

ANTHROPOLOGY 456
CRN 33119

Historical Archaeology

SPRING 2010

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 2:10 TO 3:30 PM, LA 302

MAX ENROLLMENT: 25

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE WEBSITE:

<http://www.cas.umt.edu/anthro/courses/anth456/default.htm>

INSTRUCTOR: Kelly J. Dixon

Office: Social Sciences Building, Room 232
Telephone: 406.243.2450
Email: kelly.dixon@mso.umt.edu
Office hours: Tuesday 3:30-5:00 pm and by appointment

Historical Archaeology is the study of post-prehistoric human cultures using physical remains, historical records, and a range of multidisciplinary techniques. Sometimes this discipline is referred to as “Historic Sites Archaeology.”

The purpose of this course is to demonstrate how historic archaeological remains, methods, and theories can be used to understand and interpret the recent past. In this course, students will learn how to conduct literature searches, compile annotated bibliographies, prepare essays based on their annotated bibliographies, and critically review methods and theories in manuscripts associated with historical archaeological scholarship. In addition, students will learn how to link event-centered local/regional projects with broad research agendas and topics, such as studies of colonization.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. **Deetz, James A.**

In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life. New York: Anchor Books, 1996.

2. **Hardesty, Donald L.**

The Archaeology of the Donner Party. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1997.

3. **Orser, Charles Jr.**

Historical Archaeology, 2nd edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, Prentice Hall, 2004.

OPTIONAL TEXTBOOKS (REQUIRED FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS):

1. **Lawrence, Susan**

Dolly's Creek: An Archaeology of a Victorian Goldfields Community. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2000.

2. **Novak, Shannon A.** *House of Mourning: A Biocultural History of the Mountain Meadows Massacre*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2008.

ADDITIONAL READINGS* (POSTED AS PDFS ON COURSE WEBSITE):

Blanton, Dennis

2003 The weather is fine, wish you were here, because I'm the last one alive: "learning" the environment in the English New World colonies. In *Colonization of Unfamiliar Landscapes: The Archaeology of Adaptation*, edited by Marcy Rockman and James Steele, pp. 190-200. Routledge, London.

Deetz, James A.

1995 *Flowerdew Hundred: The Archaeology of a Virginia Plantation, 1619-1864*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press (excerpt will be assigned/discussed in class).

Dixon, Kelly J., Shannon A. Novak, Gwen Robbins, Julie M. Schablitsky, G. R. Scott, and Guy Tasa
2010 "Men, Women, Children Starving": Archaeology of the Donner Family Camp." *American Antiquity*.

Grayson, Donald

1990 Donner Party Deaths: A Demographic Assessment. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 46(3):223-242.

Joyce, Rosemary A. and Jeanne Lopiparo

2005 Doing Agency in Archaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 12:365-374.

Leone, M.

1982 Some Opinions about Recovering Mind. *American Antiquity* 47(4):742-760.

Lightfoot, Kent G. and Antoinette Martinez

1995 Frontiers and Boundaries in Archaeological Perspective. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:471-92.

Little, Barbara J.

2009 What Can Archaeology Do for Justice, Peace, Community, and the Earth? *Historical Archaeology* 43(4):115-119.

Mullins, Paul R.

2008 The Strange and Unusual: Material and Social Dimensions of Chinese Identity. *Historical Archaeology*, 42(3):152-157.

Novak, Shannon A. and Lars Rodseth

2006 Remembering Mountain Meadows: Collective Violence and the Manipulation of Social Boundaries. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 61(1):1-25.

Saitta, Dean

1994 Agency, Class, and Archaeological Interpretation. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 13:201-227.

Spude, Catherine Holder

2005 Brothels and Saloons: An Archaeology of Gender in the American West. *Historical Archaeology*, 39(1):89-106.

Voss, Barbara L. and Rebecca Allen

2008 Overseas Chinese Archaeology: Historical Foundations, Current Reflections, and New Directions. *Historical Archaeology*, 42(3):5-28.

*Additional readings may be assigned and discussed throughout the semester; a course bibliography will be presented to students.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This course meets for 80 minutes, two days a week, throughout the semester. Class meetings will include lectures, in-class exercises, films, and visits to lab and archive facilities. Students may be asked to participate in class by sharing their ideas with the rest of the class in informal discussions and/or in brief written assignments. We will investigate at least one case study to give students a sense of designing, carrying out, and publishing the results of an interdisciplinary [historic-period] archaeological project. Throughout the semester, I may assign readings or handouts not listed in this syllabus; such items will provide you with the opportunity to examine more specific subjects than those outlined in the required readings.

GRADING POLICY:

Course grades will be based upon student performance on assignments, or examinations, and a series of in-class exercises. Graduate students will be responsible for all of the above *and* book reviews associated with the optional readings.

POINTS PER ASSIGNMENT:

1 st Mid-term Project*	75 points
2 nd Mid-term Project*	75 points
Final Project*	100 points
In-class exercises	50 points
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TOTAL	300 points

2 Book Reviews (Graduate Students Only)	200 points
Annotated Bibliography (Graduate Students Only)	100 points

GRADUATE STUDENT TOTAL

600 points (includes undergraduate grading)

I will assign +/- grades for this course and final grades will be based upon the following average scores for the exams, in-class exercises, and graduate student book reviews: A (100-95), A- (94-90), B+ (89-88), B (87-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-63), D- (62-60), F (59 or less).

