

CAS AR372/GRS AR772 ARCHAEOLOGY of BOSTON



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Summer Term I, 2009
Office Hrs.: by appt.

Class Meeting Times:
Mondays & Wednesdays
Lectures 10 a.m.–12 p.m. in room STO 253
Afternoon field trips 2–4 p.m. **unless otherwise noted**

Course description

Boston's "Big Dig", the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project, was the most highly visible project to bring to light parts of Boston's buried history. In this course you will learn about the daily lives of Boston's early residents through an intensive exploration of artifacts and features that archaeologists have excavated from many sites throughout the city. Course participants will walk Boston's streets and visit many Boston sites, guided by archaeologists who have helped unearth the city's past. Visits to local archaeological laboratories will make it possible to view and even to handle some of the most recent finds not just from the "Big Dig" but also from beneath Faneuil Hall, the Boston Common, and many other famous spots in the city. Last but not least, class members get to dig up a bit of Boston history first-hand, by participating in the ongoing excavations at the Blake House—the oldest house in Boston!

Aims of the course

This course offers an intensive look at the archaeology of early Boston, drawing upon readings as well as site tours & hands-on experience with artifacts excavated from sites in downtown Boston. The field trips constitute an important component of the class through which you will be introduced to the sites discussed in the lectures & the artifacts unearthed from Boston sites as well as meet many of the archaeologists who are helping Boston's buried history come to light.

Assignments and grading

Students are expected to attend all classes and field trips and to complete all of the assigned readings. Regular classes will be conducted in lecture format. Students will be graded on class participation and preparation (15%), on three short reports (see below) (15% each, for a total of 45% of the grade) as well as a final exam (40%).

The three papers are to consist of short (1.5–2 pages double-spaced) reports of your impressions of your field-trip experiences & how well the site visits related to or enhanced your understanding of the course readings & lectures. The papers should be journalistic in style & need not contain bibliographies; they are due on the following dates: **June 1, June 10, June 24.**

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).

Texts (*Distributed free of charge at first class meeting*)

Landon, David B., 2008, *Archaeology of the African Meeting House: A Dig and Discover Project in Boston, Massachusetts*. Museum of African American History and the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, Boston.

Lewis, Ann-Eliza, editor, 2001, *Highway to the Past: The Archaeology of Boston's Central Artery* (Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston).

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://blackboard.bu.edu>, then click on the link to the current semester, then select Graduate School 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.

If you do not have a BU email account, you can apply by following the directions found at <http://www.bu.edu/computing/accounts/apply/>.



Syrup bottles from the Endicott St. privy.

Meeting Topics and Reading Assignments

Wednesday, May 20

Introduction to the Course

- Orientation: course structure, grading, logistics

Morning Lecture: **The Backdrop: Geology of the Boston Basin
A Brief Overview of Boston's History
Boston Common**

Reading:

- *Cheek, Charles D., 1998, Introduction. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 1–10.
- *Mrozowski, Stephen A., 1985, *Boston's Archaeological Legacy: The City's Planning and Policy Document*. Boston Landmarks Commission, Boston, pp. 34–74 (Research Priorities: Historic Research Priorities).
- *Beaudry, Mary C., and Tamara K. Blosser, 1982, Filling in Round Pond: Refuse Disposal in Post-Revolutionary Boston. *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 10: 11–22.

Afternoon field trip: Meet at 1 pm on Boston Common for the annual Ancient Fishweir dedication ceremonies featuring the Wampanoag Tribal Dancers, followed by an archaeological walking tour of Boston Common.

