Archaeology, Ethnology, and History

ANT 380K (30765) Spring 2015
Samuel Wilson

This course explores the historical and contemporary relationships between archaeology, history, and sociocultural anthropology. We will look at the history of these interrelated intellectual projects and the way they developed and changed through time, arriving at a better understanding of the present moment. We also will search for the best ways of understanding human experiences in the past by combining information collected through archaeology, archival research, exploration of indigenous texts and oral histories, and ethnographic research.

- The schedule covers topics, readings, due dates, and presentations
- The assignments and requirements are given below
- The others page can help put you in touch with others in the class,
- and links are web-based resources relating to Archaeology, Anthropology, and History

Readings

Readings are linked to the schedule page. If you are not familiar with archaeological ideas, approaches, and concepts, I recommend you get a copy of Bruce G. Trigger's, *A History of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge 2006, and also ask me for other readings.
## Schedule [NB: this is a provisional schedule -- it will be updated regularly]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Readings</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 Jan</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
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<td>30 Jan</td>
<td>Disciplinary ancestries of Anthropology and History</td>
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<td>6 Feb</td>
<td>Disciplinary Ancestries: on the impact of the idea of evolution</td>
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<td>• Stocking: &quot;Ethnology on the Eve of Evolution (1830-1858)&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No need to memorize - just be prepared to discuss the intellectual environment in which Anthropology emerged.</td>
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<td>• Herder: excerpt from Philosophical Writings (edited and translated by Michael N. Forster (Cambridge 2002). Please read letter 116 in the last 3 pages or so of the selection. The Intro section can be skimmed for background to Herder.</td>
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<td>• Gianbattista Vico - Stanford Encyclopedia of Phylosophy, or Wikipedia or both</td>
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<td>• Vico's Scienza Nuovo. (just look through it to get an idea of its scope). (More formats here.) Ency. Britannica: &quot;Giambattista Vico, (b. June 23, 1668, Naples [Italy]—d. Jan. 23, 1744, Naples), Italian philosopher of cultural history and law, who is recognized today as a</td>
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forerunner of cultural anthropology, or ethnology. He attempted, especially in his major work, the Scienza nuova (1725; “New Science”), to bring about the convergence of history, from the one side, and the more systematic social sciences, from the other, so that their interpenetration could form a single science of humanity.

13 Feb  **Social History and the Annales School**


- Gosden, Chris, chapters 1 and 2 from  *Anthropology and Archaeology: a changing relationship*.

20 Feb  **The Postmodern critique in Anthropology and History**


- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy - Postmodernism (or any similar overview)

further reading:


- Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, "History in a postmodern world" in Fox-Genovese and Lasch-Quinn, eds., Reconstructing

27 Feb **Postmodernism and Archaeology**


Further reading:


6 Mar **Chinese Ethnology**


For background on the Chinese development of ethnology, consult:
- Wang Mingming, 'The Third Eye: Towards a Critique of 'Nativist Anthropology' *Critique of Anthropology*; Jun2002, Vol. 22 Issue 2, p149, 26p (and if possible, take a look at this brief history of early ethnology by Mingming contained in this document)

13 Mar **Historical Anthropology and Historical Archaeology**


Further reading
• Kus, Susan (1997) "Archaeologist as Anthropologist: Much ado about something after all?" *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 4,

20 Mar  **Spring Break**

27 Mar  **What is Ethnohistory?**


  further reading
  • Fogelson, Ray "The Ethnohistory of Events and Nonevents" (1988)

3 Apr  **Seeking principles of integrative research**

  • Kepecs, Susan, 1997 "Introduction to New Approaches to Combining the Archaeological and Historical Records" *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 4, Nos. 3/4, 193-8.

  • Feinman, Gary 1997 Thoughts on New Approaches to Combining the Archaeological and Historical Records." *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 4, Nos. 3/4, 367-377.

10 Apr  **Models of integrative research:**


  • Ian Hodder, 2005, "An archaeology of the four-field approach in Anthropology in the United States." In Segal and Yanigisako, Unwrapping the Sacred Bundle.

17 Apr  **Integrative research strategies in anthropological archaeology**

  • Bruce Trigger "The Relevance of Archaeology " in *History of Archaeological Thought* (Second Edition, 2006)
24 Apr  • Trouillot, excerpt from Silencing the Past

1 May  Presentations:

6 May  final topics

Final project due ...

other readings --


• Pulsipher & Goodwin, "Here Where the Old Time People Be: Reconstructing the Landscapes of the Slavery and Post-Slavery Era in Monserrat, West Indies".

• Trigger, Bruce G. "Ethnohistory: Problems and Prospects" (1982)

• Excerpt from Hernando Ruiz de Alarcón, "Treatise on the Heathen Superstitions That Today Live Among the Indians Native to This New Spain, 1629" translated by J. Richard Andrews and Ross Hassig


Linda Brown, 2005, Planting the bones: Hunting Ceremonialism at Contemporary and Nineteenth Century Shrines in the Guatemalan Highlands.

Jaime R. Pagán-Jiménez, 2004, Is all Archaeology at Present a Postcolonial one?

Curtoni and Politis, 2006, Race and Racism in South American Archaeology.

• The Epic of Gilgamesh
• Egyptian Book of the Dead
• Popul Vuh
• Herodotus, The Histories
• Saga of Eric the Red
• Domesday Book