

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS

Anthropology 290 -- Spring 2008

John Whittaker

Office: Goodnow 207

Office hours: MWF 9-10, MF 1-2 or by appointment.

CLASS MEETS: Goodnow 206 MWF 11:00-11:50, LAB W 1:15-4:05

The goal of this course is to make you think like an archaeologist, critically evaluating and interpreting material evidence. We will read and discuss archaeological literature with an emphasis on archaeological method and theory, and how we study past human cultures, rather than on what happened at particular times. Although we will probably not be able to do any excavation, we will visit sites in the field and work in the labs with most of the common types of material remains. The first half of the course will be oriented toward archaeological analysis of material remains, the second toward more theoretical issues and larger scale analyses.

This will be a fairly heavy course and participation is an essential part. In particular, attendance at the labs is a must; some of them will require written reports. In the second half of the semester there will be some field trips starting at class time Wednesdays and running through lunch and the lab period.

Readings should be done *before* the class for which they are assigned so we can discuss them. The Patterson exercises take a lot of time. They will form the basis for some classes, and some exam questions will be similar to them.

Texts

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn 2004 Archaeology: Theories, Method, and Practice, 4th ed. New York: Thames and Hudson Ltd.

Kamp, Kathryn 1998 Life in the Pueblo: Understanding the Past through Archaeology. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press.

Flannery, Kent V. ed. 1976 The Early Mesoamerican Village. New York: Academic Press.[not in bookstore, classroom reserve only]

Other readings will be available electronically, and copies of many of the books are also in the Student Project Room (304) in Goodnow. The electronic reserve password for this class is q23z6

Requirements and Grading

Exam I	-- 20%
Exam II Practicum	-- 20%
Exam III Final	-- 20%
Analysis Project	-- 20%
Participation and labs etc.	-- 20%

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Anthro 290 Sp2008

- 1/21 M -- Introduction: What is archaeology? Archaeology as Anthropology. Formation of the archaeological record and material evidence of human behavior.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew, Chapters 1-2.
 Kamp, Chapters 1-3.
 -- handout Grinnell Surface Archaeology
- 1/23 W -- Ceramic technology.
 -- Film: Daughters of the Anasazi.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew pp 341-344
 -- Rye, Owen S. 1981 Pottery Technology: Principles and Reconstruction Washington: Taraxcum. pp 16-28.
 -- Kamp, Chapters 4, 5.
- LAB - Basic ceramic manufacture.
- 1/25 F -- Formation of the archaeological record, types of sites.
 -- Discuss Grinnell Surface Archaeology.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapters 2, and 3.
 Kamp Chapters 6, 7.
- 1/28 M -- Digging it up: Archaeological Excavation.
 -- **Read:** Kamp, Chapter 8 to end.
- 1/30 W -- Ceramic analysis and typology.
 -- **Read:** Senior, Louise 1995 The Estimation of Prehistoric Values. In Expanding Archaeology, J. Skibo, W. Walker, and A. Nelson eds., pp 92-110. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.
- LAB -- Analysis of Fortress Hills sherds
- 2/1 F -- Putting things in order: Seriation and Stratigraphy.
 -- Harris Diagrams
 -- Patterson exercises 1, 2, 3 (We will discuss these most of class time -- Prepare or Beware!)
 -- **Read:** start Renfrew Chapter 4 (read pp 121-136).
 -- Deetz, James. 1977. In Small Things Forgotten Chapter 4.
- 2/4 M -- Ceramics and behavior: What people do with pots.
 -- Longacre, W.A. 1964. Archaeology as Anthropology: A Case Study. In Contemporary Anthropology, M. Leone ed. pp. 316-319. Carbondale: Southern Illinois Univ. Press.
 -- Longacre, W.A. 1981. Kalinga pottery: An Ethnoarchaeological Study. In Pattern of the Past, I.Hodder, G.Isaac, and N. Hammond eds., pp. 49-66. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
 -- optional (later if not now): Flannery EMV pp. 251-272

