Dr. James F. Osborne Fall Semester 2014

Office Hours: TBA (or by appointment) ARCH 2155

Rhode Island Hall, Room 210 Thursday, 4:00-6:20

(401) 863-2306 Rhode Island Hall, Room 109

james\_osborne@brown.edu

**ARCH 2155:**

**History, Anthropology, and Archaeology: Disciplinary Dialogues**

**Course Description**

Since the beginning of modern archaeology the discipline has occupied an uneasy space between the fields of anthropology and history. This seminar examines the interplay of theories and methods in anthropological, historical, and archaeological scholarship, with an emphasis on current inter- and trans- disciplinary research incorporating archival, ethnographic, and archaeological approaches. We begin the course by examining the development of history and anthropology as distinct disciplines and engaging with several major 20th century dialogues between anthropologists and historians. We move on to examine key topics in contemporary archaeology that engage with these two disciplines and seek to find a niche for the field in relation to them. Key monographs explicitly tackling these disciplinary relationships will be given devoted attention in class.

**Readings**

The majority of readings for the course are articles and book chapters that have been made available in PDF. Each of these texts should be read carefully before each class session, and you should seek to contribute at least one critical observation, and prepare at least one critical question concerning each reading. Please bring your own copies of the day’s readings with you to each class session and please do not use laptops, tablets, and smart phones during seminar. In addition to these articles, we will read several monographs in full, which have been made available for purchase at the bookstore:

* Dawdy, Shannon Lee. *Building the Devil’s Empire: French Colonial New Orleans*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2008.
* Sahlins, Marshall., *Islands of History,* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1985.
* Glassie, Henry H. *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts,* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 1975.
* Leone, Mark P. *The Archaeology of Liberty in an American Capital: Excavations in Annapolis,* Berkeley: University of California Press. 2005.
* Lucas, Gavin. 2005 *The Archaeology of Time*. London and New York: Routledge.

**Requirements**

(1) As a reading-based seminar, class participation is the most crucial requirement for all students. This can only be achieved when all reading has been done by all students.

(2) In addition to the expectation of a lively discussion, each student will help the instructor lead the class discussion at least once during the semester (frequency depending on enrollment).

(3) There is no final paper, but students will give a conference-style paper/presentation at the end of the semester on some facet of the course’s material and its relationship to their area of research. Duration limited to 15 minutes

(4) Students will also write short response pieces to the weekly readings (roughly one page single spaced per week), to be submitted at the beginning of class each week.

**Grading**

Participation: 20%

Leading Discussion: 20% (Schedule will be determined at second meeting of the class)

Response Papers: 30%

Final Presentation: 30% (Given in final two weeks of class meetings)

**Absences**

Absences are excused in the case of religious holidays, family emergencies, and illnesses (the latter with a signed letter from your physician). Each unexcused absence will result in a subtraction in your cumulative participation grade.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1: September 4**

***Class introduction***

**WEEK 2: September 11**

***The “pre-disciplinary” age***

Thucydides. “Book One,” in *The Peloponnesian War*. Ed. and trans. Steven Lattimore. Indianapolis (IN): Hackett Publ. Co., 1998, p. 3-14.

Jacobsen, Thorkild. *The Sumerian King List*. Chicago (IL): The University of Chicago Press, 1939, p. 71-127.

Macchiavelli, Niccolò. “Discourses on the First Decade of Titus Livius” (Preface: The Value of History), and “The History of Florence” (Preface), in *Macchiavelli: The Chief Works and Others*. Trans. Allan Gilbert. Durham (NC) and London: Duke U.P., 1989, I: 190-2, and III: 1029-33.

***Enlightenment, scientism, and the emergence of disciplines***

Hegel, G.W.F. Selection from the *Philosophy of Right*, in *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*. Indianapolis (IN) and Cambridge: Hackett, 1988, p. 99-106.

Kant, Immanuel. “Ideal for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View,” in *On History*, Ed. Lewis White Beck. Upper Saddle River (NJ): Prentice Hall, 2001, p. 11-26.

