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
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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)


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


Additional readings will be available on the course’s BlackBoard website. To log in to Blackboard, follow this link: [https://www.blackboard.uidaho.edu/](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 ½-1 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 30th ~ WNWN* Participant observation/ethnoarchaeology
Thursday, October 9th ~ WNWN Mid-quarter project update
Thursday, December 4th ~ WNWN Presentation of findings
Tuesday, December 16th ~ 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 ACCOMMODATIONS
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, or 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 26th ~ Course Overview

Thursday, August 28th ~ 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 2nd ~ 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 4th ~ 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 9th: The Emergence of Processualist Thought and New Archaeology

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


Thursday, September 11th: 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


Thursday, September 18th ~ 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 23rd ~ Behavioural Archaeology

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

Thursday, September 25th ~ Cognitive Archaeology


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

Tuesday, September 30th ~ Interpretive Archaeology

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

**WNWN Participant observation/ethnoarchaeology due!**

Thursday, October 2nd ~ Post-Processualism

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

Week 7: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, October 7th ~ Reflexive Archaeology


Thursday, October 9th ~ Post-Processualism as Science?


Week 8: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, October 14th ~ Marxism and Power


WNWN Mid-quarter project update due!

Thursday, October 16th ~ Phenomenology


Week 9: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, October 21st ~ Semiotics and Structuralism – Language as Artifact

Tuesday, October 23rd ~ Practice Theory & Agency


Week 10: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, October 28th ~ Practice Theory & Agency (cont.)


Thursday, October 30th ~ Feminist Archaeology


Week 11: Post-Processualism (cont.)

Tuesday, November 4th ~ Sexuality


MODULE IV: The Politics of the Present and the Past

Thursday, November 6th ~ Archaeology of the Contemporary World


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

Tuesday, November 11th ~ Archaeology of the Contemporary World (cont.)


Thursday, November 13th ~ Political Pasts

**Week 13: The Present Past (cont.)**

Tuesday, November 18th ~ Indigenous Archaeologies


Thursday, November 20th ~ Representing the Past to the Public


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

**Week 15: The Present Past (cont.)**

Tuesday, December 2nd ~ 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 4th: 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 9th ~ Representing the Past to the Public (cont.)


Thursday, December 11th ~ Course Wrap-up

**Tuesday, December 16th ~ WNWN Project due!!**