- 2/6 W -- Stone Tools: Knapping demo
 -- **Read:** Whittaker, J. 1994 Flintknapping: Making and Understanding Stone Tools Austin: U. of Texas Press. Chapters 2 and 3.
 -- Hester, Shafer, Eaton, Adams and Ligabue. 1983. Colha's Stone Tool Industry. Archaeology 36:46-52.
 -- Kamp and Whittaker 1999 Surviving Adversity: The Sinagua of Lizard Man Village. Univ. Utah Anthropological Papers No. 120. (Chapter 5, Flaked Stone Tools and Debitage) (you can read this as you do the lab write-up if you don't get to it before class)
- LAB -- Lithic Analysis I: Debitage.
- 2/8 F -- How Old Is It? Dating.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 4 (finish: pp 136-174).
- 2/11 M -- Dating continued.
 -- **Read:** Graves, M. 1982. Anomalous Tree-Ring Dates and the Sequence of Room Construction at Canyon Creek Ruin, East Central Arizona. Kiva 47(3):107-131.
- 2/13 W -- Finish Dating or Lithics
- LAB - Lithic Analysis II. Questions of function and tool typology
 -- **Read:** Whittaker, Flintknapping Chapter 11.
 -- Shea, J. 1992 Lithic Microwear Analysis in Archaeology. Evolutionary Anthropology 1(4):143-150.
 -- Renfrew Chapter 8.
- 2/15 F -- **EXAM I.** Dating, Stratigraphy, Etc.
- 2/18 M -- Burials, Bones, and Human Osteology.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 11, Chap 7 pp 311-316.
 -- Jelderks, John 2002 Opinion and Order No 96-1481-JE (Kennewick case ruling - skim for story and outcome)
- 2/20 W -- Looking at Skeletons, Seeing People
 -- **Read:** Larson, D. et al. 1995 Cross Homestead: Life and Death on the Midwestern Frontier. IN Bodies of Evidence: Reconstructing History Through Skeletal Analysis. A.Grauer ed. pp. 139-159.
- LAB - Human Osteology.
- 2/22 F -- Botanical Remains.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 7 pp 275-310.
 -- Gasser, Robert. 1979. Seeds, Seasons, and Ecosystems: Sedentary Hohokam Groups in the Papagueria. Kiva 44(2-

- 3):101-112.
 -- Heizer, Robert F. 1970. The Anthropology of Prehistoric Great Basin Coprolites. In: Science in Archaeology, 3rd ed. D.Brothwell and E.Higgs eds. pp. 244-250. NY:Praeger.
- 2/25 M -- Animals and Humans: Zooarchaeology.
 -- **Read:** Szuter, C. 1991. Hunting By Hohokam Desert Farmers. Kiva 56(3):277-292.
 -- Madsen, David 1989. A Grasshopper in Every Pot. Natural History 98():22-24.
- 2/27 W -- Faunal Remains
- LAB - Faunal Analysis.
- 2/29 F -- Catch-up
- 3/3 M -- Prehistoric Ecologies.
 -- Patterson Exercise 4.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 6, (7).
- 3/5 W -- We Love Trash: Historic Artifacts, especially glass.
 -- Video: "Celebration of Light: Waterford Crystal."
 -- **Read:** Lorrain, 1968. An Archaeologist's Guide to 19th Century Glass. Historical Archaeology 2:35-44.
- LAB - Glass and other historic artifacts
 -- **Read:** Newman, T.S. 1970. A Dating Key for Post-Eighteenth Century Bottles. Historical Archaeology 4:70-75. (Handout).
- 3/7 F -- Ethnoarchaeology.
 -- **Read:** Kramer, C. 1979. Introduction. In Ethnoarchaeology: Implications of Ethnography for Archaeology, C. Kramer ed., pp.1-12. New York: Columbia U. Press.
 -- Rathje, W. 1995. Forever Separate Realities. In Expanding Archaeology, J. Skibo, W. Walker, and A. Nelson eds., pp 36-43. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.
- 3/10 M -- Historical Archaeology, Vestigial Features and Symbolic Uses of Technology.
 -- **Read:** Costello, Julia 2004 The Chinese in Gum San (Golden Mountain). The SAA Archaeological Record 4 (5): 14-17.
 --- Farrell, Mary and J. Burton 2004 Civil Rights and Moral Wrongs: World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites. The SAA Archaeological Record 4 (5): 22-25.
- 3/12 W -- How to excavate New York City: Sampling strategies.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew pp 80-81.

