

ANTHROPOLOGY 21308
MODERN READINGS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY

AGENDA

This course examines the modern history of archaeological thought. By tracking the development of archaeological theory and exploring key case studies, we will chart the historical development of the project of archaeology from the 19th century to today with a particular emphasis on the period since 1950. During the last half century, archaeology has undergone a series of dramatic intellectual transformations that have shaped and reshaped the field's intellectual agenda and our understanding of the human past. By the end of the course, students should have a thorough understanding of the theoretical frameworks that underlie contemporary archaeological research and the unique problems that follow efforts to represent the archaeological record.

TEXTS

The required course texts are posted online at <http://chalk.uchicago.edu>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are four general requirements for the course.

- I. **CLASS DISCUSSION:** This class combines lectures and seminar discussion. All students should come to class having completed the assigned readings and prepared for substantive discussion. Contributions to class discussions constitute 10 percent of your grade
- II. **IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS:** Each student will be responsible for one formal in-class presentation. These presentations **MUST BE LESS THAN 10 minutes** in length and should consider the general issues that the works raise as well as their relationship to other readings from the course. Students will be expected to prepare a **1 page synopsis** of their presentations for distribution to the class. Your presentation (including the synopsis) is worth 20 percent of your grade.
- III. **MID-TERM TAKE-HOME EXAM:** There will be a take home mid-term consisting of essay questions worth 30 percent of your grade.
- IV. **SITE REINVESTIGATION PROPOSAL:** Lastly, students will work in 'research teams' to develop a **proposal for the reinvestigation** of an archaeological site of their choice. Further information on the research proposals will be provided separately. Proposals will be presented to the class on week 10. They are worth 40 percent of your grade.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

October 1. INTRODUCTION: THE ROOTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

October 8. EVOLUTION AND MIGRATION: 19TH CENTURY PARADIGMS AND THEIR LEGACY Lucas, G.

- 2001 *Critical Approaches to Fieldwork: Contemporary and Historical Archaeological Practice*. Routledge, London. Ch. 2 (pp. 18-63).

CASE STUDIES: THE ANTIQUARIAN LEGACY

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. 11-55.

Squier, E. G. and E. H. Davis

- 1848 *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley: Comprising the results of extensive original surveys and explorations*. Smithsonian Institution, Washington. Pp. 1-7, 8-14 (top), 18-21, 26 (bottom)-29 (top), 37-46, 301-306.

October 15. THE RISE OF CULTURE HISTORY

Wiley, G. and P. Philips

- 1958 *Method and Theory in American Archaeology*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Pp. 11-57.

CASE STUDIES: STRATIGRAPHIC HISTORY & THE PROBLEM OF TYPES

Kidder, A. V.

- 1924 *An Introduction to the Study of Southwestern Archaeology with a preliminary account of the excavations at Pecos*. Phillips Academy, Andover, MA. Introduction, pp. 88-139, 158-164, 323-351.

Ford, J. A.

- 1954 On the Concept of Types. *American Anthropologist* 56:42-54.

Spaulding, A. C.

- 1960 The Dimensions of Archaeology. In *Essays in the Science of Culture*, edited by G. E. Dole and R. L. Carneiro. Crowell, New York.

October 22. NEW FUNCTIONALISMS

Clark, G.

- 1954 The Economic Approach to Prehistory. *Proceedings of the British Academy* 39:215-238.

Taylor, W. W.

- 1948 *A Study of Archaeology*. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale. Pp. 25-44, 95-112.

CASE STUDIES: A NEW MATERIALISM

Adams, R. M.

- 1965 *Land Behind Baghdad: A History of Settlement on the Diyala Plains*.
University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Pp. 112-116.

Clark, G.

- 1954 *Excavations at Starr Carr: An Early Mesolithic Site at Seamer near
Scarborough, Yorkshire*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Pp. xvii-
xxii, 1-24, 168-172.

October 29. POSITIVISM AND PROCESS: THE NEW ARCHAEOLOGY TO 1968

Binford, L.

- 1962 Archaeology as Anthropology. *American Antiquity* 28(2):217-225.
1965 Archaeological Systematics and the Study of Cultural Process. *American
Antiquity* 31:203-210.

Flannery, K. V.