Monday, May 25 HOLIDAY, NO CLASSES

Wednesday, May 27

Morning Lecture Part 1: **Boston Prehistory**

- ❖ Native American sites in the Boston area
- ❖ The Boylston Street Fishweir Project, parts I and II
- ❖ Case Study: Rainsford Island

Reading:

- *Mrozowski, Stephen A., 1985, *Boston's Archaeological Legacy: The City's Planning and Policy Document*. Boston Landmarks Commission, Boston, pp. 1–20 (Chapter 1, Introduction; Chapter 2, The Prospects and Problems of Urban Archaeology; Chapter 3, Boston's Physical Development, and Chapter 4, The History of Boston Archaeology).
- *Mrozowski, Stephen A., 1985, *Boston's Archaeological Legacy: The City's Planning and Policy Document*. Boston Landmarks Commission, Boston, pp. 21–33 (Research Priorities: Prehistoric Research Priorities).
- *Luedtke, Barbara. 1996, *The Archaeology of Thompson Island*, pp. 1–16, 55–62. Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Boston.
- *Luedtke, Barbara, 1998, *Final Report on the Archaeological and Paleobotanical Resources of Twelve Islands in Boston Harbor*, pp. 1–13. Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Boston.
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Morning Lecture Part 2: **Charlestown: "Mother of Boston"**

- ❖ Early exploration
- ❖ Colonial settlement of Boston & the Harbor Islands
- ❖ Archaeology of the Central Artery North, a Charlestown neighborhood
- ❖ The Chelsea/Water Street Block in Charlestown

❖ The First State House/Three Cranes Tavern

Reading:

- *Pendery, Steven R., 1992, Consumer Behavior in Colonial Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1630–1760. *Historical Archaeology* 26(3):57–72.
- *Vogt, Christy C., 1994, A Toast to the Tavern: An Archaeological Study of a 17th and 18th Century Tavern in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Master's thesis, College of William and Mary. (summary only)

Afternoon field trip: Meet at 2 p.m. at the Sam Adams statue in front of Faneuil Hall. Walking tour of the Shawmut Peninsula, water shuttle to Charlestown & tour of the Charlestown Archaeological District with Boston City Archaeologist Ellen P. Berkland.

Friday, May 29 Note: this is makeup day for Monday holiday.

Morning Lecture: The Archaeology of Women's Lives in Colonial Boston

Case Study: The Katherine Nanny Naylor Privy

Readings:

- *Cook, Lauren J., 1998, "Katherine Nanny, alias Naylor": A Life in Puritan Boston. *Historical Archaeology* 32(1): 15–19.
- *Heck, Dana B., and Joseph F. Balicki, 1998, Katherine Naylor's "House of Office": A Seventeenth-Century Privy. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 24–37.
- *Lewis, Ann-Eliza H., 1998, "A Recreation for Great Persons": Bowling in Colonial Boston. *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 28: 121–133.

Optional reading:

- Bain, Allison, 1998, A Seventeenth-Century Beetle Fauna from Colonial Boston. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 38–48.
- Kelso, Gerald K., 1998, Pollen Analysis of the Feature 4 Privy at the Cross Street Back Lot Site, Boston, Massachusetts. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 49–62.
- Dudek, Martin G., Lawrence Kaplan, and Marie Mansfield King, 1998, Botanical Remains from a Seventeenth-Century Privy at the Cross Street Back Lot Site. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 63–71.
- Ordoñez, Margaret T., and Linda Welters, 1998, Textiles from the Seventeenth-Century Privy at the Cross Street Back Lot Site. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 81–90.
- Butterworth, Jeffrey A., 1998, Forming the Past. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 90–98.

Monday, June 1

Morning Lecture: Everyday Life in Early Boston

- ❖ The Blackstone Block: The Bostonian Hotel Site, the Wilkinson Backlot Site, and Scottow's Dock
- ❖ Archaeology at the John Carnes Site
- ❖ Faneuil Hall

Readings:

- Lewis, Ann-Eliza, editor, 2001, *Highway to the Past: The Archaeology of Boston's Central Artery* (Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston).

