

Anthropology 392k History and Theory in Archaeology

James Denbow

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Hours: T:2:00-3:30 and by appointment.

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This course provides a developmental and historical overview of theoretical and methodological issues in Archaeology. The course emphasizes readings related to how we think about archaeology as a social science, its concepts and methods, and its relation to history, anthropology, and related fields.

Weekly Assignments: Each week we will discuss both theoretical essays and data-driven studies on processual, postprocessual, and other modern perspectives. Two or three people will be chosen each week as 'volunteers' to present a 5-10 minute summary of the week's readings, and to lead class discussions with questions and issues raised by them. These students are responsible for writing a short critique (about 5 pages) that should be a *balanced and critical* evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the readings (including your reactions to them, ideas they may have given you about your own research and writing or development as a scholar. Don't be afraid to indicate where you didn't follow their arguments, or where agree with them. Both positive and negative appraisals of the ideas are to be included in the discussion; at the bottom of each critique, weekly presenters should provide two questions they think might help direct class discussion. These papers (or summaries, powerpoints or notes covering the readings) should be prepared as handouts for other students to use as a reference. Critiques will be graded for balanced content, clarity, and style. Discussions should focus on how the readings lead you to think about your own development as an anthropologist and the types of questions, approaches and perspectives you might develop for your own work.

Because 2 to 3 students will act as presenters each week, you should coordinate your presentations and questions in order to lead the discussion effectively. **All students** must come to class each week having done all the readings and prepared to participate in a critical examination and discussion of them. You will be assessed on your contributions to the discussions each week as well as on your presentations when it is your turn. The professor will act as a facilitator of the discussions, but students must be prepared to contribute to discussions each week.

Class Requirements: Your grade will be based in equal amounts on your class presentations, class preparation and participation, and a short (10-15 page) paper tied to your developing research interests due the last week of class.

Books and Readings (Books can be purchased online at amazon.com, etc.)

- 1) Class Reader available from Abel's Copies, 715D West 234d Street
- 2) Walter W. Taylor. 1983 (reprint). *A study of Archeology*. S. Illinois

Press. ISBN 0881040096.

3) Lewis Binford. 2002. *In Pursuit of the Past: decoding the archaeological record*. U. California press. ISBN 0520233395.

4) Ian Hodder. 1999. *The Archaeological Process: An Introduction*. Blackwell. ISBN 0-631-19885-7.

5) Matthew Johnson. 2010. *Archaeological Theory, 2nd edition*. Blackwell. ISBN 140510015x. **(Get the new addition.)**

6) Timothy Insoll. 2007. *The Archaeology of Identities: a reader*. Routledge. ISBN 0-415-41502-0.

7) Bruce Trigger. 2006. *A history of Archaeological Thought*. Cambridge. 2nd edition. ISBN-10: 0521600499; ISBN-13: 978-0521600491. **[Note: be sure to get the new 2nd edition.]**

8) R. McGuire. 2002 (reprint). *Marxist Archeology*. Percheron Press. ISBN 0-9712427-4-7; ISBN-13: 978-0971242746

9) Tilley and Shanks. 1993. *Reconstructing Archaeology*. ISBN 0-415-08870-4; ISBN-13: 978-0415088701

10) Marcia-Anne Dobres and John Robb. 2000. *Agency in Archaeology*. Routledge. ISBN 0415207614.

Reading Schedule

*Note: items marked with an * are found in a reader available from Abel's copies. Other documents marked as .pdf can be downloaded from the course blackboard web site. Some of these papers are included in case you have a particular interest in one of these topics and would like more information.*

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Varieties of writing

2007 James Denbow and Duncan Miller. Metal working at Bosutswe, Botswana. *Journal of African Archaeology* 5(2): 271-313. [pdf]

2008 James Denbow, Morongwa Mosothwane, Nonofho Mathibidi. Finding Bosutswe: archaeological encounters with the past. *History in Africa* 35:145-190. [pdf]

2008 James Denbow, Jeanette Smith, Kirsten Atwood, Duncan Miller. Archaeological excavations at Bosutswe: cultural chronology, paleo-ecology and economy. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35: 459-480. [pdf]

2009 Ed Wilmsen, David Killick, Dana Rosenstein, Phenyó Thebe, James Denbow. The Social Geography of Pottery. *Journal of African Archaeology* 7: 3-39. [pdf]

in press James Denbow. Pride, Prejudice, Plunder and Preservation: archaeology and the re-envisioning of ethnogenesis on the Loango coast of the Republic of Congo. *Antiquity*. [pdf]

Week 3: Paradigms, Politics, Evolution and Representations of the past

*Fabian, J. 1983. Chapter 2, Our Time, Their time, No Time: coevalness denied. In Time and the Other, pp. 37-69. Chapter 3, Time and Writing About the Other, pp. 70-104.

Lucas, Gavin. 2005. The Archaeology of Time. Routledge, London. Chapter 1, Beyond Chronology & Chapter 5: Conclusions. [pdf].