- Flannery, Early Mesoamerican Village pp 1-11; 49-72;
Chapter 5 = 131-160.

LAB **EXAM II**: Lab Practicum.

- 3/14 F -- Experimental Archaeology, Hypotheses, and Data
- **Read:** Bernard, H. R. 1994 Research Methods in Anthropology, 2nd ed. Pp 330-359. Altamira Press.

SPRING BREAK 3/15-3/30

- 3/31 M -- "Father, Mother, 3.5 kids, and one anthropologist":
Living Units and Intrasite Variability.
- Patterson exercises 5, 6.
- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 5.
- Flannery EMV pp 13-47.
- Naroll, 1962. Floor Area and Settlement Population.
American Antiquity 27(4):587-589.

- 4/2 W Firing Pottery (in my back yard,
weather permitting) and Introduction to Atlatls

4/4 F [NO CLASS JW Madrid]

4/7 M [No Class JW Madrid]

- 4/9 W -- Intrasite variability continued.
- Patterson Exercise 7.
- **Read:** Flannery EMV pp 72-90.
- Young, Amy, 1997 Task and Gang Labor: Work Patterns at a
Kentucky Plantation. North American Archaeologist
18(1):41-66.

LAB Recording Spatial Relationships - Mapping

- 4/11 F -- Neighbors, Friends, and Enemies:
Settlement Systems and Intersite variability.
- Patterson Exercise 8.
- **Read:** Flannery EMV pp 91-117.

- 4/14 M -- Settlement systems continued.
- **Read:** Flannery EMV pp 161-180.

4/16 W LAB - Lab/Field Trip. Visit Amanas to look at sites

- 4/18 F -- Past Economies: Examining Exchange.
- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 9.
- Flannery EMV pp 251-254, 255-272.

- 4/21 M -- Exchange continued
 -- **Read:** Flannery EMV pp 283-311.
- 4/23 W -- Political Organizations and Religion.
 -- **Read:** Brown, Linda A 2004 Dangerous Places and Wild Spaces: Creating Meaning with Materials and Space at Contemporary Maya Shrines on El Duende Mountain. Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory 11(1): 31-58.
 -- Flannery EMV pp 329-344.
 -- Renfrew Chapter 10
 -- Data for Analysis Project due
 LAB - further mapping
- 4/25 F Atlatl practice, prepare for event
- 4/26 SATURDAY - RAGING COW ATLATL MEET
- 4/28 M -- Social Stratification.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 5.
 -- Patterson exercise 11.
- 4/30 W -- Social Change.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapter 12.
 -- Flannery EMV pp 345-368.
- LAB/Field Trip -- Mapping at Turner
- 5/2 F -- The development of American Archaeology: Where we are today and why.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapters 1, 13.
- 5/5 M -- Cultural Resource Management and Public Archaeology.
 -- **Read:** Renfrew Chapters 13, 14.
 -- Munson, Jones, and Fry 1995 The GE Mound: An ARPA Case Study. American Antiquity 60(1): 131-159.
- 5/7 W Class session -- Archaeology today.
 -- **Read:** Flannery EMV pp 369-375.
 -- Flannery, K. 1982. The Golden Marshalltown: A Parable for the Archeology of the 1980s. American Anthropologist 84:265-278. (Handout)
 -- Golding, William. 1966. Digging for Pictures. In The Hot Gates and other occasional pieces. pp 61-70. New York: Harcourt Brace and World Inc.
 -- Hodder, Ian. 1991 Interpretive Archaeology and its Role. American Antiquity 56(1):7-18.
 LAB - project presentations
- 5/9 F -- Concluding Remarks

-- Analysis Project due

Final Exam as Scheduled: Wednesday 5/14 2:00 pm