- *Bradley, James W., 1985, The Bostonian Hotel Site. In *Unearthing New England's Past: The Ceramic Evidence*, pp. 101–109. Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, MA.
- *Beaudry, Mary C., 1990, A Seventeenth-Century Delftware Figurine from Landfill in Boston, Massachusetts. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 23: 21–23.

Optional Readings:

- *Bradley, James W., Neill DePaoli, Nancy S. Seasholes, Patricia McDowell, Gerald K. Kelso, and Johanna Schoss, 1983, *Archaeology of the Bostonian Hotel Site*, pp. 1-13, 51–59. *Occasional Publications in Archaeology and History* No. 2. Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston.
- *Beaudry, Mary C., 1984, *Excavations at the Wilkinson Backlot Site, Boston, Massachusetts: A Preliminary Report*. Occasional Paper 1. Center for Archaeological Studies, Boston University.
- *Kelso, Gerald K., and Mary C. Beaudry, 1990, Pollen Analysis and Urban Land Use: The Environs of Scottow's Dock in 17th, 18th, and Early 19th Century Boston. *Historical Archaeology* 24(1): 61–81.
- *Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., 1999, *Archaeological Investigation at the Former Town Dock and Faneuil Hall, Boston National Historic Park, Volume 1, Technical Report*, Chapters 3, 4, and 11. Report submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston.

Afternoon Field Trip: Meet at 2 pm at Sam Adams statue for archaeological walking tour of Rose Kennedy Greenway, led by M. Beaudry.

Wednesday, June 3

Afternoon Lecture: **The Archaeology of Boston Neighborhoods**

- ❖ Archaeology at the Paul Revere House
- ❖ Boston's early homes, including background on the Blake House

Reading:

- *Cummings, Abbott Lowell, 1986, "Inside the Massachusetts House," in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, ed. by Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, pp. 219–239. University of Georgia Press, Athens.
- Balicki, Joseph F., 1998, Wharves, Privies, and the Pewterer: Two Colonial Period Sites on the Shawmut Peninsula, Boston. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 99–120.
- *Elia, Ricardo J., 1997, *Archaeological Investigations at the Paul Revere House in Boston, Massachusetts*, pp. 1–31, 37–48. Office of Public Archaeology, Boston University, Boston.

Afternoon Field Trip: Meet at 2 pm at the Paul Revere House for a tour, after which we will go to the City Archaeology lab for a tour and to view artifacts excavated from the Paul Revere House.

Monday, June 8

Morning Lecture: **The Archaeology of Health & Hygiene in Early Boston**

- ❖ Boston's "medicine men"
- ❖ Case study: The Padelford Privy

Reading:

- *Beaudry, Mary C., 2006, Stories That Matter: Material Lives in 19th-Century Boston and Lowell, Massachusetts, USA . In *Cities in the World 1500–2000*, ed. by Adrian Green &

Roger Leech, 249–268. Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology Monograph 3. Maney Publishing, London.

- *Reinhart, Karl J., 1992, Parasitology as an Interpretive Tool in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 57(2): 231–245.
- Further reading TBA.

Afternoon presentation (tentative): PhD candidate Diana Gallagher will give a presentation at BU about her dissertation research on health and hygiene, especially parasite analysis, from a number of sites in Boston.

Wednesday, June 10

Morning Lecture: Eating and Drinking in Early Boston

- ❖ Archaeological evidence for foodways in early Boston
- ❖ Boston's 19th-century "medicine men"
- ❖ Case study: The Padelford Privy

Reading:

- Landon, David B., selections from *Feeding Colonial Boston*.
- Reinhart, Karl J., 1992, Parasitology as an Interpretive Tool in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 57(2): 231–245.
- *Beaudry, Mary C., n.d., Stories That Matter: Material Lives in 19th-Century Boston and Lowell, Massachusetts, USA . In *Cities in the World 1500–2000: Proceedings of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology Conference* (Department of Archaeology, Southampton University) April 2002, ed. by Adrian Green & Roger Leech. Maney Publishing, London.

