

ADAM T. SMITH
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS 8:30-11 AM

GEOFF EMBERLING
OFFICE HOURS: BY APPT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO POLITICAL LIFE

SPRING QUARTER 2009
ANTHROPOLOGY 587
THURSDAYS 1:30-4:20

This seminar examines archaeological approaches to political life from the Cold War debates over the origins of the state to contemporary descriptions of ideology, order, and world systems. Along the way we will consider both the impact of influential strands of political theory upon archaeology and the reverberation of archaeological research upon contemporary studies of political transformations. Our focus will be on the central issues orienting political archaeology, including: contemporary theories of the emergence of early complex polities, critiques and counter-critiques of social evolutionism, ongoing debates over the sufficiency, autonomy, and identity of the State, and emerging criticisms of classical approaches to ideology, authority, and community. Readings will draw broadly from cases in both the Old and New Worlds in order to provide a foundation for critical comparison. We will engage with theory from both within archaeology and outside it in order to establish the broad inter-disciplinary parameters for investigations of political life. We will also consider the role of archaeology within contemporary visions of political action.

TEXTS:

The readings for this class are available through Chalk.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be required to complete a term paper (due **June 12**) and lead in-class discussions of assigned texts. The term paper will ideally focus on an archaeological case-study, employing elements of general theory to extend contemporary thinking regarding political life in a given region. Outlines for the term paper are due in class during week 5 to be followed by joint meetings with both instructors that will be scheduled for week 6.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

WEEK I: INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS AN ARCHAEOLOGY OF POLITICAL LIFE?

WEEK II: WHAT IS POLITICAL LIFE?

Aristotle

1988 [ca. 330B.C.] *The Politics*. Penguin Books, London. Book I.i-ii, III.vi-xiii.

Fortes, M. and E. E. Evans-Pritchard

1940 *African Political Systems*. Oxford University Press, London. Preface and Introduction.

Foucault, M.

1979 On Governmentality. *Ideology and Consciousness* 6:5-21.

Rousseau, J.-J.

1978 [1762] *The Social Contract*. St. Martin's, New York. Book I all, Book III.1-7

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND

Hobbes, T.

1991 [1651] *Leviathan*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Ibn Khaldun

1967 [1377] *Muqaddimah (An Introduction to History)*, trans. F. Rosenthal. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Locke, J.

1970 [1689] *Two Treatises of Government*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Machiavelli, N.

1998 [1532] *The Prince*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Marx, K. and F. Engels

1967 [1845] *The Communist Manifesto*. Translated by A. J. P. Taylor. Penguin, Harmondsworth.

Weber, M.

1984 Legitimacy, Politics, and the State. In *Legitimacy and the State*, edited by W. Connolly, pp. 32-62. Basil Blackwell, Oxford.

WEEK III: ON THE ORIGINS OF POLITICAL LIFE: CHIEFDOMS AND THEIR CRITICS

Earle, T.

1997 *How Chiefs Come to Power*. Stanford University Press, Stanford. Ch. 2 (pp. 17-66).

Pauketat, T. R.

2007 *Chiefdoms and Other Archaeological Delusions*. AltaMira Press, Lanham. Chs 2-3 (pp. 31-79).

Stein, G.

1994 Economy, Ritual, and Power in 'Ubaid Mesopotamia. In *Chiefdoms and Early States in the Near East: The Organizational Dynamics of*

Complexity, edited by G. Stein and M. Rothman, pp. 35-46. Prehistory Press, Madison.

Wright, H. T.

- 1994 Prestate Political Formations. In *Chiefdoms and Early States in the Near East: The Organizational Dynamics of Complexity*, edited by G. Stein and M. Rothman, pp. 67-84. Prehistory Press, Madison.

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND

Carneiro, R.

- 1981 The Chiefdom as Precursor of the State. In *The Transition to Statehood in the New World*, edited by G. D. Jones and R. Kautz, pp. 37-79. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Earle, T.

- 1987 Chiefdoms in Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Perspective. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 16:279-308.

Sahlins, M.

- 1972 *Stone Age Economics*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
1995 *How "Natives" Think: About Captain Cook, For Example*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Yoffee, N.

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

WEEK IV: POLITICAL LIFE: THE STATE AND ITS CRITICS

Abrams, P.

- 1988 Notes on the Difficulty of Studying the State (1977). *Journal of Historical Sociology* 1(1):58-89.

Adams, R. M.

- 1981 *Heartland of Cities: Surveys of Ancient Settlement and Land Use on the Central Floodplains of the Euphrates*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. pp. 76-81.

Scott, J. C.

- 1998 *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press, New Haven. Ch. 1 (pp. 11-52).

Smith, A. T.

- 2003 *The Political Landscape: Constellations of Authority in Early Complex Polities*. Ch. 2 (pp. 78-111).

Wright, H.

- 1977 Recent Research on the Origin of the State. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 6:379-397.

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND

Bourdieu, P.

