

# ANTH 430/530: Introduction to Archaeological Method & Theory

Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:30pm-4:45pm

Room: TLC 145

University of Idaho, Moscow

**Instructor:** Stacey Lynn Camp, Assistant Professor

**Office:** Phinney Hall, Room 117

**Phone:** (208) 885-6736

**Email:** scamp@uidaho.edu

**Office Hours:** T/Th 2pm-3pm OR by appointment

“Material culture does not just exist. It is made by someone. It is produced to do something. Therefore it does not passively *reflect* society – rather, it creates society through the actions of individuals,” Ian Hodder, *Reading the Past: Current Approaches to Interpretation in Archaeology*, (1987:6)

“...excavation does not involve the ‘the past’; it destroys it,” Michael Shanks and Christopher Tilley, *Re-Constructing Archaeology: Theory and Practice, Second Edition*, (1987:23)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the mutually constitutive nature of archaeological methodologies and theories: how our methods are informed by our theories, and how our theories are informed by our methods. We will begin the course by exploring the history of archaeology as a discipline to understand how our methods and theoretical frameworks came about. We will then consider more recent theoretical developments in archaeology, including but not limited to processualism, post-processualism, and feminist thought. Some of the major questions we will be examining this semester:

- How do archaeologists move between method (i.e. fieldwork and labwork) and theory (the ideas we use to interpret the data we recover)?
- What roles do archaeologists play in presenting the past to the public? What is their responsibility to the “public” (i.e. descendant communities, visitors to the site, etc.)?

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Trigger, Bruce G. (1989) *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **(AHAT on the Course Schedule)**

Johnson, Matthew (1999) *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford; Blackwell Press.

Handler, Richard and Eric Gable (1997) *The New History in an Old Museum: Creating the Past at Colonial Williamsburg*. Durham: Duke University Press. (**NHOM on the Course Schedule**)

(**optional**) Praetzellis, Adrian (2000) *Death by Theory: A Tale of Mystery and Archaeological Theory*. Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press.

Additional readings will be available on the course's BlackBoard website. To log in to Blackboard, follow this link: <https://www.blackboard.uidaho.edu/>

### **REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS**

Your grade in this course is comprised of 3 components, totaling **150 points**. These components include:

**Attendance (10 points):** Students are expected to attend **all** scheduled classes unless an emergency arises. If this is the case, please meet with me to make up your absence and go over the material you missed. If you miss more than **1 class** this semester, your participation grade will be reduced by 5 points each time you miss class. If you miss **3 classes**, your attendance grade will be reduced to **0 points**.

**Participation (40 points):**

**Oral Presentation (20 points):** Graduate students will be expected to lead discussions and present on **2 articles**. Undergraduate students will be expected to present on **1 article**. A sign-up sheet will be distributed in the first week of class. I am happy to meet with you beforehand to discuss my expectations for this portion of your grade.

**Reading Notes (20 points):** Each week, I will be passing out questions related to the assigned readings. *Graduate students* will be expected to write a **1-2 page response** (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) due at the beginning of each class. *Undergraduate students* will be expected to write a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 page response (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) due at the beginning of each class. Please bring **3 copies** of your reading notes to class everyday for circulation.

**Waste Not, Want Not (WNWN) Research Project (100 points):** Please see assignment hand-out for more information on the WNWN project.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES**

*Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> ~ WNWN\* Participant observation/ethnoarchaeology*

*Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> ~ WNWN Mid-quarter project update*  
*Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> ~ WNWN Presentation of findings*  
*Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> ~ WNWN Final report*

\*Waste Not, Want Not Research Project

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, in its simplest form, involves copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own. To avoid university penalties, always make sure to properly cite your sources, including books, websites, journal articles, unpublished materials, and discussions with your classmates. Please review the university's policy on academic dishonesty and citation rules before completing your first written assignment in class. These guidelines can be found here:

<http://www.uihome.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=56158>

### **STUDENT ACCOMODATIONS**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306 in order to notify Professor Camp as soon as possible regarding accommodation(s) needed for this course. You can contact Disability Support Services at 208-884-6307, [dss@uidaho.edu](mailto:dss@uidaho.edu), or [www.access.uidaho.edu](http://www.access.uidaho.edu).

