

ANT 4115

Method and Theory in Archaeology

SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION

Fall 2009

Professor: Dr. John Worth (857-6204) jworth@uwf.edu

Teaching Assistant: Matthew Napolitano mfn1@students.uwf.edu

Office Hours Wednesday mornings 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Building 13, Room 117
or by appointment (please no drop-ins)

Required Texts: *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction*, by Matthew Johnson (Blackwell Publishing, 1999; ISBN-13: 978-0631202967)

A History of Anthropological Theory (Third Edition), by Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy (University of Toronto Press, 2008; ISBN-13: 978-1442601109)

Optional Text: *A History of Archaeological Thought* (Second Edition), by Bruce G. Trigger (Cambridge University Press, 2006; ISBN-13: 978-0521840767)

Course Description: History and evolution of archaeological methods and theory in the United States. Major schools of thought and currently developing ideas are compared and contrasted.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the importance of method and theory in archaeological inquiry, defining and distinguishing the difference between data, techniques, methods, and theory.
2. Describe the differences between low-, middle-, and high-level theory.
3. Identify and evaluate the relationships between past human culture, past human behavior, and resultant archaeological deposits both in the past and the present.
4. Trace the origins and history of the development of archaeological method and theory from antiquity to the present day, describing the historical relationships between major schools of thought, particularly as related to the development of broader anthropological theory.
5. Identify, describe, compare, and contrast the major theoretical approaches used by archaeologists in the twentieth century and today, citing notable practitioners and published work.
6. Describe and evaluate the present state of theoretical development in archaeology, focusing on the contrast between processual and postprocessual approaches.

Specific Class Requirements:

1. **Textbook Readings:** The course texts (Johnson, Erickson and Murphy) will be a major source of information for tests, in addition to the class lectures. Assigned chapters of Trigger will be available online at the UWF Libraries Course Reserve Desk, although the rest of the volume (optional reading) will provide supplementary depth on additional topics for those who choose to read it. All assigned readings from the textbooks should be read *before* class on the dates shown in the syllabus.

2. **Readings Discussions and Reaction Papers:** On indicated days in the syllabus, supplementary readings are assigned which will form the basis for for classroom discussion that day. Assigned readings will be available online at the Course Reserve Desk. Participation in all class discussions counts for **50 points** total. On alternating weeks, half of the class must also write short (2 page maximum) reaction papers based on that day's readings, to be turned in at the beginning of class. Each reaction paper (6 total) counts for **25 points**. Please follow writing guidelines as indicated in the attached General Class Policies and Writing Tips for Class Papers.

3. **Research Paper:** Students are required to write a research paper comparing and contrasting two or more of the major theoretical approaches used by archaeologists. Topics must be approved in advance. Papers must use no fewer than four non-internet references, and the papers should not exceed 10 pages including bibliography. Papers count for **100 points**.

4. **Tests:** There will be two **100 point** tests during the term: a mid-term exam and a final exam. These exams will both be comprehensive up to the point they are given, drawing on content from all readings, lectures, and discussions.

General Class Policies, and Writing Tips for Class Papers: Please also read in detail the attached documents, both of which are online at the following URL: <http://www.uwf.edu/jworth/teaching.htm>.

Grade Determination:

Reaction Papers (6 x 25 pts.)	150 points
Discussion Participation	50 points
Research Paper	100 points
Mid-term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Total	500 points

Letter grades will be determined by where the total number of points falls into the following divisions; plus and minus letter grades will also be assigned.

A = 90-100% (450-500 points)	C = 70-79% (350-399 points)
B = 80- 89% (400-449 points)	D = 60-69% (300-349 points)

SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Class Location: Building 10, Room 102
Class Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:45 a.m.

*Please note that this syllabus may be subject to change;
any alterations will be announced in class and distributed electronically.*

Week 1

Aug. 25 Introduction and Syllabus Review

Aug. 27 Lecture: Why Theory?

Johnson Preface and Chapter 1

Erickson
and Murphy Preface and Introduction

Trigger Chapter 1

Week 2

Sept. 1 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group A

Taylor, Walter W
1948 Chapter 2: Archaeology: History or Anthropology, in *A Study of Archaeology*, pp 23-42.

Willey and Phillips
1958 Chapter 1: Archaeological Unit Concepts, in *Method and Theory in American Archaeology* pp.11-43

Sept. 3 Lecture: Early Archaeology

Erickson
and Murphy Parts 1 and 2 (all)

Trigger Chapters 2 and 3

Week 3

Sept. 8 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group B

Jefferson, Thomas
Aboriginies, in *Notes on the State of Virginia* pp. 96-105

Jones, Charles C., Jr.
1873 Chapter 5, in *Antiquities of the Southern Indians, Particularly of the Georgia Tribes*, pp. 118-135. D. Appleton & Company, New York.

Pearson, Michael Parker
1999 Chapter One: Learning from the Dead. In *The Archaeology of Death and Burial*, pp. 1-20. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.

Sept. 10 Lecture: Archaeological Beginnings

Trigger Chapter 4

Week 4

Sept. 15 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group A

Lubbock, John

1863 Review of North American Archaeology. *Natural History Review* 3(9): 1-26.

Thomas, Cyrus

1894 Mound Builders. In *Report on the Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology*, pp. 595-632. Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1890-91, by J. W. Powell, Director.

Sept. 17 Lecture: Evolutionary Archaeology

Johnson Chapter 9

Week 5

Sept. 22 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group B

Lyman and O'Brian

1998 The Goals of Evolutionary Archaeology: History and Explanation. *Current Anthropology* 39:5 615-652

Schiffer, Michael B.

