

OXFORD COLLEGE  
Spring 2012

## ANTHROPOLOGY 204Q

### Introduction to Archaeology

Language Hall 201  
MWF 12:50-1:40

**Professor: Dr. Aaron Jonas Stutz**  
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**Office Hours: by appointment, Mon-Fri**

#### INQUIRY INTO ARCHAEOLOGY

This course asks the fundamental questions:

- *What is culture, and how does archaeology help us to understand our cultural identity?*
- *What is material culture and how does it shape our social identities and interactions?*
- *How does archaeology investigate and explain very long-term prehistoric changes (over centuries and millennia) in societies?*
- *How does archaeology as a field of inquiry relate to other social and environmental sciences?*

As an inquiry course, you will be introduced to ways of thinking about, identifying, and solving real research problems in archaeology. You will also delve into the broader concern about why archaeology is important to society.

*Anthropology 204: Introduction to Archaeology will facilitate exploration of introductory level archaeological case studies, material culture analysis case studies, and practical exercises studying principles of stratigraphy and archaeological association. Key kinds of evidence will be documentation from archaeological excavations, ethnographic observations of the relationships between human beings and material culture, and simulated archaeological deposits. Methods of communication will focus on expository writing and small group in-class discussions.*

*You will explore the importance of archaeology in bringing new interdisciplinary perspectives to the social and environmental sciences, emphasizing:*

- *the interrelatedness of technology, sociopolitical organization, economics, demography and health, and cultural beliefs and values*
- *long-term human impacts on the environment*
- *a global comparative perspective on major sociopolitical and economic changes usually not addressed by History, including origins of agriculture, the prehistoric origins of sociopolitical inequality, and the origins of early states*

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

***Archaeology: The Basics*. Second Edition (2008), by Clive Gamble.  
Routledge, New York.**

## **REQUIRED E-COURSEPACK:**

**Additional REQUIRED readings are posted as an *e-coursepack* (in the form of a downloadable zipped file) on Blackboard.**

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

**Grades are based on 2 written in-class exams, participation in in-class assignments and peer evaluation activities, take-home reflections and a response paper, and a final reflective essay. The exams will cover material introduced in the readings and in class.**

**The requirements will be weighed for your final course grade in the following way:**

<b>2 in-class exams (sliding scale):</b>	<b>20 or 45 % (respectively)</b>
<b>Peer-Evaluation Exercises:</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Inquiry Exercises:</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Midterm Response Paper:</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Final Response Paper:</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>3%</b>

**This course will be graded on a +- basis. There is no curve. At the end of the semester, Dr. Stutz will determine the grade-percentage cut-offs. The critical A/A- and A-/B+ cut-offs will be chosen at a whole percentage point level so that an A or A- is required on at least one exam for an overall course grade of A. This is to maintain a standard of excellence in achievement for the highest grade, while allowing for opportunity to improve.**

**The graded exams and the response paper are MANDATORY. A failure to complete any one of these will result in a failing grade for the course.**

**Unless you have a valid excuse that you present to me beforehand, *all exam and due dates must be strictly adhered to*. RARE EXCEPTIONS are granted under the following conditions: you have a valid, documented medical or family *emergency*.**

**If you require special arrangements through Disability Services, or if you otherwise know ahead of time that you have a major schedule conflict, contact me as soon as possible to schedule an alternative exam. Be prepared to provide documentation.**

#### **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

**All Oxford students are bound by the [Oxford College Honor Code](#). The two most relevant Honor Code violations are cheating on exams and assignments and plagiarism. The standard penalty for a first cheating or plagiarism violation is an F in the course. However, other violations, such as giving false information to an instructor, may also lead to penalties that are just as serious. The [Oxford College Honor Code](#) outlines the details of possible violations; how suspected violations are reported; the procedures of investigation; your rights and responsibilities if you are accused of a violation by the Honor Council investigators; and the consequences of the full Honor Council finding that you have committed an Honor violation. Moreover, the Honor Code provides a detailed definition of plagiarism.**

**In fewer words: Read the Honor Code, carry out and support honest work by yourself and your classmates, ask the instructor or Honor Council leaders when you are unsure, and do not cheat or plagiarize.**