### **CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT**

There are a few "ground rules" I ask that we all follow in this classroom. My intent in setting these rules of engagement and conduct is to help foster an environment conducive to critical, yet respectful discussion. In my classroom, everyone's views and perspectives deserve to be heard. Creating this sort of classroom requires everyone following these rules:

**RULE 1** – Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices are not permitted in my classroom. They are a distraction and detract from your learning experience.

**RULE 2** – Come to class prepared! Do the reading out of respect for your peers.

**RULE 3** – Everyone has a chance to speak. Do not dominate the discussion; do not speak while someone else is talking.

**RULE 4** – If you are confused, lost, or have a question, **ASK for help** or ASK the question in class! If you are confused, you're probably not the only one. I am here to help you learn. Don't be afraid to come to my office hours or email me if you prefer discussing your question one-on-one.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **MODULE I: The Development of Archaeology as a Discipline (1800s – 1950s)**

#### Week 1: Introduction to Course and Archaeology

Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Course Overview

Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> ~ The First Archaeologists

AHAT, Chapter 2: Classical and Other Text-based Archaeology (pp. 40-79).

#### Week 2: The Birth of Archaeology as a Discipline

Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Organizing Knowledge

AHAT, Chapter 5: Evolutionary Archaeology (pp. 166-210).

**WNWN Survey of Campus** – Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk around campus!

Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> ~ The Cultural-Historical Approach

AHAT, Chapter 6: Cultural-Historical Archaeology (pp. 211-313).

### **MODULE II: Beyond Excavation: The Development of “Theory” in Archaeology (1960s-1990s)**

#### Week 3: Archaeology as a “Science”

Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>: The Emergence of Processualist Thought and New Archaeology

Archaeological Theory: An Introduction, Chapter 2: The New Archaeology (pp. 12-33)

Binford, Lewis (1962) “Archaeology as Anthropology,” in *American Antiquity* 28(2):217-225.

Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>: Middle-Range Theory & Ethnoarchaeology, Part I

Archaeological Theory: An Introduction, Chapter 4: Testing, Middle-Range Theory and Ethnoarchaeology (pp. 48-63)

Week 4: Processualist Thought (continued)

Tuesday, September 16th ~ Ethnoarchaeology

Binford, Lewis R. (July 1978) "Dimensional Analysis of Behavior and Site Structure: Learning from an Eskimo Hunting Stand," in *American Antiquity* 43(3):330-61.

Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Systems Theory & Evolutionary Archaeology

Archaeological Theory: An Introduction, Chapter 5: Culture as a System (pp. 64-84) & Chapter 9: Archaeology and Evolution (pp. 132-48)

Week 5: Processualist Thought (continued)

Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Behavioural Archaeology

Archaeological Theory: An Introduction, "Chapter 6: Looking at Thoughts," (pp. 85-97)

Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Cognitive Archaeology

Renfrew, Colin (1998) "Mind and Matter: Cognitive Archaeology and External Symbolic Storage," (pp. 1-6), and Julian Thomas (1998) "Some Problems with the Notion of External Symbolic Storage, and the Case of Neolithic Material Culture in Britain," (pp. 149-56) in *Cognition and Material Culture: the Archaeology of Symbolic Storage*, Colin Renfrew and Chris Scarre, eds., Oxford: Oxbow Books.

**MODULE III: New Trends in Archaeological Thought: Post-Processualism**

Week 6: Critiquing Scientific Thought – The Emergence of Post-Processualism

Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Interpretive Archaeology

Archaeological Theory: An Introduction, Chapter 7: Postprocessualism and Interpretative Archaeologies (pp. 98-115)

**WNWN Participant observation/ethnoarchaeology due!**

Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Post-Processualism

Hodder, Ian (1987) "Chapter 9: Post-processual Archaeology & Chapter 10: Conclusions: Archaeology as Archaeology," in *Reading the*

*Past: Current Approaches to Interpretation in Archaeology, Third Edition*, (pp. 206-47). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 7: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Reflexive Archaeology

Hodder, Ian (1999) "Chapter 5: Towards a Reflexive Methodology," in *The Archaeological Process: An Introduction*, (pp. 80-104). Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Post-Processualism as Science?

