

## Archaeological Perspectives on the African Diaspora

ANTH 303 / ARCP 300 / AFAM 302

Spring 2008

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Office hours: Thursday 1:30 – 3.30PM or by appointment

### **Meeting time**

Monday, 7:00PM – 10:00PM, PAC422

### **Course description**

Welcome to ANTH 303. This course is intended to provide a detailed examination of some of the key sites and debates in the archaeological study of the African Diaspora. This will involve understanding landscapes such as plantations, areas of towns and trading settlements; individual buildings, particularly the homes of enslaved and free African-Americans; burials and specific artifacts, particularly locally produced ceramics, artifacts associated with religious practices and foodways. We will begin by examining archaeological evidence from West Africa, and then largely focus on material from North America and the Caribbean, where the majority of archaeological work in this field has taken place. We will begin by focussing on the interpretation of particular types of sites, artifacts and practices and conclude the course by looking at some more general issues that cross-cut the entire field.

The focus of the course is on the way in which different archaeological evidence has been interpreted to understand identities of those in the African Diaspora. At times you may find that some of the readings cover archaeological remains to a fine level of detail. While we will engage with this in class discussion, you do not need to worry about aspects of methodology or contextual details in the readings – this is not the focus of the course. General questions to think about with regards to the readings will be provided each week in class and posted on Blackboard. These should also help you focus on which aspects of the archaeological evidence discussed by various authors you feel are important.

### **Course Texts**

- › Singleton, T.A. (Ed.). 1999. *“I, Too, Am America”*: *Archaeological Studies of African-American Life*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia. **\*Please note: this is also available as an online text via the Olin catalogue\***
- › Orser, C.E. Jr. (Ed.). 2001. *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.

We will also use a variety of articles and chapters from other books. All of these will be available via Blackboard as PDF documents.

## Course Requirements

Attendance in class is required; all students are also expected to participate in class discussions and can contribute to discussion on the topic each week via Blackboard.

Work will be assessed through two short papers (3-4 pages, each 10%), a class presentation of (15 minutes, 30%) and research paper (10-12 pages, 50%). Deadlines for these are indicated on the syllabus.

## Course Outline

Monday January 28 No reading	<b>1) Introduction</b>
Monday February 4	<b>2) West African contexts: forts &amp; trading posts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- DeCorse, C.R. 2001. <i>An Archaeology of Elmina: Africans and Europeans on the Gold Coast, 1400 – 1900</i>, Chapters 1 [skim for background only], 3, 4 &amp; 5</li><li>- Kelly, K.G. 1997. 'The archaeology of African-European interaction: investigating the social roles of trade, traders, and the use of space in the seventeenth and eighteenth-century Hueda Kingdom, Republic of Benin,' <i>World Archaeology</i> 28(3), pp 351 – 369</li><li>- Kelly, K.G. 2001. 'Change and continuity in coastal Bénin,' in DeCorse (Ed.), <i>West Africa During the Atlantic Slave Trade</i></li></ul>
Monday February 11	<b>3) West African contexts: away from European contact</b> <p><b>Case studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- McIntosh, S.K. 2001. 'Tools for understanding transformation and continuity in Senegambian society: 1500 – 1900,' in DeCorse (Ed.), <i>West Africa During the Atlantic Slave Trade</i></li><li>- Stahl, A.B. 2001. 'Historical process and the impact of the Atlantic trade on Banda, Ghana, c. 1800 – 1920,' in DeCorse (Ed.), <i>West Africa During the Atlantic Slave Trade</i></li><li>- MacEachern, S. 2001. 'State formation and enslavement in the southern Lake Chad basin,' in DeCorse (Ed.), <i>West Africa During the Atlantic Slave Trade</i></li></ul> <p><b>Two papers that give a more general background to thinking about West African archaeology as part of the African Diaspora</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Posnansky, M. 1999. 'West Africanist reflections on African-American archaeology,' chapter 2 in Singleton (Ed.), <i>"I, Too, Am America"</i></li><li>- DeCorse, C.R. 2001. 'Introduction,' in DeCorse (Ed.), <i>West Africa During the Atlantic Slave Trade</i></li></ul>