Stocking, George. “Prologue: A Precipice in Time,” and “The Idea of Civilization Before the Crystal Palace (1750-1850),” in *Victorian Anthropology*. New York: The Free Press, 1987, p. 1-45.

***Marx and Weber***

Marx, Karl. “Introduction,” in *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*. New York: International Publishers, 1970, p. 188-217.

Weber, Max. “The Logic of Historical Explanation” [1906], in *Selections in translation*. Ed. W.G. Runciman. Trans. E. Matthews. Cambridge and London: Cambridge U.P., 1978, p. 111-31.

**WEEK 3: September 18**

***The need for a* new *history***

Collingwood, R.G. “Preliminary Analysis: The Idea of a Philosophy of Something, and in Particular, of a Philosophy of History” [1927], in *The Idea of History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994, p. 335-58.

Benjamin, Walter. “On the Concept of History” [1940], in *Selected Writings*, 1969, p. 389-411.

***The* Annales *School***

Bloch, Marc. “Introduction” and “Historical Criticism,” in *The Historian's Craft* [1949]. Ed. Peter Burke. Trans. Peter Putnam. Manchester and New York: Manchester U.P., 1992, p. 1-16 and 66-113.

Febvre, Lucien. “A New Kind of History” [1949], in *A New Kind of History: From the Writings of Lucien Febvre*. Ed. Peter Burke. Trans. K. Folka. New York: Harper & Row, 1973, p. 27-43.

Bintliff, J., 1991. The Contribution of an *Annaliste*/Structural History Approach to Archaeology, in *The Annales School and Archaeology*, ed. J. Bintliff. Leicester, London: Leicester University Press, 1-33.

Knapp, A.B., 1992. Archaeology and *Annales*: Time, Space and Change, in *Archaeology, Annales, and Ethnohistory*, ed. A.B. Knapp. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1-22.

Fletcher, R., 1992. Time Perspectivism, *Annales*, and the Potential of Archaeology, in *Archaeology, Annales, and Ethnohistory*, ed. A.B. Knapp. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 35-50.

**WEEK 4: September 25**

***History, anthropology, and the social sciences***

Kuper, Adam. “Culture and Civilization: French, German, and English Intellectuals, 1930-1958,” and “The Social Science Account: Talcott Parsons and the American Anthropologists,” in *Culture: The Anthropologist's Account*. Cambridge (Mass.): Harvard University Press, 1999, p. 23-74.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. “The Structural Study of Myth,” in *Structural Anthropology*. Trans. Claire Jacobson and Brooke Grundfest Schoepf. New York: Basic Books, 1963, p. 202-28.

***Crisis and responses***

Ortner, Sherry. “Theory in Anthropology Since the 1960’s,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26, 1 (1984): 126-66.

Boas, Franz. “The Aims of Anthropological Research” [1970], in *Race, Language and Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982, p. 423-59.

Fabian, Johannes. “Language, history, and anthropology” [1971], in *Time and the Work of Anthropology: Critical Essays, 1971-1991*. Chur (Switzerland) and Philadelphia: Harwood Academic Publishers, 1991, p. 3-29.

**WEEK 5: October 2**

***The* Geertzian *moment***

Geertz, C., 1973. Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture, in *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*New York: Basic Books, 3-30.

Geertz, C. “Notes on the Balinese Cockfight.” *Daedalus* 101 (1972): 1-37.

Roseberry, William. “Balinese Cockfights and the Seduction of Anthropology.” *Social Research* 49, 4 (1982): 1013-28.

Sewell, William H., Jr. “The Concept(s) of Culture,” and “History, Synchrony, and Culture: Reflections on the Work of Clifford Geertz,” in *Logics of History. Social Theory and Social Transformation*. Chicago-London: The University of Chicago Press, 2005, p. 152-196.

Cohn Bernard S. “History and Anthropology: The State of the Play,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22, 2 (1980): 198-221.

**WEEK 6: October 9**

***Historical anthropology***

MONOGRAPH - Sahlins, M., *Islands of History,* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1985.