- 1999 Rethinking the State: Genesis and Structure of the Bureaucratic Field. In *State/Culture: State Formation after the Cultural Turn*, edited by G. Steinmetz, pp. 53-75. Cornell University Press, Ithaca.

Claessen, H. J. M.

- 1984 The Internal Dynamics of the Early State. *Current Anthropology* 25(4):365-379.

Engels, F.

- 1990 The Origin of Family, Private Property, and the State. In *Karl Marx-Frederick Engels: Collected Works*, vol. 26, pp. 129-276. International Publishers, New York.

Mitchell, T. P.

- 1991 The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics. *The American Political Science Review* 85(1):77-96.

Skinner, Q.

- 1997 The State. In *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology*, edited by R. E. Goodin and P. Pettit, pp. 3-26. Blackwell Publishers, Oxford.

WEEK V: GENEALOGIES OF THE STATE

Blanton, R. E., G. M. Feinman, S. A. Kowalewski and P. N. Peregrine

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

Carneiro, R.

- 1970 A Theory of the Origin of the State. *Science* 169:733-739.

Emberling, G.

- n.d. Structures of Authority: Political Practice in the Earliest Mesopotamian States. Manuscript.

Wright, H. and G. A. Johnson

- 1975 Population, Exchange, and Early State Formation in Southwestern Iran. *American Anthropologist* 77:267-289.

Yoffee, N.

- 2004 *Myths of the Archaic State: Evolution of the Earliest Cities, States and Civilizations*. Cambridge University Press, New York. Ch 9 (pp. 196-232).

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND

Adams, R. M.

- 1966 *The Evolution of Urban Society*. Aldine Pub. Co., New York.

Mann, M.

- 1986 *The Sources of Social Power*, vol. 1: A History of Power from the Beginning to A.D. 1760. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Service, E. R.

- 1975 *Origins of the State and Civilization*. Norton, New York.

WEEK VI: ALTERNATIVE SOVEREIGNTIES

Demarest, A.

2004 *Ancient Maya: Rise and Fall of a Rainforest Civilization*. Cambridge University Press. Ch. 9 (pp. 208-239).

Geertz, C.

1980 *Negara: The Theater-State in Nineteenth Century Bali*, Princeton. Ch. 4 and Conclusion.

Kolata, A. L.

1997 Of Kings and Capitals: Principles of Authority and the Nature of Cities in the Native Andean State. In *The Archaeology of City-States*, edited by D. L. Nichols and T. H. Charlton, pp. 245-254. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington.

McIntosh, S.

1999 Pathways to Complexity: An African Perspective. In *Beyond Chiefdoms*, ed. S. McIntosh, pp. 1-30. Cambridge University Press.

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND

Cowgill, G.

1983 Rulership and the Ciudadela: Political Inferences from Teotihuacan Architecture. In *Civilization in the Ancient Americas: Essays in Honor of Gordon R. Willey*, edited by R. Leventhal and A. Kolata, pp. 313-343. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Fox, J. W., G. W. Cook, A. F. Chase and D. Z. Chase

1996 Questions of Political and Economic Integration: Segmentary versus Centralized States among the Ancient Maya. *Current Anthropology* 37(5):795-801.

Marcus, J.

1993 Ancient Maya Political Organization. In *Lowland Maya Civilization in the Eighth Century A.D.*, edited by J. A. Sabloff and J. S. Henderson, pp. 111-183. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Washington, D.C.

Michalowski, P.

1987 Charisma and Control: On Continuity and Change in Early Mesopotamian Bureaucratic Systems. In *The Organization of Power: Aspects of Bureaucracy in the Ancient Near East*, edited by M. Gibson and R. Biggs, pp. 55-68. Oriental Institute, Chicago.

Roscoe, P. B.

1993 Practice and Political Centralization. *Current Anthropology* 34(2):111-140.

Schele, L. and D. A. Freidel

1988 Kingship in the Late Preclassic Maya Lowlands: The Instruments and Places of Ritual Power. *American Anthropologist* 90(3):547-567.

Southall, A.

1988 The Segmentary State in Africa and Asia. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 30(1):52-82.

Tambiah, S. J.

- 1977 The Galactic Polity: The Structure of Traditional Kingdoms in Southeast Asia. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 293:69-97.

WEEK VII: IDENTITY, INEQUALITY, AND FACTIONS

Crumley, C. L.

- 1995 Heterarchy and the Analysis of Complex Societies. In *Heterarchy and the Analysis of Complex Societies*, edited by R. M. Ehrenreich, C. L. Crumley and J. E. Levy, pp. 1-5. Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association, no. 6. American Anthropological Association, Arlington.

Emberling, G.

- 1997 Ethnicity in Complex Societies: Archaeological Perspectives. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 5(4):295-344.

Hall, J. M.

- 2002 *Hellenicity: Between Ethnicity and Culture*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Ch. 2 (pp. 30-55).

Meskell, L.

- 2002 The Intersection of Identity and Politics in Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 31:279-301.

Stein, G.