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Monday February 18

**4) Plantation archaeology in the Americas**

- Armstrong, D.V. 1999. 'Archaeology and ethnohistory of the Caribbean plantation,' chapter 9 in Singleton (Ed.), *"I, Too, Am America"*
- Delle, J.A. 1998. *An Archaeology of Social Space: Analyzing Coffee Plantations in Jamaica's Blue Mountains*, chapter 6
- Delle, J.A. 2001. 'Race, missionaries, and the struggle to free Jamaica,' chapter 11 in Orser (ed.), *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*
- Moore, S.M. 1985. 'Social and economic status on the coastal plantation: an archaeological perspective,' in Singleton (ed.), *The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life*
- Singleton, T. 2001. 'Slavery and spatial dialectics on a Cuban coffee plantation,' *World Archaeology* 33(1), pp 98 – 114

**\*\*First paper assigned\*\***

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Monday February 25

**5) Domestic space & race on plantations**

**Racism and plantation archaeology**

- Epperson, T.W. 1999. 'Constructing difference: the social and spatial order of the Chesapeake plantation,' chapter 8 in Singleton (Ed.), *"I, Too, Am America"*
- Potter, P.B. Jr. 1991. 'What is the use of plantation archaeology?' *Historical Archaeology* 25(3), pp 94 – 107
- Wilkie, L.A. 2001. 'Race, identity and Habermas's lifeworld,' chapter 7 in Orser (Ed.), *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*

**Domestic Space**

- Armstrong, D.V. & M.L. Fleischman. 2003. 'House-yard burials of enslaved laborers in eighteenth-century Jamaica,' *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 7(1), pp 33 – 65
- Battle-Baptiste, W. 2007. "'In this here place": interpreting enslaved homeplaces,' in Ogundiran & Falola (Eds.), *Archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora*
- Heath, B.J. & A. Bennett. 2000. "'The little spots allow'd them: the archaeological study of African-American yards,' *Historical Archaeology* 34(2), pp 38 – 55

**\*\*First paper due\*\***

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Monday March 3

**6) Foodways & colonoware**

- Deetz, J. 1999. 'Archaeology at Flowerdew Hundred,' chapter 3 in Singleton (Ed.), *"I, Too, Am America"*
- Ferguson, L. 1992. *Uncommon Ground: Archaeology and Early African America, 1650 – 1800*, chapters 1, 2 & 3
- Franklin, M. 2001. 'The archaeological dimensions of soul-food: interpreting race, culture and Afro-Virginian identity,' Chapter 6 in Orser (Ed.), *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*
- Hauser, M.W. & DeCorse, C.R. 2003. 'Low-fired earthenwares in the African Diaspora: problems and prospects.' *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 7(1), pp 67 – 98
- McKee, L. 1999. 'Food supply and plantation social order: an archaeological perspective,' chapter 11 in Singleton (Ed.), *"I, Too, Am America"*
- Otto, J.S. 1980. 'Race and class on antebellum plantations,' in Schuyler (Ed.), *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America*
- For information on a parallel debate regarding clay pipes see 4 & 5 chapters in *"I, Too, Am America"* – **not required reading**

**SPRING BREAK**

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Monday March 24

**7) Religion, ritual & spirituality**

- Fennell, C. 2003. 'Group identity, individual creativity, and symbolic generation in a BaKongo diaspora,' *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 7(1), pp 1 – 31
- Ferguson, L.G. 1999. "'The cross is a magic sign": marks on eighteenth century bowls from South Carolina,' chapter 6 in Singleton (Ed.), *"I, Too, Am America"*
- Handler, J.S. 1997. 'An African-type healer/diviner and his grave goods: a burial from a plantation slave cemetery in Barbados, West Indies,' *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 1(2), pp 91 – 130
- Leone, M.P. & G.M. Fry. 2001. 'Spirit management among Americans of African descent,' chapter 9 in Orser (Ed.), *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*
- Ruppel, A., J. Neuwirth, M.P. Leone & G.M. Fry. 2003. 'Hidden in view: African spiritual spaces in North American landscapes,' *Antiquity* 77(296), pp 321 – 335
- Russell, A.E. 1997. 'Material culture and African-American spirituality at the Hermitage,' *Historical Archaeology* 31(2), pp 63 – 80
- Young, A. 1996. 'Archaeological evidence of African-style ritual and healing practices in the Upland South,' *Tennessee Anthropologist* 21(2), pp 139 – 155