- 1967 Culture History v. Culture Process: a Debate in American Archaeology.
Scientific American 217:119-122.

CASE STUDIES: CERAMIC SOCIOLOGY

Deetz, J.

- 1965 *The Dynamics of Stylistic Change in Arikara Ceramics*. Illinois studies in
anthropology. no. 4. University of Illinois Press, Urbana. Pp. 1-4, 24-54, 82-
102.

Longacre, W. A.

- 1970 *Archaeology as anthropology; a case study*. University of Arizona Press,
Tucson. Pp. 27-40, 46-52.

<p>MID-TERM EXAM HANDED OUT IN CLASS DUE NOVEMBER 3 BY 5PM</p>
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November 5. BEHAVIORS AND SYSTEMS: THE NEW ARCHAEOLOGY AFTER 1968

Flannery, K. V.

- 1968 Archaeological Systems Theory and Early Mesoamerica. In *Anthropological
Archaeology in the Americas*, edited by B. Meggers, pp. 67-87.
Anthropological Society of Washington, Washington D.C.

Raab, M. L. and A. C. Goodyear

- 1984 Middle Range Theory in Archaeology: A Critical Review of Origins and
Applications. *American Antiquity* 49:255-268.

Schiffer, M. B.

- 1972 Archaeological Context and Systemic Context. *American Antiquity* 37:156-
165.

Schiffer, M. B., J. J. Reid and W. L. Rathje

- 1995 The Four Strategies of Behavioral Archaeology. In *Behavioral Archaeology:
First Principles*, edited by M. B. Schiffer, pp. 67-73. University of Utah Press,
Salt Lake City.

CASE STUDIES: EXPLAINING VARIABILITY

Binford, L.

- 1973 Interassemblage Variability--The Mousterian and the 'Functional' Argument. In *The Explanation of Culture Change: Models in Prehistory*, edited by C. Renfrew, pp. 227-254. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh.

Bordes, F. and D. de Sonneville-Bordes

- 1970 The Significance of Variability in Paleolithic Assemblages. *World Archaeology* 2(1):61-73.

Deetz, J.

- 1977 *In Small Things Forgotten*. Doubleday, Garden City. Ch. 4.

November 12. MEANING AND HISTORY: EARLY POST-PROCESSUALISM

Hodder, I.

- 1986 *Reading the Past*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Ch. 1, 5, 8.

CASE STUDIES: CRITICAL ARCHAEOLOGIES

Trigger, B.

- 1980 Archaeology and the Image of the American Indian. *American Antiquity* 45(4):662-676.

Leone, M. P.

- 1988 The Georgian Order as the Order of Merchant Capitalism in Annapolis, Maryland. In *The Recovery of Meaning*, edited by M. P. Leone and P. B. Potter, pp. 235-262. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C.

November 19. KNOWING THE PAST: ACTION AND REACTION

Binford, L. R.

- 1989 Science to Seance, or Processual to "Post-Processual" Archaeology. In *Debating Archaeology*, pp. 27-40. Academic Press, San Diego.

Flannery, K. V.

- 1982 The Golden Marshalltown. *American Anthropologist* 84(2): 265-278.

CASE STUDIES: MEANING & SOCIAL LIVES

Barrett, J. C.

- 1994 *Fragments from Antiquity: An Archaeology of Social Life in Britain, 2900-1200 BC*. B. Blackwell, Oxford. Ch. 1, 3, 7.

Tilley, C.

- 1994 *A Phenomenology of Landscape*. Berg, Oxford. Ch. 5

November 26. THE PRESENT TERRAIN: SUBJECTS AND OBJECTS

Johnson, M. *et al.*

- 2006 On the Nature of Theoretical Archaeology and Archaeological Theory. *Archaeological Dialogues* 13(2):117-182. Read article and discussion.

CASE STUDIES: BODIES AND THINGS

Ingold, T.

2007 Materials Against Materiality. *Archaeological Dialogues* 14(1):1-16.

Joyce, R. A.

2005 Archaeology of the Body. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34:139-158.

December 3. FUTURE PROSPECTS

Presentation of Reinvestigation Proposals

<p>FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT IN CLASS DUE DECEMBER 9 BY 5PM</p>