- 2001 "Who Was King? Who Was Not King?" Social Group Composition and Competition in Early Mesopotamian State Societies. In *From Leaders to Rulers*, edited by J. Haas, pp. 205-31.

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND

Brumfiel, E.

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

McGuire, R.

- 1991 Building Power in the Cultural Landscape of Broome County, New York 1880 to 1940. In *The Archaeology of Inequality*, edited by R. H. McGuire and R. Paynter, pp. 102-124. Blackwell, Oxford.

Rowlands, M.

- 1987 Power and Moral Order in Precolonial West-Central Africa. In *Specialization, Exchange, and Complex Societies*, edited by E. Brumfiel and T. Earle, pp. 52-63. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Brumfiel, E. M. and J. W. Fox (editors)

- 1994 *Factional Competition and Political Development in the New World*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

WEEK VIII: LEGITIMACY, HEGEMONY, AND IDEOLOGY

Bauer, B. S.

- 1996 Legitimization of the State in Inca Myth and Ritual. *American Anthropologist* 98(2):327-337.

- DeMarrais, E., L. J. Castillo and T. Earle
 1996 Ideology, Materialization, and Power Strategies. *Current Anthropology* 37(1):15-31.
- Dietler, M.
 1995 Early 'Celtic' Socio-Political Relations: Ideological Representation and Social Competition in Dynamic Comparative Perspective. In *Celtic Chieftdom, Celtic State: The Evolution of Complex Social Systems in Prehistoric Europe*, edited by B. Arnold and D. B. Gibson, pp. 64-71. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Khatchadourian, L.
 in press An Archaeology of Cooperative Hegemony: The Armenian Highland in the "Achaemenid Union". In *Empires and Complexity: On the Crossroads of Archaeology, History, and Anthropology*, edited by G. Areshian. Cotsen Institute Press, Los Angeles.
- Kus, S. and V. Raharijaona
 2000 House to Palace, Village to State: Scaling Up Architecture and Ideology. *American Anthropologist* 102(1):98-113.

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND

- Eagleton, T.
 1991 *Ideology: An Introduction*. Verso, London. Chs. 1.
- Gramsci, A.
 1971 *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. Translated by Hoare, Q. Smith, G. N. International Publishers, New York. Pp. 5-14, 158-190.
- Kertzer, D. I.
 1988 *Rituals, Politics, and Power*. Yale University Press, New Haven. Ch. 9.
- Althusser, L.
 1971 Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses. In *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*, pp. 127-186. New Left Books, London.
- Smith, A. T.
 2000 Rendering the Political Aesthetic: Ideology and Legitimacy in Urartian Representations of the Built Environment. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 19:131-163.
- Winter, I. J.
 1983 The Program of the Throneroom of Assurnasirpal II. In *Essays on Near Eastern Art and Archaeology in Honor of Charles Kyrle Wilkinson*, edited by P. O. Harper and H. Pittman, pp. 15-31, New York.

WEEK IX: POLITICAL ECONOMY, WEALTH AND ORDER

- Baines, J. and N. Yoffee
 1998 Order, Legitimacy, and Wealth in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. In *Archaic States*, edited by G. Feinman and J. Marcus, pp. 199-260. School of American Research Press, Santa Fe.
- Dietler, M.
 2001 Theorizing the Feast: Rituals of Consumption, Commensal Politics, and Power in African Contexts. In *Feasts: Archaeological and Ethnographic*

Perspectives on Food, Politics, and Power, edited by M. Dietler and B. Hayden, pp. 65-114. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

Stein, G.

1999 *Rethinking World-Systems: Diasporas, Colonies, and Interaction in Uruk Mesopotamia*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. Ch. 2 (pp. 10-26).

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND

Algaze, G.

1993 *The Uruk World System*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Frank, A. G.

1993 Bronze Age World System Cycles. *Current Anthropology* 34(4):383-429.

Kohl, P. L.

1989 The Use and Abuse of World Systems Theory: The Case of the "Pristine" West Asian State. In *Archaeological Thought in America*, edited by C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky, pp. 218-240. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Sinopoli, C. M.

1994 Political Choices and Economic Strategies in the Vijayanagara Empire. In *The Economic Anthropology of the State*, edited by E. M. Brumfiel, pp. 223-242. University Press of America, Lanham.

Smith, M. E.

1991 The ABCs of Political Economy. In *Early State Economics*, edited by H. J. M. Claessen and P. van de Velde, pp. 31-74. Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick.

Wallerstein, I.

1974 *The Modern World System I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century*. Academic Press, San Diego.

Yoffee, N.

1995 Political Economy in Early Mesopotamian States. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:281-311.

WEEK X: NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Ankersmit, F. R.

1996 *Aesthetic Politics: Political Philosophy Beyond Fact and Value*. Stanford University Press, Stanford. Introduction and Ch. 1.

Smith, A. T.

n.d. *The Political Machine: Affects, Objects, and Publics in Early Complex Polities*. **Selection TBA.**

Unger, R. M.

1997 *Politics: The Central Texts*. Verso, New York. Chs. 1 & 3.