Medick, Hans. “Historical Anthropology: Some Misunderstandings and Basic Assumptions,” *Focaal* 26/27 (1996): 61-64.

Cohen, David W.  “Historical Anthropology: Discerning the Rules of the Game,” *Focaal* 26/27 (1996): 65-67.

**WEEK 7: October 16**

***The event, and eventful archaeology***

Sewell, William H. Jr., 1996. Historical Events as Structural Transformations: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille. *Theory and Society,* 25, 841-81.

Bolender, D.J., 2010. Toward an Eventful Archaeology, in *Eventful Archaeologies*, ed. D.J. Bolender. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 3-14.

Robin A. Beck, J., D.J. Bolender, J.A. Brown & T.K. Earle, 2007. Eventful Archaeology: The Place of Space in Structural Transformation. *Current Anthropology,* 48(6), 833-60.

Ingold, T. 2013. “Round Mound and Earth Sky,” in *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge, p. XX-XX.

**WEEK 8: October 23**

***Time and Archaeology***

MONOGRAPH – Lucas, G. 2005 *The Archaeology of Time*. London and New York: Routledge.

Wolf, E. R. 1982. “Introduction.” in *Europe and the People Without History*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 3-23.

González-Ruibal, A. 2013. “Time and Materiality,” in *An Archaeology of Resistance: Materiality and Time in an African Borderland*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, p. 1-43.

**WEEK 9: October 30**

***Historical archaeology***

MONOGRAPH - Glassie, Henry H., 1975. *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts,* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press.

MONOGRAPH - Leone, Mark .P., 2005. *The Archaeology of Liberty in an American Capital: Excavations in Annapolis,* Berkeley: University of California Press.

**WEEK 10: November 6**

***The place of archaeology as anthropology or history?***

Binford, Lewis R. "Archaeology as Anthropology." *American Antiquity* 28, no. 2 (1962): 217-25.

Kus, Susan. "Archaeologist as Anthropologist: Much Ado About Something after All?". *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 4, no. 3/4 (1997): 199-213.

Longacre, William A. "Archaeology as Anthropology Revisited." *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 17 (2010): 81-100.

Hodder, Ian. "The Contribution of the Long Term." In *Archaeology as Long-Term History*, edited by Ian Hodder, 1-8. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.

***The four-field debate***

Hicks, Dan. "Four-Field Anthropology: Charter Myths and Time Warps from St. Louis to Oxford." *Current Anthropology* 54, no. 6 (2013): 753-63.

Hodder, Ian. "An Archaeology of the Four-Field Approach in Anthropology in the United States." In *Unwrapping the Sacred Bundle: Reflections on the Disciplining of Anthropology*, edited by Daniel A. Segal and Sylvia J. Yanagisako, 126-40. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005.

**WEEK 11: November 13**

***Archaeology and texts***

Hodder, Ian. "The Interpretation of Documents and Material Culture." In *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, edited by N. K. Denzin and Y. S. Lincoln, 393-402: Sage, 1994.

Morrison, Kathleen D., and Mark T. Lycett. "Inscriptions as Artifacts: Precolonial South India and the Analysis of Texts." *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 4, no. 3/4 (1997): 215-37.

Thurston, Tina L. "Historians, Prehistorians, and the Tyranny of the Historical Record: Danish State Formation through Documents and Archaeological Data." *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 4, no. 3/4 (1997): 239-63.

Biddick, Kathleen. "Decolonizing the English Past: Readings in Medieval Archaeology and History." *The Journal of British Studies* 32, no. 1 (1993): 1-23.

Osborne, James F. "Sovereignty and Territoriality in the City-State: A Case Study from the Amuq Valley, Turkey." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* (2013): 774-90.

**WEEK 12: November 20**

MONOGRAPH - Dawdy, Shannon Lee. *Building the Devil's Empire: French Colonial New Orleans*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2008.

\* \* \* November 26 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING \* \* \*

**WEEK 13: December 3**

***Student Presentations***