AR 727: ARCHAEOLOGY AND COLONIALISM

Class meets Tuesdays, 2–5 pm, STO243

Instructor: Prof. Mary Beaudry  beaudry@bu.edu  Voicemail: 8-1650  Semester II, 2007–2008

Course Objectives

Colonialism has been the dominant element of world history for the last 500 years and an important aspect of world history for the last 5000 years. Archaeology has much light to throw on colonial forms past and present, complementing written accounts and oral histories. This course takes a comparative approach to colonialism, drawing on perspectives from post-colonial theory and anthropology as well as archaeology. Because it focuses on the material aspects of human life, archaeology has a perspective complementing those drawn from many elements of post-colonial theory that do not attend in detail to the material world. We will consider a range of case studies, from early Mesopotamia, Greek settlements, the Roman Empire, the Incas and Aztecs, with particular emphasis on European colonial projects in the early modern era. Our goal is to develop and to refine our own perspectives on the archaeology of colonialism, considering both theoretical and practical approaches to a comprehensive archaeology of colonialism through engaging in constructive critique and intensive discussions of the readings.

Texts (available for purchase at the Boston University Bookstore):


Readings indicated on the syllabus by an asterisk (*) will be available on the course web site.

Course Format and Requirements

The class will be conducted in a seminar format; the preponderance of our weekly class meetings will be devoted to discussion of the week’s readings. All students are expected to attend all classes and to participate in class discussion; to this end, a student will be designated as discussion leader for each session. Students must come to class having done all of the assigned reading and be prepared to discuss it.

All students enrolled in the course are expected to prepare a final paper of from 20–25 pages in length. Please note that all paper topics must be approved by the instructor on or before February 15, 2008. Students will exchange draft versions of their papers for review by other members of the class; please have your draft ready for distribution to all class participants by April 24, 2007 (you may bring copies of the paper to class or distribute via email). The purpose of this exercise is to provide students with experience in constructive peer review; we will discuss the drafts in the final class as a panel moderated by Prof. Beaudry. Guidelines for peer review will be provided in advance of the exercise. Your draft papers for round-robin peer review should be distributed to all class members.
by April 24. **Final, revised papers are due no later than 5 p.m. on May 7, 2008. I will not accept late papers.**

Grades for the course will be based upon the following: class attendance, participation, and discussion, including peer-review exercise: 30%; in-class presentation 25%; paper: 45%.

**Academic Integrity**

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the University's policy about what constitutes plagiarism (http://www.bu.edu/grs/academics/resources/adp.html). I will refer cases of suspected academic misconduct to the Dean's Office.

You should also be aware of CAS policy regarding and dates for adding, dropping, and withdrawing from classes; see http://www.bu.edu/reg/dates/idates-spring08.html.

**Course Web Site**

All class participants have access to the course materials through the course web site; here you will find course documents such as the syllabus, announcements about the course, copies of or access to course readings, links to WWW sites you will visit as part of your course assignments, and a communications center from which you can communicate with other members of the class. Here is where you will find copies of any reading assignments that are not in your textbooks for the course. I'll also be posting course announcements to the Web site. Please plan to visit the site regularly.

You can access the AR702 web site by clicking on the class number/name as posted in your schedule on the Student Link portion of the Boston University web pages, or you can point your browser to http://courseinfo.bu.edu, then click on the link to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. You will be prompted to login; to do so, enter your BU login name (the portion of your email address that comes before the @). When prompted to enter a password, type in your regular password. Once you are “in” you can change your password and other details of your account, arrange to have your course email forwarded to another address, and so on. (If you’ve used the system before, it will have stored any changes you made to your personal details.) Follow the on-line instructions.

**Meeting Topics and Reading Assignments**

**Jan 22**  **Introduction to the course and its subject matter**

➢ definitions of colonialism; archaeological approaches to the study of colonialism

Gosden, Chapters 1-4 in *Archaeology and Colonialism*
Stein, Chapter 1 in *Archaeology of Colonial Encounters*
Lyons & Papadopoulo, pp. 1–23 in *Archaeology of Colonialism*
Given, Chapters 1 & 2 of *Archaeology of the Colonized*

**Jan 29**  **Categories of colonialism**

➢ varieties of colonialism; developing typologies of colonialism

Gosden, Chapters 4–7 in *Archaeology and Colonialism*
Chapters 2 (Dietler) and 11 (Rogers) in *Archaeology of Colonial Encounters*

**Feb 5** Beyond acculturation
- the culture contact debate


**Feb 12** Archaeology of the colonized
- exploring the perspective of the “underdog” in the colonization equation

Given, Chapters 3–9 in *Archaeology of the Colonized*


**Feb 26** Cross-cultural comparisons 1
- colonialism in antiquity; theorizing the archaeology of comparative colonialism

Chapters 4 (van Dommelen), 5 (Stein), and 10 (Alcock) in *Archaeology of Colonial Encounters*

Chapters by Stein, Domínquez, van Dommelen, and Malkin in *Archaeology of Colonialism*


**Mar 4** Cross-cultural comparisons 2
- colonialism in North America, Mesoamerica, Africa, Australia

Chapters 3 (Gasco), 6 (Spence), 7 (Lightfoot), 8 (Schreiber), and 9 (D’Altroy) in *Archaeology of Colonial Encounters*

Chapter by Kelly in *Archaeology of Colonialism*

Mar 18 Objects, materiality, and colonialism: space, architecture, and town planning
- stamping colonialism on the landscape
  Cummins, pp. 199–240 in Archaeology of Colonialism

Mar 25 Objects, materiality, and colonialism: goods and trade
- the not-so-subtle charms of capitalism
  Thomas, pp. 182–198 in Archaeology of Colonialism

Apr 1 Objects, materiality, and colonialism: clothing as “social skins”
- constructing bodies, images, and identities in colonial contexts

Apr 8 Archaeology and the post-colony
- the impact of colonialism on the colonizers; post-colonial effects; former colonies
Apr 15  Imperialism & empires


*Glover, Ian, 1999, Letting the past serve the present—some contemporary uses of archaeology in Viet Nam. Antiquity 73(281) (Sept 1999).

Other readings TBA.

Apr 22  Archaeology’s colonialist past


Apr 29  Round robin peer review of research papers