sabloff

1980 *A History of American Archaeology*. Thames and Hudson, London. Ch. 2-3.

Archaeology Toward Culture

Feb. 12.

Benedict, R.

1934 *Patterns of Culture*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. Pp. 1-56, 223-250.

Feb 14.

Kehoe, A. B.

1998 *The Land of Prehistory*. Routledge, New York. Ch. 5

Kidder, A. V.

2000 [1924] *An Introduction to the Study of Southwestern Archaeology, with a preliminary account of the excavations at Pecos*. Yale University Press, New Haven. Introduction and "Pueblo Ruins"

*******Paper 2 Due February 18 by 5pm*******

Movements toward the Modern: Marxism and Diffusionism

Feb. 19.

Daniel, G. E. and C. Renfrew

1988 *The Idea of Prehistory*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.
Pp. 79-114.

Trigger, B.

1989 *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Ch. 5

Feb 21.

Childe, V. G.

1951 *Social Evolution*. Schuman, New York. Pp. 1-71

Economy and Ecology in a New Functionalism

Feb 26.

Clark, G.

- 1972 The Economic Approach to Prehistory. In *Contemporary Archaeology*, edited by M. Leone, pp. 62-77. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale.

Trigger, B.

- 1989 *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Ch. 7

Feb. 28.

Steward, J.

- 1972 *Theory of Culture Change*. University of Illinois Press, Urbana. Pp. 9-42, 78-97

The Critique of Culture-History

March 5.

Kehoe, A. B.

- 1998 *The Land of Prehistory*. Routledge, New York. Ch. 6

Taylor, W. W.

- 1983 [1948] *A Study of Archaeology*. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale. Pp. 23-42, 93-110, 150-179.

*****Paper 3 Due March 12 by 5pm*****