1996 Some Relationships between Behavioral and Evolutionary Archaeologies. *American Antiquity* 61(4): 643-662.

Rindos, David

1989 Undirected Variation and the Darwinian Explanation for Cultural Change. *Archaeological Method and Theory*, Vol. 1, ed. by M.B. Schiffer, pp. 1-45. Tucson: U. Arizona Press. pp. 1-45

Sept. 24 Lecture: Culture History

Lyman, O'Brien,
and Dunnell

1997 Chapters 1, 5, 7, and 8 (pp. 1-12, 121-158, 207-231) from *The Rise and Fall of Culture*

Week 6

Sept. 29 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group A

Nelson, N.C.

1916 Chronology of the Tano Ruins, New Mexico. *American Anthropologist* 18(2): 159-180.

Steward, Julian

1942 The Direct Historical Approach to Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 7: 337-343.

Oct. 1 Exam Review

Week 7

Oct. 6 MID-TERM EXAM

Oct. 8 Lecture: The Rise of Processual Archaeology

Erickson

and Murphy Part 3: Cultural Neo-Evolutionism

Johnson

Chapters 3&4

Week 8

Oct. 13 Processual Archaeology

Erickson

and Murphy Part 3: Cultural Materialism

Johnson

Chapter 5

Oct. 15 NO CLASS (Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, Pensacola)

Week 9

Oct. 20 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group B

Binford, Lewis

1968 Archaeological Perspectives, in *New Perspectives in Archaeology* pp. 1-32

Gould, Richard

1985 The Empiricist Strikes Back: Reply to Binford. *American Antiquity*, vol. 50, no. 3, pp. 638-644.

Price, Barbara J.
1982 Cultural Materialism: A Theoretical Review. *American Antiquity* 47(4): 709-741.

Oct. 22 Lecture: Cognitive Archaeology

PAPER PROPOSALS DUE

Johnson Chapter 6

Erickson
and Murphy Part 3: Cognitive Anthropology

Week 10

Oct. 27 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group A

Flannery, Kent V., and Joyce Marcus
1996 Cognitive Archaeology. In *Contemporary Archaeology in Theory: A Reader*, ed. by Robert W. Preucel and Ian Hodder,. Blackwell Publishing, London. pp. 350-363

Deetz, James
1977 Chapter3: All the Earthenware Plain and Flowered, in *In Small Things Forgotten*. Anchor Books, New York (pp. 68-88 in 1996 ed.)

Tilley, Christopher
1994 Space, Place, Landscape and Perception: Phenomenological Perspectives. In *A Phenomenology of Landscape: Places, Paths and Monuments*, pp. 7-34. Berg Publishers.

Oct. 29 Lecture: Postprocessual and Postmodern Archaeology

Erickson
and Murphy Part 3: Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology, Transactionalism, and Postmodernity

Johnson Chapters 7 & 11

Week 11

Nov. 3 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group B

Marquardt, William
1992 Dialectical Archaeology. In *Archaeological Method and Theory*, volume 4, ed. by M. B. Schiffer, pp. 101-140. Univ. of Arizona Press, Tucson.

McGuire and Saitta
1996 Although they have Pretty Captains, They Obey Them Badly. *American Antiquity* 61(2): 197-216

Hodder, Ian
1991 Interpretive Archaeology and its Role. *American Antiquity* 56(1): 7-18

Nov. 5 NO CLASS (Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Mobile)

Week 12

Nov. 10 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group A

Hodder, Ian
1985 Postprocessual archaeology. In Schiffer, M. (ed.) *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory*, 8. Academic Press, New York pp. 1-26.

Bourdieu, Pierre
1977 Structures and the Habitus. Ch. 2 in *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, pp. 72-95.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dobres, Marcia-Anne and John E. Robb
2000. Agency in archaeology: paradigm or platitude? In *Agency in Archaeology*, ed. by Marcia-Anne Dobres and John E. Robb, pp. 3-17. London and New York: Routledge.

Nov. 12 Lecture: Synthesis

Trigger Chapter 9

Week 13

Nov. 17 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group B

VanPool, Christine and Todd
1999 The Scientific Nature of Postprocessualism. *American Antiquity* 64(1):33-54

Arnold and Wilkens
2001 On the VanPools' Scientific Postprocessualism. *American Antiquity* 66(2):361-366

VanPool and VanPool
2001 Postprocessualism and the Nature of Science: A Response to Hutson and Arnold and Wilkens. *American Antiquity* 66(2):367-375

Nov. 19 Lecture: Gender Archaeology

Erickson
and Murphy Part 3: Feminism and Anthropology

Johnson Chapter 8

Week 14

Nov. 24 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group A

Margaret W. Conkey and Joan M. Gero

1997 Programme to Practice: Gender and Feminism in Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 26. (1997), pp. 411-437.

Jeannette L. Mobley-Tanaka

1997 Gender and Ritual Space during the Pithouse to Pueblo Transition: Subterranean Mealing Rooms in the North American Southwest, *American Antiquity*, Vol. 62, No. 3, pp. 437-448.

Nov. 26 Lecture: Conclusions

Erickson
and Murphy Conclusion

Johnson Chapter 12

Week 15

Dec. 1 Readings Discussion

Reaction Papers – Group B

Roscoe, Paul B.

1995 The Perils of 'Positivism' in Cultural Anthropology. *American Anthropologist*, New Series, 97(3): 492-504.

O'Meara, Tim

1997 Forum on Theory in Anthropology: Causation and the Struggle for a Science of Culture *Current Anthropology* 38(3): 399-418.

Hegmon, Michelle

2003 Setting Theoretical Egos Aside: Issues and Theory in North American Archaeology *American Antiquity* 68(2):213-243

Dec. 3 Exam Review

Research Papers Due

Week 16

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009, 8:30-11:00