Archaeological Theory

ANTHROPOLOGY 386
DR. JAMES M. SKIBO

General Information

Office: Schroeder Hall Room 341  Phone: 438-7397  Email: jmskibo@ilstu.edu
Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Undergraduates

Anth 274, Principles of Archaeology

Course Description

This course introduces archaeological method and theory from 1800 to the present, emphasizing American archaeology. The historical development of method and theory is covered as are the contemporary theoretical positions.

Required Textbooks
None. Weekly readings will be on reserve at Milner or can be accessed online

Recommended Textbooks (Several chapters taken from each book)

Skibo, James, M., and Michael Brian Schiffer

O’Brien, Michael J., R. Lee Lyman, and Michael B. Schiffer

Hodder, Ian

Schiffer, Michael Brian
2000  Social Theory in Archaeology. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Course Objectives

The course has four objectives:

1. To acquaint each student with the development of archaeological method and theory.

2. To introduce contemporary debates in archaeological theory.
3. To develop writing and oral skills

4. To provide students with the background to for more specialized training in archaeology.

Assignments and Requirements

Undergraduates and Graduates

1. **Class Participation.** All reading assignments must be completed prior to class and each student must be prepared to discuss, debate and question in class.

2. **Profile of an Archaeologist.** Each student must investigate the contributions of one of the following archaeologists (other names can be used with my approval). A 10 to 15 page paper (2500 to 3750 words) must be prepared that describes the persons professional life. Each student will also prepare a 15 minute class presentation. A good paper should include a review of what the person investigated, what they wrote, where they were trained, their perspectives on method and theory, and what other archaeologists said about their work.


   Following the completion of this paper, each student must prepare a short class presentation.

3. **Book Review.** Each student must prepare a 10-15 page report of a book from the following list (books can be substituted with my permission). Each student will also prepare a 15 minute presentation.

   Besides providing a concise profile of the book, please answer at least these questions as you prepare you review:
   1. What was the author's intent behind the book? Did she or he state it explicitly, or did you have to infer it? Does the book have a clear central thesis?
   2. If the author uses data in your book, then discuss what it is and how it was applied to the theoretical questions being asked?
   3. How does the theoretical approach compare and contrast with other theories discussed in class. Try to incorporate the readings from the class or other readings in your discussion.
   4. Was the author clear, concise, and easy to follow?
   5. Would you read other things by this author?

Arthur, J. W.
2006 LIVING WITH POTTERY. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
Bentley, R. A., and H. D. G. Maschner
2003 COMPLEX SYSTEMS AND ARCHAEOLOGY: EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL APPLICATIONS. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
Binford, Lewis
2001 CONSTRUCTING FRAMES OF REFERENCE: AN ANALYTICAL METHOD FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY BUILDING. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Cameron, C.
2009 INVISBILE CITIZENS: CAPTIVES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES. University of Utah Press, Salt
Lake City.

Carr, Christopher, ed
1989 FOR CONCORDANCE IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS, Bridging Data, Structure, Quantitative
Technique, and Theory. Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, IL.

Cherry, John, Chris Scarre, and Stephen Shennan, editors
2004 EXPLAINING SOCIAL CHANGE: STUDIES IN HONOUR OF COLIN RENFREW. McDonald

Chilton, E.
1999 MATERIAL MEANINGS. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Christenson, Andrew, ed.
1989 TRACING ARCHAEOLOGY’S PAST. The Historiography of Archaeology. Southern Illinois U. Press,
Carbondale.

Deal, Michael
1998 POTTERY ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY IN THE CENTRAL MAYA HIGHLANDS. University of Utah
Press, Salt Lake City.

DeMarrais, Elizabeth, Chris Gosden, and Colin Renfrew
2004 RETHINKING MATERIALITY. THE ENGAGEMENT OF MIND WITH THE MATERIAL WORLD.
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge, UK

Diaz-Andreu, Margarita, Sam Lucy, Stanislava Babii, and David N. Edwards
2005 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF IDENTITY. APPROACHES TO GENDER, AGE, STATUS,
ETHNICITY, AND RELIGION. Routledge, London.

Dobres, Marcia-Anne

Feinman, Gary M., and T. Douglas Price, editors
2001 ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE MILLENNIUM. Plenum Publishers, NY

Feinman, Gary M. and Linda Manzanilla

Feinman, Gary M., and Linda M. Nicholas
2004 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICAL ECONOMIES. University of Utah Press, Salt
Lake City.

Funari, Pedro Paulo, Andrés Zarkini, and Emily Stovel, editors
2005 GLOBAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY. CONTEXTUAL VOICES AND CONTEMPORARY

Gero, Joan and Margaret Conkey, eds.

Gould, Richard A.
1990 RECOVERING THE PAST. U. New Mexico Press, Albuquerque

Günter Bräuer, Fred H. Smith
1988 CONTINUITY OR REPLACEMENT: CONTROVERSIES IN HOMO SAPIENS EVOLUTION.
Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Hall, Martin, and Stephen W. Silliman
2006 HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA.

Hodder, I.
2004 ARCHAEOLOGY BEYOND DIALOGUE. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Inomata, Takeshi, and Lawrence S. Coben, editors
2006 ARCHAEOLOGY OF PERFORMANCE. THEATERS OF POWER, COMMUNITY, AND POLITICS.
AltaMira Press, Lanham, MD.

Joyce, Rosemary A.
Kehoe, Alice Beck

Kent, Susan, ed.

1987 METHOD AND THEORY FOR ACTIVITY AREA RESEARCH. Columbia U. Press
Kramer, C.

1997 POTTERY IN RAJASTHAN: ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY IN TWO INDIAN CITIES. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
Lamberg-Karlofsky, C.C, ed.

