

University of Idaho
Historical Archaeology, Fall 2006

Mark Warner, Instructor
Office: 114 Phinney
Office Hours: 10:30-12:00 M, W, OTBA
Phone: 885-5954
email: mwarner@uidaho.edu

Anthropology 431/531
W 6:00-8:40
Lab of Anthropology

Plowing, strip mining, laying brick upon brick in mortar, weeding, bulldozing: these are as much historical acts as scratching a pen over paper. The shapes of fields, the wrecked faces of hills, the houses and bridges, corrals, docks, temples factories, prisons, switchyards, junkyards, graveyards, the highways on the plains, the paths in the woods--all are historical texts, overlaid, opposed, related into a single perfect structure, simultaneously spatial and temporal, qualitative, quantitative, as inclusive as the planet, as deep as time itself: a universal memory....

...The argument is simple. Few people write. Everyone makes things. An exceptional minority has created the written record. The landscape is the product of the divine average (Glassie 1988:82).

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this seminar is to present a relatively intensive introduction to historical archaeology. The course examines the histories of the recent past through archaeology, focusing primarily, but not exclusively on the diversity of experiences and material life after European colonization of the New World. The course is designed to accomplish two objectives. The first objective is to provide a general introduction to the artifacts, methodologies, and theories that inform historical archaeology. The second (and more wide ranging) goal is to explore the roles that material culture has played historically in structuring, reinforcing, and even challenging people's understanding of the world in which they live.

It is expected that you have had a preliminary introduction to the basic concepts, techniques and principles that guide archaeology prior to taking this course.

TEXTS:

In Small Things Forgotten

James Deetz

What this Axl Means

Janet Spector

Cypress/West Oakland Historical Archaeology Project Report

Praetzellis and Praetzellis, eds.

(NOTE THIS IS AVAILABLE ON LINE AT: <http://www.sonoma.edu/asc/publications/index.html>)

Plus a series of articles that are on electronic reserve and an array of documents

How to access the reserve articles.

Go to: [Http://db.lib.uidaho.edu/ereserve/show_course.php3?pointer=1114](http://db.lib.uidaho.edu/ereserve/show_course.php3?pointer=1114)

The citations serve as the hyperlinks to the readings. When you click on them, you will be prompted to enter the following username and password information:

Username: reserve

Password: 3em9fau

Both fields are case sensitive and must be entered EXACTLY as they appear above.

ATTENDANCE:

Since this course is being taught as a seminar that meets only once a week a very small number of individual absences will hurt not only the individual student but the class as a whole, therefore attendance is expected barring extenuating circumstances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The requirements for the course are designed so that the student will be exposed to many of the component parts of historical archaeology research, including work with historic texts, artifact analysis and interpretation as well as synthesizing and critiquing various aspects of historical archaeology.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Grades will be primarily based on five criteria, two major projects/exams, one shorter paper and an in-class presentation. In each case I will elaborate upon the specifics of the assignment as is appropriate.

Major works

- 1) A detailed history of a campus or city building. You will select a particular building to you and you will be expected to present as detailed a history as possible of that particular property. **Due approximately October 11th** (30 percent of grade)
- 2) A final examination. Note this may or may not be a take home exam. (30 percent of grade)

Smaller works

- 3) An exercise in modern material culture, in other words a contemporary garbage deposit. Each person will be required to make an itemized record of their own garbage for a specific period. The records will be distributed anonymously to other class members and then each of you will analyze one of your classmates' trash. (20 percent of grade) Trash list due Oct. 18th, write up due **Nov. 1st**.

Oral components

- 4) A biographical sketch of one of the significant figures in historical archaeology. You will make a brief presentation in class on the individual and provide each member of the class with a bibliography (some annotation is suggested) and a summary paragraph/page on the individual (10 percent of grade).
- 5) General classroom participation (and to a degree attendance) (10 percent of grade). Note this will include summarizing a chapter of the Cypress report and generating a list of discussion questions for that chapter. There is also the possibility of unannounced in class quizzes on the readings should I sense that folks are coming to class unprepared.

TO GRADUATE STUDENTS:

I tend to encourage graduate students in my courses to tailor the course requirements in a way that will in some way contribute toward the completion of their degree. Thus, I expect the following four things from graduate students.

- 4) It is expected that you come to class prepared, (that is having done the readings) and be able to discuss the readings if called upon. To come to class unprepared with any regularity will adversely affect your grade.
- 5) You will participate in the garbage assignment for this class (see #3 above)
- 6) You will contact your primary professional organization (most likely SAA, or SHA, but I've got other suggestions as well) and produce a book review for their journal. Not only does this contribute to your professional organization but it is also a small step in resume-building
- 7) You will produce a major work, due at the end of the semester. What this work is exactly will be negotiated between the two of us.

A NOTE ON CHEATING:

Quite frankly it is not in my nature to be a meany, but unfortunately I have found this to be a regular issue these days. The bottom line is that I will not accept plagiarism on any works in this class. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism please do not hesitate to contact me. Unfortunately in college ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an acceptable defense. If I do identify any such acts you will fail the assignment and be turned in to the Dean of Students office for the appropriate disciplinary action.

CLASS CALENDER

Part I:

Introduction

Week 1: August 21-25

Introduction, what is historical archaeology

Week 2: Aug. 28 - Sep. 1

Intro. Continued, history of the discipline.,

Read:

Schuyler: Historical and Historic Sites Archaeology (on line)

Little: People With History (on line)

Logan: Archaeologists, Residents and Vistors (on line)

Part II:

Documents

Week 3: September 4-8

The Written Record, Sources, uses, and abuses of texts.

Week 4: September 11-15

The Written Record, Sources, uses, and abuses of texts.

Week 5: September 18-22 *The Written Record, Sources, uses, and abuses of texts.*

Read:

Church: The Grant and the Grid (on line)

Purser: Consumption as Communication (on line)

Part III:

Artifacts

Week 6: Sept. 25 - 29

Artifact lectures, or 'What is this Crap?'

Read:

Burley, Function, Meaning and Context. (on line)

Rathje: A Garbage Census? (on line)

Week 7: October 2-6

Artifact lectures, or 'What is this Crap?'

Week 8: October 9-13

Artifact lectures, or 'What is this Crap?'

Week 9: October 16-20

Loose ends, catch up time, some on dating

Read:

Start Reading *In Small things forgotten*

Part IV:

Connecting it all

Week 10:

October 23-27

Theory in historical archaeology

Read:

Continue reading *In small things forgotten*

Week 11:

Oct. 30 - Nov. 3

Landscape and Race

Read:

Continue Reading *In Small things forgotten*

Leone, Interpreting ideology in historical archaeology (on line)

Orser, The Challenge of Race to American Hist. Arch. (on line)

Week 12:

November 6-10

Feminist thought in Historical Archaeology

Read:

What this Awl Means

Week 13:

November 13-17 *What this Awl Means* and start *Cypress/West Oakland.*

Read:

Start *Cypress/West Oakland*

Week 14:

November 20-24

Cypress/West Oakland

Read:

THANKSGIVING BREAK!!! (Time to stuff yourself and do all the readings that you haven't done in the previous two months)

Week 15:

Nov. 27 - Dec. 1

Cypress/West Oakland

Read:

finish *Cypress/West Oakland*

Week 16:

December 4-8

Wind-up class

Read:

Logan, Archaeologists, Residents and Visitors (in course pack)