

ADAM T. SMITH  
OFFICE HOURS: WEDNESDAY 1-4

SPRING QUARTER 2001  
ANTHROPOLOGY 214  
WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 9-10:30

[HTTP://HOME.UCHICAGO.EDU/~ATSMITH/PAGES/COURSES.HTML](http://home.uchicago.edu/~atsmith/pages/courses.html)

## THE PRACTICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY GREAT EXCAVATIONS

The most emblematic feature of archeological research is undoubtedly the excavation-the peeling back of layers of accumulated debris to expose...what? History and prehistory? Metahistorical process? Culture? Behavior? The "Other"? Ourselves? What is it that excavation provides the contemporary world and how does archaeology accomplish this profound transformation of discarded rubbish into representations of past social, cultural, economic, and political practices? The answers to this question provide the discipline's foundation myth, its dominant methodology, its public persona, and its intellectual frame. The nature of excavation-its agenda, methods, and relation to larger issues of theory-has proven to be surprisingly fluid over the past century of archeological discovery. In this class we will approach the practice of archaeology historically through the medium of the excavation, using a number of pivotal site reports and excavation summaries as lenses to examine the intellectual development of the field from the 19<sup>th</sup> century through today. We will focus upon discerning traditions of scholarly representation, the methodological expansion of fieldwork, and the formation of archaeology's public persona as revealed in a series of canonical field investigations. In the course of our examination, the excavation will emerge as both a form of research practice and as a particularly revealing genre of social science representation shaped by shifting cultural aesthetics.  
(Prerequisites: none; Cap: 20)

### Course Requirements:

Students will be required to submit **1 page responses** to each week's reading. The reading should be completed by Wednesday's class; the response is due at the beginning of Friday's class. The responses should briefly discuss the following questions in relation to the research projects being examined that week: what was the impetus to research and how did the techniques developed relate to the framing of the investigation? In addition, students will work as research teams to develop a **proposal for the reinvestigation** of an archaeological site of their choice. These proposals will provide the basis for in-class presentations during week 5 and 10. Further information on the research proposals will be provided separately. In addition, participation in class discussions will be factored into final grades. Please refer to the grading policy posted on the course web site for general information about expectations for student performance and evaluation.

### Texts:

The following texts have been ordered from the Seminary Coop Bookstore.

Trigger, B.

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

The remaining required readings will be made available through the reserve desk at the Regenstein library.

## Outline of Lectures and Readings

### *I. From the Antique to Culture*

#### **Week 1. Introduction: The Roots of Archaeological Research 3/28 intro, 3/30 L**

Schnapp, A.

- 1997 *The Discovery of the Past*. Harry N. Abrams, New York. Ch. 1. "Antique and Medieval Sources" and Ch. 2. "The Europe of the Antiquaries"

#### **Week 2. Schliemann Conquers Troy 4/4 L; 4/6 V+D**

Schliemann, H., P. Smith and L. D. Schmitz

- 1875 *Troy and its remains; a narrative of researches and discoveries made on the site of Ilium, and in the Trojan plain*. J. Murray, London. pp. 1-66, 514-517. (scan pp. 305-514).

Trigger, B.

- 1989 *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Ch. 2

*Video: In Search of the Trojan War (1985)*

#### **Week 3. A New Discipline: Cranborne-Chase and Diospolis Parva 4/11 L; 4/13 D**

Petrie, W. M. F. and A. C. Mace

- 1901 *Diospolis Parva: the cemeteries of Abadiyeh and Hu, 1898-9*. London. Scan.

Pitt-Rivers, A. H.

- 1887 *Excavations in Cranborne Chase, near Rushmore, on the borders of Dorset and Wilts. [1880-1896]*. Harrison and sons, London. V.II:1-55 (mostly illustrations); V.IV: 5-30.

Trigger, B.

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

#### **Week 4. Method and Theory at Kidder's Pecos Pueblo 4/18 L+D; 4/20 No Class-SAA**

CLASS WILL NOT MEET FRIDAY 4/20

Elliott, M.

- 1995 *Great Excavations: Tales of Early Southwestern Archaeology, 1888-1939*. School of American Research Press, Santa Fe. Ch. 2 Pecos Pueblo: How A. V. Kidder Made Archaeological History. Pp.25-51.

Kidder, A. V.

- 1924 *An introduction to the study of southwestern archaeology with a preliminary account of the excavations at Pecos*. Yale University Press, New Haven.

## II. From Culture to Process

### **Week 5. Functionalism and Marxism at Starr Carr and Skara Brae 4/25 L+D; 4/27 V**

Childe, V. G.

- 1931 *Skara Brae, a Pictish Village in Orkney*. Kegan Paul, London. Pp. 1-28, 61-95, 155-184.

Clark, G.

- 1954 *Excavations at Starr Carr: An Early Mesolithic Site at Seamer near Scarborough, Yorkshire*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Pp. Xvii-xxi, 1-24, (scan pp. 61-69, 90-95).

Trigger, B.

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

*Video: The History of Britain (2000), episode 1 "Prologue"*

### **Week 6. Broadening Research: Jarmo and Viru Valley 5/2 L; 5/4 presentations**

Braidwood, R. and B. Howe

- 1960 *Prehistoric Investigations in Iraqi Kurdistan*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Pp. 1-31, 163-184.

Willey, G. R.

- 1953 *Prehistoric settlement patterns in the Viru Valley, Peru*. U.S. Govt. print. off., Washington. Pp. 1-37, 344-399. (Scan 178-233).

**\*\*\*Initial presentations of student research projects\*\*\***

### **Week 7. The New Archaeology Revealed at Broken K and Carter Ranch 5/9 L; 5/11 D**

Hill, J. N.

- 1970 *Broken K pueblo; prehistoric social organization in the American southwest*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. (diss pp. 1-57)

Longacre, W. A.

- 1970 *Archaeology as Anthropology; a case study*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. (diss: Pp. 1-9, 20-44, 114-126).

Trigger, B.

- 1989 *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Ch. 8

### **Week 8. Scientific Archaeology/Public Archaeology 5/16 V+L; 5/18 D**

Phillips, D., M. O. H. Carver, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (England). and B. Heywood

- 1985 *Excavations at York Minster*. Hmso, London. Vol. 1. Scan.

Struever, S. and F. A. Holton

- 1979 *Koster : Americans in search of their prehistoric past*. Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y. pp. 2-94.

*Video: Science or Sacrilege (1996)*

### *III. After Process?*

#### **Week 9. Post-Processual Archaeology at Çatal Hüyük 5/23 L; 5/25 D**

Hodder, I.

- 1996 *On the Surface: Çatalhöyük 1993-95*. McDonald Institute Monographs,.  
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge.

Trigger, B.

- 1989 *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge University Press,  
Cambridge. Ch. 9 and 10.

#### **Week 10. Student Research Proposals 5/30 & 6/1 Presentations**