**\*\*second paper assigned\*\***

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Monday March 31

**8) Maroon communities**

- Agorash, E.K. 2007. 'Scars of brutality: archaeology of maroons in the Caribbean,' in Ogundiran & Falola (Eds.), *Archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora*
- Funari, P.P. 2007. 'The archaeological study of the African Diaspora in Brazil,' in Ogundiran & Falola (Eds.), *Archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora*
- Sayers, D.O., P.B. Burke and A.M. Henry. 2007. 'The political economy of exile in the Great Dismal Swamp,' *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 11(1), pp 60 – 97
- Weik, T. 1997. 'The archaeology of maroon societies in the Americas: resistance, cultural continuity and transformation in the African Diaspora,' *Historical Archaeology* 31(2), pp 81 – 92
- Weik, T. 2007. 'Allies, adversaries, and kin in the African Seminole communities of Florida: archaeology at Pilaklikaha,' in Ogundiran & Falola (Eds.), *Archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora*

**\*\*second paper due\*\***

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Monday April 7

**9) Free African American communities**

- Cabak, M.A., M.D. Groover & S.J. Wagers. 1995. 'Health care and the Wayman A.M.E. Church,' *Historical Archaeology* 29(2), pp 55 – 76
- Cheek, C.D. & Friedlander, A. 1990. 'Pottery and pig's feet: space, ethnicity and neighborhood in Washington, D.C., 1880-1940,' *Historical Archaeology* 14(1), pp 34 – 59
- Davidson, J.M. 2004. "Living symbols of their lifelong struggles": in search of the home and household in the heart of Freedman's Town, Dallas, Texas,' in Barile & Brandon (Eds.), *Household Chores and Household Choices*
- Mullins, P.R. 2001. 'Racializing the parlor: race and Victorian bric-a-brac consumption,' chapter 5 in Orser (Ed.), *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*
- Singleton, T.A. 2001. 'Class, race and identity among free blacks in the antebellum south,' chapter 12 in Orser (Ed.), *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*, pp 196 – 208
- See chapters 13 & 14 in Singleton (Ed.), *"I, Too, Am America,"* for further case studies – not required reading

Monday April 14	<b>10) Gendered identities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Edwards-Ingram, Y. 2001. 'African American medicine and the social relations of slavery,' chapter 3 in Orser (Ed.), <i>Race and the Archaeology of Identity</i></li> <li>- Wilkie, L.A. 2003. <i>The Archaeology of Mothering: An African-American Midwife's Tale</i>, chapters 3, 4, 5 &amp; 7.</li> <li>- Thomas, B.W. &amp; L. Thomas. 2004. 'Gender and the presentation of the self: an example from the Hermitage,' in Galle &amp; Young (Eds.), <i>Engendering African American Archaeology</i></li> </ul>	

Monday April 21	<b>11) Heritage, representation and public archaeology</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chappell, E.A. 1999. 'Museums and American slavery,' chapter 12 in Singleton (ed), <i>"I, Too, Am America"</i></li> <li>- Franklin, M. 1997. "Power to the people": sociopolitics and the archaeology of Black Americans,' <i>Historical Archaeology</i> 31(3), pp 36 – 50</li> <li>- LaRoche, C.J. and M.L. Blakey. 1997. 'Seizing intellectual power: the dialogue at the New York African burial ground,' <i>Historical Archaeology</i> 31(3), pp 84 – 106</li> <li>- Osei-Tutu, B. 2007. 'Ghana's "slave castles," tourism, and the social memory of the Atlantic Slave Trade,' in Ogundiran &amp; Falola (Eds.), <i>Archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora</i></li> </ul>	

Monday April 28	<b>12) Reflections: what constitutes the field?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DeCorse, C.R. 1999. 'Oceans apart: Africanist perspectives of Diaspora archaeology,' chapter 7 in Singleton (ed), <i>"I, Too, Am America"</i></li> <li>- Singleton, T.A. 1995. 'The archaeology of slavery in North America,' <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 24, pp 119 – 140</li> <li>- Leone, M.P. <i>et al.</i> 2005. 'The archaeology of black Americans in recent times,' <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 34, pp 575 – 598</li> <li>- Lilley, I. 2004. 'Diaspora and identity in archaeology: moving beyond the Black Atlantic,' in Meskell &amp; Preucell (Eds.), <i>A Companion to Social Archaeology</i></li> </ul>	

Monday May 5	<b>Presentations</b>
Class presentations, no set reading	

**\*\*\*FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE, 11AM MONDAY MAY 12\*\*\***