VanPool, Christine S. and Todd L. VanPool (January 1999), "The Scientific Nature of Postprocessualism," in *American Antiquity* 64(1):33-53.

Week 8: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Marxism and Power

Marx, Karl (1867) "The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof," in *Symbolic Anthropology: A Reader*, David Schneider, ed., (pp. 245-53).

Leone, Mark P., Parker B. Potter, Jr., and Paul A. Shackel (June 1987), "Toward a Critical Archaeology," in *Current Anthropology* 28(3):283-302.

**WNWN Mid-quarter project update due!**

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Phenomenology

Hosler, Dorothy (1998) "Sound, Color, and Meaning in the Metallurgy of Ancient West Mexico," in *Reader in Archaeological Theory: Post-Processual and Cognitive Approaches*, David S. Whitley, ed., pp. 103-118. London: Routledge.

Week 9: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Semiotics and Structuralism – Language as Artifact

Bourdieu, Pierre (2000) "The Berber House or the World Reversed," in *Interpretive Archaeology: A Reader*, Julian Thomas, ed., (pp. 493-509). London: Leicester University Press.

Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Practice Theory & Agency

Johnson, Matthew (1989) "Conceptions of Agency in Archaeological Interpretation," *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*.

Week 10: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Practice Theory & Agency (cont.)

Silliman, Stephen (2001) "Agency, Practical Politics and the Archaeology of Culture Contact," in *Journal of Social Archaeology* 1(2):190-209.

Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Feminist Archaeology

Gero, Joan M. (1991) "Genderlithics: Women's Roles in Stone Tool Production," in *Engendering Archaeology: Women and Prehistory*, Joan M. Gero and Margaret W. Conkey, eds., (pp. 163-93). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 11: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Sexuality

Joyce, Rosemary A. (2000) "A Precolumbian Gaze: Male Sexuality among the Ancient Maya," in *Archaeologies of Sexuality*, Robert A. Schmidt and Barbara L. Voss, eds., (pp. 263-83). London and New York: Routledge.

**MODULE IV: The Politics of the Present and the Past**

Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Archaeology of the Contemporary World

Zimmerman, Larry J. and Jessica Welch (in press) "Displaced and Invisible: Archaeology and the Material Culture of Homelessness."

Week 12: Contemporary Archaeology (cont.) and the Present Past

Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Archaeology of the Contemporary World (cont.)

Shanks, Michael Shanks and Christopher Tilley (1987) "Social Values, Social Constraints, and Material Culture: The Design of Contemporary Beer Cans," in *Reconstructing Archaeology: Theory and Practice, Second Edition* (pp. 172-239). London and New York: Routledge.

Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Political Pasts

Arnold, Bettina (1996) "The Past as Propaganda: Totalitarian Archaeology in Nazi Germany," in *Contemporary Archaeology in Theory: A Reader*, Robert W. Preucel and Ian Hodder, eds., (pp. 549-69). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 13: The Present Past (cont.)

Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Indigenous Archaeologies

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy (February 2001) "Ishi's Brain, Ishi's Ashes: Anthropology and Genocide," in *Anthropology Today* 17(1):12-18.

Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Representing the Past to the Public

NHOM, "Chapter 1: The New History in an Old Museum," "Chapter 2: Imag(in)ing Colonial Williamsburg," (pp. 1-49).

Week 14: **THANKSGIVING BREAK! NO CLASS**

Week 15: The Present Past (cont.)

Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Representing the Past to the Public (cont.)

NHOM, "Chapter 3: Why History Changes, or, Two Theories of History Making," "Chapter 4: Just the Facts," (pp. 50-101).

Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: Representing the Past to the Public (cont.)

NHOM, "Chapter 5: Social History on the Ground," (pp. 102-24).

**WNWN Class Presentations!**

Week 16: The Present Past (cont.)

Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Representing the Past to the Public (cont.)

NHOM, "Chapter 7: The Front Line: Smile Free or Die," "Chapter 8: Picket Lines," "Chapter 9: The Bottom Line," (pp. 170-235).

Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Course Wrap-up

**Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – WNWN Project due!!**



