University of Mary Washington, Department of Historic Preservation

HISP 207-01, American Archaeology [WI]

Spring 2010 — Prof. Douglas W. Sanford
Combs 237 — MWF 10:00 – 10:50 AM

This course introduces modern American archaeology to historic preservation and other interested students. Covering archaeological methods and theory, the course also discusses how archaeological research relates to the recovery and writing of anthropology and history, the treatment of cultural resources, and to current social and political thought. Several case study presentations will concern historical archaeology, particularly of the Chesapeake region and the eastern United States, but attention will be drawn to archaeology related to Native Americans and prehistoric time periods. Utilizing a topical and case study approach to archaeology's various facets, the class encourages students to consider how archaeologists recover, interpret, and disseminate the results of their studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Foster knowledge of American archaeology and its modern cultural and political contexts.
2. Impart a preliminary understanding of the research methods (field, laboratory, analytical) currently practiced by archaeologists.
3. Gain a preliminary understanding of how archaeologists theorize, analyze, interpret, and publish their research data.
4. Promote an awareness of how environmental issues inform archaeological methods and theories, including the relationships between cultures and ecosystems. "Essentially, archaeology is the study of our human ancestors' relationship with the world in which they found themselves." (Frost (2000:378), *The Archaeology Education Handbook*).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Texts: The following texts are required:

Colin Renfrew & Paul Bahn, *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods, and Practice* (2007).
Fraser D. Neiman, *The "Manner House" before Stratford* (1980).
Other readings will be made available through the course's Blackboard webpage.

Tests: There will be a mid-term examination on **February 22nd** and a final examination on **Monday, April 26th.**

Writing Assignments: As a Writing Intensive course, three written assignments are required for successfully completing the class. We will discuss these assignments thoroughly in class as well as the associated mechanics for scholarly production and notation. The first assignment, ***due Feb. 15th***, will be a critical review of approximately 1,200 words that discusses an acceptable archaeological text (approved by the instructor or listed on the "Recommended Readings"

handout). Following its submission we will review your essay together and after our discussion, you will produce a second draft that is due no later than ***February 26th***. The second assignment, ***due March 24th***, will be a five-page paper that either evaluates a cultural resource management report or reviews a series of selected readings on the current state of cultural resource management. Following an in-class peer review session on that date, you will produce a second draft that is due no later than ***April 2nd***. The third exercise, ***due April 23rd***, will be a laboratory exercise in which you will analyze a body of archaeological data and then interpret your findings in a five-page report.

No Late Papers will be accepted without penalty (1 letter grade per day). Students must communicate with the instructor as to any delayed submissions of course work. In-class exercises count toward participation, as does engaging in class discussions.

Required Fieldwork & Other Opportunities: Each student is required to participate in one day of archaeological fieldwork, with most opportunities occurring on the weekends. Further information will be provided in class. For students with strong interest, there are additional opportunities to participate in ongoing archaeological projects within the Fredericksburg area and to attend regional conferences and scholarly presentations.

Disability Issues: the Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University of Mary Washington as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodations. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you have not made contact with the Office of Disability Services and have reasonable accommodation needs, I will be happy to help you contact them. The office will require appropriate documentation of a disability. Office of Disability Services; Lee Hall; 540-654-1266; ods@umw.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Grading Scale: A: 94-100; A-: 90-93; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72; D+: 67-69; D: 60-66; F: 0-59. Your final grade will be determined by the following method: Mid-term exam (15%); Final exam (20%); Critical book review (15%); CRM report evaluation (15%); Laboratory exercise (20%); and Class participation and one day of archaeological fieldwork (15%).

Office Information: Hours: Tu.: 10-11 AM; W.: 3-4 PM; Th.: 10-11 AM; F.: 12-1 PM, and by appointment. Room: Combs 133, 654-1314; **dsanford@umw.edu.**.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION: THE WHO, WHAT, AND WHY OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Jan. 11 Class Introduction

Jan. 13 Archaeology, Anthropology, Historic Preservation & Their Relations to America's Pasts
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Introduction.

Jan. 15 The Archaeological Record, The Concept of Artifact, & Research Goals
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 2.