* Make-up exams will be given ONLY in cases of verified and unavoidable emergencies. You must notify me IN ADVANCE if you are unable to take the regularly scheduled exam.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken during each class and will help make decisions about a student's final grade in borderline cases. Also, the in-class exercises require attendance to get full points.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

The Department of Anthropology is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documented learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to formulate a plan for accommodations. Please contact Jim Marks in DSS (243.2373, Lommasson Center 154) for more information.

COURSE SCHEDULE:**Week 1: January 26, 28: Intro to Historical Archaeology?****Assigned Readings**

Intro to Historical Archaeology

Orser (Chapters 1-3)

What is Historical Archaeology?; Types of Historical Archaeological Sites (Underwater, Industrial, etc.)

Case Studies (Intro to our "pet" case study of the semester)

Week 2: February 2, 4 What is Historical Archaeology?**Assigned Readings**

People Without History; "Ethnicity and Race"

Deetz (pp. 187-211), Orser (pp. 251-261)

African American Archaeology

Deetz (pp. 212-252)

Documentary Study: *Slave Island***Week 3: February 9, 11 Research Methods in Historical Archaeology****Assigned Readings**

Asian American Archaeology

Voss and Allen, 2008, "Overseas Chinese Archaeology...";

Mullins 2008, The Strange and Unusual, *Historical Archaeology*;

Artifacts and Material Culture: Gravestone Art

Deetz (pp. 89-124)

Using Artifacts to Interpret the Past

Orser (Chapter 4)

Deetz (pp. 165-186)

Week 4: February 16, 18 Research Methods in Historical Archaeology**Assigned Readings**

How to Get a Date

Orser (Chapter 5)

Pre-fieldwork: Historical Research

Orser (Chapter 7, pp. 171-184)

Case Study: Mountain Meadows

Novak, *House of Mourning* (optional for undergraduates)

Documentary Study: *What Happened at Mountain Meadows?*

GRAD STUDENTS: 1st BOOK REVIEW DUE February 18 (Novak's *House of Mourning*)

Week 5: February 23, 25 Interdisciplinary Research: Building Bridges Assigned Readings

Library Visit: Feb 23 Historical Research (Archives)

Library Visit: Feb 25 Literature Search (Scholarly Databases) and Government Documents

Week 6: March 2, 4 Research Methods in Historical Archaeology Assigned Readings

Field and Laboratory Work

Orser (Chapters 6 and 8)

Artifact Curation & Artifact Databases

Architecture as Artifact

Orser (pp. 184-190); Deetz (pp. 125-164)

Week 7: March 9, 10 Explanation in Historical Archaeology Assigned Readings

Theoretical Paradigms

Orser (Chapter 9)

History of Theoretical Explanation in Historical Archaeology

How is Theory Reflected in Historical Archaeological Research?

Feminist Theory and Engendered Archaeologies

Spude, 2005, "Brothels and Saloons...", *Historical Archaeology*

Agency: Theory, Fad, Product of the Environment...

Joyce and Lopiparo, 2005, *Doing Agency in Archaeology, Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*

Week 8: March 16, 18 Colonization, Cultures in Contact, and Events Assigned Readings

An Event-Centered Approach to Archaeology

Beck et al. 2007, "Eventful Archaeology," *Current Anthropology*

Class, Capitalism, and Culture Change

Orser (Chapter 10)

Globalization and the Archaeology of Frontiers

Orser (Chapter 11)

Lightfoot and Martinez, 1995, "Frontiers and Boundaries..." *Annual Review of Anthropology*

Colonization of Unfamiliar Landscapes

Blanton, 2003 "The weather is fine, wish you were here..."

Mid-term Project 1: Annotated bibliography (due March 23)

Week 9: March 23, 25 Interdisciplinary Case Study Assigned Readings

Case Study: Donner Party

Hardesty, *Archaeology of the Donner Party*

Grayson, 1990, "Donner Party Deaths...", *Journal of Archaeological Research*

Dixon et al. 2010, "Men, Women, Children: Starving," *American Antiquity*

Week 10: March 30, April 1

NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 11: April 6, 8 Historical Archaeology in the American West Assigned Readings

Case Study: Donner Party

Excerpts from Dixon et al. *Anthropology of Desperation*, forthcoming

Mid-term Assignment

Week 12: April 13, 15 The American West: Special Topics Assigned Readings

Case Study: Donner Party

Excerpts from Dixon et al. *Anthropology of Desperation*, forthcoming

Mid-term Project 2: Review of Manuscript (method and theory critique) (due April 20)

Review of readings, discussions of final projects

Week 13: April 20, 22 Historical Archaeology and the American West **Assigned Readings**

Archaeologies of the American West: A Regional Approach

to be announced

Review of readings, discussions of final projects

to be announced

Week 14: April 27, 29 Historical Archaeology: Applying the West to the World **Assigned Readings**

The wild outback?

Lawrence, *Dolly's Creek* (optional for undergraduates)

GRAD STUDENTS: 2nd BOOK REVIEW DUE April 27

An Archaeology of Early America

Deetz, *In Small Things Forgotten*

Deetz, *Flowerdew Hundred* (excerpt)

Discussions of final projects/essays

Week 15: May 4, 6 Academic and Applied? The Role of Historical Archaeology **Assigned Readings**

Assessing Site Significance

Orser (Chapter 12)

Presentation of final projects

Week 16: FINALS WEEK

Final Exam Time Slot: Thursday, May 13, 1:10-3:10