AR 371: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF POST-COLONIAL AMERICA

Prof. Mary Beaudry (beaudry@bu.edu) Semester I, 2007–08
675 Commonwealth Ave., Rm. 345C <voicemail 8–1650> Office Hours: T 11-12, W 2–4 & by appt.

Class meets TR 9:30-11 a.m.
Room CAS B20

This course is a combined lecture/discussion course covering selected topics in the archaeological study of the Americas since the American Revolution, with comparative lecture material drawn from recent historical archaeology projects outside of North America. Subjects include plantations and slavery; the archaeology of African Americans, Asian Americans, and other ethnic minorities; archaeology of the American West; the archaeological study of foodways, health, and hygiene; households; trade networks and the consumer revolution; archaeology of institutions; and urban archaeology.

Attendance, Course Assignments, and Grading

You are expected to attend all class meetings and to complete all of the assigned readings. You will be graded on the basis of 2 short papers (see detailed instructions at end of syllabus), the first constituting 20% of the grade, the second 30%, and on a mid-term and a final exam (25% each).

Paper #1 is due October 18, 2007.
Paper #2 is due December 11, 2007.

The research papers should be printed, double-spaced, the first 5–6 pages long, the second 8-12 pages long, inclusive of bibliography. You may submit your papers to me as email attachments or using the drop box of the course web site (see below). A manual for writing archaeological research papers is available as a downloadable pdf file at http://www.bu.edu/archaeology/undergrad/program.htm (scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link). You should consult Boston University’s Academic Conduct Code’s discussion of plagiarism (URL provided below) if you have any doubts about what you must cite in your research papers if you are to avoid the very serious charge of plagiarism. I will be happy to talk with you in advance about any questions you have on format, citation practices, or anything else about your research papers throughout the semester. I will quite happily review drafts of your papers and provide you with comments and suggestions if you are able to submit them to me at least one week prior to their due dates. I will post further instructions about selecting topic for your research papers on the course web site in the Assignments section.

Plagiarism Policy

Please familiarize yourself with the University’s policies regarding plagiarism, &c., by consulting the University’s Academic Conduct Code at http://www.bu.edu/cas/undergraduate/conductcode.html.

You should also be aware that CAS has adopted a new policy regarding adding, dropping, and withdrawing from classes; see http://www.bu.edu/bulletins/und/item10.html.

Readings

Reserve readings

Readings indicated on the syllabus with an asterisk (*) will be available in the Course Documents folder on the course web site (see below); anything too large for me to scan in will be placed on reserve in the Stone Science Archaeology and Remote Sensing Library. For on-line readings (normally web sites devoted to a particular archaeological project), a hyperlink to the appropriate location on the World Wide Web has been
provided on the on-line syllabus as well as on the External Links page of the course web site. Please note that neither the required texts nor the on-line readings will be on reserve in Stone.

**Texts**

Required texts are available for purchase at the Barnes & Noble Boston University Bookstore; all other readings for the course will be available either on the course web site (articles) or on reserve in the Stone Science Library.

**Required Texts**


**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. I’ll also be posting course announcements to the Web site. Please plan to visit the site regularly.

You can access the site either by clicking on the course title/number in your Student Link Class Schedule, or you can point your browser to http://courseinfo.bu.edu, then click on the link to the current semester, then select College of Arts and Sciences, then the link to the class. 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, enter your regular BU 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**

**I. Introduction to the Course (Sept 4)**

Video: *Other People’s Garbage*

• course mechanics (readings, assignments, etc.)

**II. Brief introduction to historical archaeology (Sept 6)**


**III. Plantation and Slave Archaeology I (Sept 11)**

Ferguson, *Uncommon Ground*, Introduction & Chapter 1


**IV. Plantation and Slave Archaeology II (Sept 13)**

Video: *Slavery’s Buried Past*

Ferguson, *Uncommon Ground*, Chapters 2–4

V. Plantation and Slave Archaeology III (Sept 18)

VI. The Archaeology of Free African-American Life I (Sept 20)

VII. The Archaeology of Free African-American Life II (Sept 25)

VIII. The Archaeology of Asian-Americans (Sept 27)

IX. Nineteenth-Century Health & Foodways (Oct 4)

Note: Monday schedule of classes on October 9

XI. Nineteenth-Century Health & Sanitation (Oct 11)
XII. Down on the Farm (Oct 16)

XIII. Archaeology & Consumer Culture (Oct 18)

XIV. Midterm Examination (Oct 23) (1.5 hours)

XV. Urban Archaeology I: Urban Site Formation Processes (Oct 25)

XVI. Urban Archaeology II: Community & Neighborhood (Oct 30)

XVII. Urban Archaeology III: Race, Class, Identity (Nov 1)

XVIII. Urban Archaeology IV: Life & Work in the Industrial City (Nov 6)

XIX. The Archaeological Study of 19th-Century Households I (Nov 8)
XX.  The Archaeological Study of 19th-Century Households II (Nov 13)

XXI. Nineteenth-Century Institutions I: Reform (Nov 15)

XXII. Nineteenth-Century Institutions II: Punishment (Nov 20)
*Noël Hume, I., 1996, A Night Remembered: Tainted by the Smoke of Scandal. In In Search of This and That: Tales from an Archaeologist’s Quest, by I. Noël Hume, pp. 10–17. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA.

XXIII. Myth and Reality in the American West I (Nov 27)
Dixon, Boontown Saloons

XXIV. Myth and Reality in the American West II (Nov 29)

XXV. Myth and Reality in the American West III (Dec 4)
Layton, Gifts from the Celestial Kingdom

XXVI. The Archaeology of Working Women (Dec 6)
Video: L. A. Brothels

XXVII. Review and Overview (Dec 11)

Final examination: Saturday, December 15, 2007, 9-11 a.m.
Room CAS B20
AR371 Archaeology of Post-Colonial America  
Paper Assignments

Paper no. 1. Due October 18, 2007. 5-6 pp., double-spaced.
Drawing upon the readings for this class and your notes on the lectures, as well as any other sources you wish to consult, discuss the following quote from Ferguson, *Uncommon Ground* (p. 120):

“Archaeological research helps us see the contrast between the world the slaves built and the one they rejected.”

Be sure to support whatever statements you make, or conclusions you reach, with evidence/examples drawn from the readings.

Select a topic covered in the class or relevant to the subject matter of the course that is of particular interest to you and write a detailed research paper about it. Be sure to speak to Prof. Beaudry no later than October 25, 2007, about your second paper so that she can help you focus your topic and locate source material.