Jan. 18 **No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

HOW ARCHAEOLOGISTS DO WHAT THEY DO IN AND OUT OF THE FIELD

Jan. 20 Field Methods Ia: Site Survey & Identification
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 3.

Jan. 22 Field Methods Ib: Site Selection

Jan. 25 Field Methods II: Recording Systems

Jan. 27 Field Methods III: Remote Sensing
Reading: "Through Dirt to the Past" by E. Paul Durrenberger (2003); or, "City Beneath the Mounds: Mapping a Prehistoric American Metropolis" by Mike Toner (2008).

Jan. 29 Field Methods IVa: Soils

Feb. 1 Field Methods IVb: Stratigraphy

Feb. 3 Field Methods in Action: Video presentation.

Feb. 5 Underwater Archaeology
Reading: "Uluburum" from Time Detectives, by Brian Fagan; ***or*** "Raising the Hunley," *Common Ground*, Summer/Fall 2001, pp. 12-23.

Feb. 8 Archaeology & the Internet
Class will be held in the computer lab.

Feb. 10 Historical Perspective: The Historiography of American Archaeology
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 1.

Feb. 12 New & Post-Modern Archaeology
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 9.

Feb. 15 Historiography (continued): Science Rising (Again?).

First Writing Assignment (Draft) Due

Feb. 17 Laboratory Analysis & Conservation

Feb. 19 Cultural Resource Management: Archaeology, the Law, & "Picking & Choosing"

Feb. 22 **Mid-term Examination**

Feb. 24 CRM (continued).
Reading: Select 1 out of 3 short articles from the *SAA Bulletin*.

RECONSTRUCTING AMERICAN PASTS: ARCHAEOLOGY THROUGH THE AGES

Feb. 26 American & Virginia's Prehistory – Archaeological Issues
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 5.

Mar. 1, 3, 5 **No Class – Spring Break**

Mar. 8 Social & Environmental Constructs: Addressing Complexity & the Terms of Engagement
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 6.

Mar. 10 Researching & Interpreting Native American Ecology
Reading: **Either** Stephen Lekson, "War in the Southwest, War in the World" (2002), **or,** Sharman Apt Russell, "Clovisia the Beautiful" (1997).

Mar. 12 The Chesapeake's First European Century: From Jamestown to Williamsburg
Reading: Neiman, whole text.

Mar. 15 Archaeology of the 17th & 18th Centuries

Mar. 17 Discussion article for the 19th Century: Jared Diamond's "Living Through the Donner Party" (1992).

Mar. 19 **No Class – Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Mar. 22 Chronology
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 4.

Mar. 24 **Second Writing Assignment Due – Peer Review**

Mar. 26 Methods of Dating

Mar. 29 Ceramics: Video presentation: "The Sultan's Lost Treasure".

Mar. 31 Ceramic Analysis
Reading: Smart Martin, "Magical, Mythical, Practical, and Sublime: The Meanings and Uses of Ceramics in America" (2001).

Apr. 2 Artifact Analysis & Counting

Apr. 5 Quantitative Analysis

Apr. 7 Bones – Introduction to Analysis
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 8. Curry: "The Gladiator Diet: How to Eat, Exercise, and Die a Violent Death" (2008)

Apr. 9 Bones & Environment
Reading: Dickson et al.: "The Iceman Reconsidered" (2003).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOPICS & ISSUES

Apr. 12 African-American Archaeology
Video: "Ground Truth".

Apr. 14 African-American Archaeology (continued)
Reading (relevant for the 3rd writing assignment): Wilson & Cabak: "Feminine Voices from beyond the Grave: What Burials Can Tell Us about Gender Differences among Historic African Americans" (2004).

Apr. 16 Landscape Archaeology

Apr. 19 Pulling It All Together: Theory, Methods, Evidence, & Changing Paradigms
Video: "Mystery of the First Americans"

Apr. 21 Video discussion.

Apr. 23 Professional, Ethical Archaeology & The Discourse of Cultural Politics
Reading: Renfrew & Bahn, Chpt. 10.

Third Writing Assignment Due

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, April 26th, 8:30 – 11:00 AM