Longacre, W. A., and J.M. Skibo

1994 KALINGA ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
Meskell, Lynn, editor

2005 ARCHAEOLOGIES OF MATERIALITY. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA.
Meltzer, D.J. et al., eds.

Moore, Jenny and Eleanor Scott, eds.

Nelson, Sarah M.

1996 EVOLUTIONARY ARCHAEOLOGY. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
O’Brien, M.

2003 STYLE, FUNCTION, AND TRANSMISSION: EVOLUTIONARY ARCHAEOLOGY PERSPECTIVES. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
Patterson, Thomas C.

1995 TOWARD A SOCIAL HISTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, Philadelphia
Peregrine, P. et al.

2008 ANCIENT HUMAN MIGRATIONS. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City
Pinsky, V and Wylie, A., eds.

1989 CRITICAL TRADITIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHAEOLOGY. Cambridge U Press.
Preucel, Robert W., ed.

Price, T.D., and G. Feinman

Pyburn, K. Anne, editor

Ramenofsky, A. and A. Steffen

1998 UNIT ISSUES IN ARCHAEOLOGY. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
Renfrew, C. and E. Zubrow, eds.

Reyman, Jonathan, ed.

Schiffer, M. B.

1987 FORMATION PROCESSES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

1995 BEHAVIORAL ARCHAEOLOGY: FIRST PRINCIPLES. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
2000 SOCIAL THEORY IN ARCHAEOLOGY. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
2001 ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Shimada, I.
2007 CRAFT PRODUCTION IN COMPLEX SOCIETIES. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
Scott, E. M.
Skibo, J., and G. Feinman
1999 POTTERY AND PEOPLE. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City
Skibo, J. M. Graves, and M. Stark
Skibo, J., W. Walker and A. Nielsen, eds.,
1995 EXPANDING ARCHAEOLOGY. U. Utah Press.
Stark, Miriam T., ed.
1998 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOCIAL BOUNDARIES. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.
Stein, G.
1999 RETHINKING WORLD SYSTEMS THEORY: DIASPORAS, COLONIES, AND INERATIONS IN URUK, MESOPOTAMIA. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
Sullivan, A. P.
2008 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONCEPTS FOR THE STUDY OF THE CULTURAL PAST. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
Ucko, Peter J., ed.
1995 THEORY IN ARCHAEOLOGY. A World Perspective. Routledge, London,
VanPool, T. L., and C. S. VanPool
2003 ESSENTIAL TENSIONS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD AND THEORY. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
Whitley, David S., editor
1998 READER IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY. Post-Processual and Cognitive Approaches. Routledge, NY.
White, N.M., L. P. Sullivan and R. A. Marrinan, eds.
Wylie, Alison
Yoffee, N. and A. Sherratt, eds.

Graduate Students Additional Requirements

Additional Weekly Reading and Discussion. Each graduate student will pick one week in which they will do a minimum of 3 additional readings on the topics being discussed. These readings can be obtained from the references in the week’s assigned readings or they can be tracked down independently. The student will then make a short presentation of the additional reading as part of the class period and then prepare a 3 page paper that will be due one week after their presentation. They will also be responsible for leading the discussion for that class period.
Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile of an Archy</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Reading/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short paper and Pres.</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (Take Home)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Readings and Schedule All readings will be on reserve in Milner or will be available online

Week 1: Introduction to Course. What is archaeological theory?

Hegmon, Michelle

Schiffer, Michael


Week 2: Culture History/Critiques of Culture History

McKern, Clark

O’Brien, Michael et al.

Taylor, Walter
1948 *A study of archaeology*. American Anthropological Association Memorial 69. Menasha, Wisc. *Chapters 3-4* (There are more recent editions by other publishers and they are OK to read).
Week 3 Processual Archaeology

Binford, L. R.

Hill, James

Longacre, W.A.

O’Brien, Michael et al
2005 A new perspective in arch(a)eology, The first processualist case studies (Chapters 2 and 3). In *Archaeology as Process: Processualism and its Progeny*, pp. 36-91. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City

Week 4 Post Processual Archaeology/Critiques

Hodder, I.

O’Brien, Michael et al.

VanPool, C.S., and T. L. VanPool

Week 5 Behavioral Archaeology/Formation Processes

La Motta and Schiffer

Schiffer, Michael B.

Skibo, J. M., and M. B. Schiffer
Week 6 Ethnoarchaeology and Experimental Archaeology

Arnold, Philip J.

Beck, M. and M. Hill

Skibo, James M.

Week 7 Darwinian Archaeology/Selectionism

Leonard, R. D.

O’Brien, M. J., T.D. Holland, R.J. Hoard, and G. L. Fox

Schiffer, M. B.

Shennan, S.

Week 8 Agency/Practice/Materiality

Dobres, Macia-Ann, and John E. Robb

Hodder, Ian
2011 Human-thing entanglement: towards an integrated archaeological perspective.

Pauketat, T., and S. Alt

Meskell, Lynn

Skibo, J. M. and M. B. Schiffer

Week 9 Spring Break

Week 10 Presentations: Profile of an Archaeologist

Week 11 Historical Archaeology

Yentsch, Anne and Mary C. Beaudry
2002 American material culture...Hodder text

Godsen Chris
2002 Postcolonial archaeology...Hodder text

Scott, Elizabeth

Week 12 Social Class, Power, and Political Systems: Marxism

McGuire, R., and P. Reckner

Paynter, R.

Trigger, B.

**Week 13** Evolutionary Ecology and Bio-Archaeology

Kelly, R. L.

Kuhn, S. L., and C. Sarther

Smith, Maria Ostendorf


**Week 14** SAA Meeting/Work on Book Review

**Week 15** Gender

Conkey, M.

Scott, Elizabeth

Wylie, A.

**Week 16** Presentations: Book Review

**Week 17** Finals