Wilmsen, E. and Denbow, J. 1990. Paradigmatic History of San-speaking Peoples and Current Attempts at Revision. *Current Anthropology* 31: 489-524.

*Dubow, Saul (1995): Scientific Racism in modern South Africa. Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-128.

Week 4: Perspectives on Archaeology's past

Trigger, Bruce. 1995. A History of Archaeological Thought. Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-164.

*Kluckhohn, Clyde. 1939. The Place of Theory in Anthropological studies. *Philosophy of Science* 6(3):328-344.

*Patterson, Thomas. 1986. The last Sixty Years: Toward a Social History of Americanist Archaeology in the United States. American Anthropologist 88: 7-26.

*Kehoe, Alice (1992): The paradigmatic vision of archaeology: archaeology as a bourgeois science. In J. Reyman, ed. Rediscovering our Past.

Week 5: Conjunctive Archaeology and concepts of culture.

All of Walter Taylor. 1948. A Study of Archaeology.

Week 6: Early archaeological approaches to "scientific" archaeology.

Trigger, Chapter 5, 6, 7 (pp. 165-385).

*Clark, Grahame. 1953. The Economic Approach to Prehistory. Proceedings of the British Academy, 39: 215-38.

*Julian Steward. 1955. Ecological approaches to the concept and method of cultural ecology. In Theory of Cultural Change, pp. 30-42.

Week 7: "New" Archaeology

Trigger, Chapter 8 (pp. 386-483)

Johnson, M. 1999. Archaeology Theory. Chapters 1, 2, 3; pp.1-47.

*Binford: "Archaeology as Anthropology." American Antiquity 28, 2, pp. 217-225 (1962).

*Binford, L. Archaeological systematics and the study of Culture Process, In New Perspectives in Archaeology, ed. by Sally and Lewis Binford, Aldine: Chicago, pp. 195-205 (1968).

*Hill, J. Broken K pueblo: patterns of form and function. In New Perspectives in Archaeology, ed. by Sally and Lewis Binford, Aldine: Chicago, pp. 103-140. (1968).

*Binford, L. "Smudge pits and hide smoking: the use of analogy in archaeological reasoning." American antiquity 32(1): 1-12 (1967).

*Munson, Patrick, 1969, Comments on Binford's "Smudge pits and hide smoking: the use of analogy in archaeological reasoning." American Antiquity 34: 83-85 (1969).

*Stahl. Ann. 1993. Concepts of Time and Approaches to Analogical Reasoning in Historical Perspective. American Antiquity 58(2): 235-260.

Week 8: New Archaeology II. Middle Range Theory, Ethno-archaeology

Trigger, Chapter 9 (pp. 484-528)

*Binford, L. 1983. In Pursuit of the Past: Decoding the Archaeological Record. Chapters 1, 6, 7, 8, 9. Thames and Hudson: New York.

Johnson, M. 1999. Archaeological Theory. Chapters 4,5,6; pp. 48-97.

Week 9: Responses to New Archaeology: varieties of post-processual archaeology

Shanks, Michael and Tilley, Christopher. 1987. *Reconstructing Archaeology: Theory and Practice*.

Week 10: Marxism & Archaeology

Randal McGuire. *Marxist Archaeology*, Chapters 1-6. Academic Press: San Diego.

*Thomas, B. 1998. Power and Community: The Archaeology of Slavery at the Hermitage Plantation. *American Antiquity* 63(4): 531-551.

Buchli, Victor, 2000. *An Archaeology of Socialism*. Berg, Oxford. Chapters 2 & 3. [.pdf]

Week 11: Hermeneutics, Structure, History and Memory

Trigger, Chapter 10, pp. 529-548)

Ian Hodder. 1999. *The Archaeological Process: An Introduction*. Blackwell. ISBN 0-631-19885-7.

Week 12: Gender and Archaeology

*Franklin, Maria. 2001. A Black feminist-inspired archaeology? *Journal of Social Archaeology* 1(1):108-125.

Joyce, R. 2009. Introduction & Chapter 1. From *Ancient Bodies, Ancient Lives: Sex, Gender, and Archaeology*. Thames & Hudson, pp. 6-45. [.pdf]

Wylie, Alison. 2003. Why Standpoint Matters. In Rigueroa, R. and Harding, S., eds., *Science and Other Cultures*. Routledge, London. [.pdf]

Wylie, Alison. 2004. What's Feminist about Gender Archaeology? [.pdf]

Week 13: Agency and Archaeology

Marcia-Anne Dobres and John Robb. 2000. *Agency in Archaeology*. Routledge. ISBN 0415207614.

Enrique Rodriguez-Alegria. 2005. Eating like an Indian: negotiating social relations in the Spanish colonies. *Current Anthropology* 46: 551-573.

Week 14: The Archaeology of Identity

Timothy Insoll. 2007. *The Archaeology of Identities: a reader*. Routledge. ISBN 0-415-41502-0.

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