Optional readings:

- Brown, Gregory J., and Joanne Bowen, 1998, Animal Bones from the Cross Street Back Lot Privy. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 72–80.
- Cheek, Charles D., 1998, Massachusetts Foodways: Regional and Class Influences. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek, pp. 153–172.

Afternoon field trip/presentation: Meet at 2 p.m. at the Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Boston. Dr. David B. Landon will give a presentation on his study of animal bones from Boston sites and what these tell about diet and animal husbandry and a tour of the archaeology lab at UMass Boston.

Monday, June 15 Guest Lecturer: Dr. Nancy S. Seasholes

Morning Lecture: Boston's Major Landmaking Projects

- ❖ The history of selected major landmaking projects in Boston

Reading:

- *Seasholes, Nancy S., 2003, *Gaining Ground: A History of Landmaking in Boston*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA., Chapters 3, 4.
- *Seasholes, Nancy S., 1998, Filling Boston's Mill Pond. In *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Colonial Boston*, ed. by Charles Cheek.

Afternoon field trip: Meet at 1 p.m. in front of Sam Adams statue. Walking tour of central waterfront, led by Dr. Nancy S. Seasholes.

Wednesday, June 17

Morning Lecture: African Americans in Boston

- ❖ Black Bostonians, a history
- ❖ Archaeology of the African Meeting House & Smith School

Reading:

- Landon, David B., *Archaeology of the African Meeting House*
- *Horton, J., and L. Horton, 1979, *Black Bostonians: Family Life and Community Struggle in the Antebellum North*. Holmes and Meier Publishers, New York. (selected passages)
- *Pierson, W. D., 1988, *Black Yankees*. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst. (selected passages)

Optional readings:

- *Bower, Beth Anne, and Byron Rushing, 1980, The African Meeting House: The Center for the 19th-Century Afro-American Community in Boston. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America*, ed. by Robert L. Schuyler, pp. 69–75. Baywood Press, Farmingdale, NY.
- *Bower, Beth Anne, 1991, Material Culture in Boston: The Black Experience. In *The Archaeology of Inequality*, ed. by Randall H. McGuire and Robert Paynter, pp. 55–63. Blackwell, Oxford.
- *Mead, Leslie A., 1995, *Report of Excavations at the Smith School Site at the African Meeting House, Boston, Massachusetts*, Chapter 5, "The Smith School Artifacts" (pp. 57–69) and Chapter 6, "Summary and Conclusions" (pp. 71–76). National Park Service, Northeast Regional Cultural Resources Center, Lowell, MA.

Afternoon: walking tour of Boston's Black Heritage Trail, led by M. Beaudry or NPS Ranger. Meet at 2 pm at the memorial to Robert Gould Shaw & 54th Regiment (corner of Beacon & Park Streets, directly across Beacon St. from the State House). Best T stop is Park St.

Monday, June 22

Morning Lecture: Part 1. Death and Commemoration in Colonial Boston

- ❖ History of Boston's burying grounds
- ❖ An overview of colonial tombstone carving: designs, makers, change over time
- ❖ The Boston Burying Grounds Initiative: preserving early tombstones and burying grounds

Reading:

- *Deetz, James, 1996, "Remember Me as You Pass By," chapter in *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*. Rev. ed. Anchor Books/Doubleday, New York.
- *Benes, Peter, editor, 1976, *Puritan Gravestone Art*. The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, Annual Proceedings 1976. Boston University Press, Boston. (selected passages)

Part 2. Unearthing Boston: A Review (review sheet will be distributed in class)

- ❖ What have we learned?
- ❖ An overview and review of Boston archaeology
- ❖ How Boston fits into the overall field of urban archaeology

Afternoon: Meet City Archaeologist Ellen Berkland for tour of one or more historic Boston burying grounds. Time TBA, directions will be distributed in class.

Wednesday, June 24

Final Examination 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.