#### **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:**

**Of course I have full respect for religious practice and the personal, family, and community obligations that go with it. Please be prepared to share with me if you are going to miss any scheduled class activity due to observance of a religious holiday. And please let me know as soon as possible in the semester if any scheduled exam or other due date conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe. This way, we can make alternative arrangements early!**

#### **KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Exam: FRIDAY Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> (part A) and MONDAY Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (part B)**

**Midterm Response Paper: FRIDAY Mar 9<sup>th</sup> @ noon (SafeAssign)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Exam: FRIDAY Apr 27<sup>th</sup> (part A) and MONDAY Apr 30<sup>th</sup> (part B)**

**Final Response Paper: THURSDAY May 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10 pm (SafeAssign)**

# SYLLABUS

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION  
ANY CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND ON THE BLACKBOARD PAGE

## INTRODUCTION

### What is Archaeology?

#### WEDNESDAY Jan 18

e-coursepack: 1 – Holtorf – Chapter 1  
2 – Holtorf – Chapter 2

### Archaeology: What is Real and What is Metaphor?

#### FRIDAY Jan 20

e-coursepack: 3 – Foucault – Historical *a priori*

### The Archaeology of Knowledge

#### MONDAY Jan 23

e-coursepack: 4 – Foucault – Archaeology of Ideas

### Ideas, Culture, and Society

#### WEDNESDAY Jan 25

e-coursepack: 5 – Agamben – What is an Apparatus?

### What is Culture?

#### FRIDAY Jan 27

e-coursepack: 6 – Lavenda & Schultz – Chapter 1  
7 – Lavenda & Schultz – Chapter 2

### What is Material Culture?

#### MONDAY Jan 30

**ASSIGNMENT: BRING A THING – ANYTHING REALLY - TO THIS CLASS!**

e-coursepack: 8 – Garrow & Shove – The toothbrush and the axe  
9 – Gaitán Ammann – With a Hint of Paris in the Mouth

### Discussion: Culture, Material Culture, Agency, Apparatus, Power, & Archaeology

#### WEDNESDAY Feb 1

e-coursepack: 10 – Hitchings & Lee – Air Conditioning in Singapore

### 1<sup>st</sup> Exam: Part A

#### FRIDAY Feb 3

**Exam I – Part A** will take place in class

### 1<sup>st</sup> Exam: Part B

#### MONDAY Feb 6

**Exam I – Part B** will take place in class

## PART II: REALLY, WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

### Thinking like an archaeologist

#### WEDNESDAY Feb 8

*MATERIAL CULTURE INQ ASSIGNMENT DUE: TURN IN INQ ESSAY ON YOUR EXCHANGED THING!*

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 1

web reading: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/08/world/europe/08iht-M08C-TURKEY-DIG.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/08/world/europe/08iht-M08C-TURKEY-DIG.html?_r=1)

web resource: <http://www.catalhuyuk.com>

### Why so much reflection?

#### FRIDAY Feb 10

*ÇATALHÖYÜK INQ ASSIGNMENT DUE: TURN IN INQ ESSAY ON ÇATALHÖYÜK DISCOVERIES*

### More than one Archaeology?

#### MONDAY Feb 13

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 2

### Engendering Archaeology

#### WEDNESDAY Feb 15

e-coursepack: 11 - Reeder - The Tomb of Niankhkhnum and Khnuhotep

### Reconstructing Archaeology

#### FRIDAY Feb 17

e-coursepack: 12 - Aubry et al. 2008 - Solutrean laurel leaves

13 - Rasmussen & Gronnow - 30 years of experimenting with the past

### Peer-Evaluated Essay “Exam”: What Is Archaeology?

#### MONDAY Feb 20

*Peer-evaluated in-class essay exercise will ask you to connect what you have learned in Parts I and II*

### Peer-Evaluation Exercise: Part A

#### WEDNESDAY Feb 22

*IN-CLASS SMALL-GROUP PEER-EVALUATION OF IN-CLASS ESSAYS*

### Peer-Evaluation Exercise: Part B

#### FRIDAY Feb 24

*IN-CLASS SMALL GROUP SYNTHESIS OF PARTS I AND II*

## PART III: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD

### Relative Dating: It’s Not What You Think

#### MONDAY Feb 27

*IN-CLASS STRATIGRAPHY INQ EXERCISE*

e-coursepack: 14 - Trigger – The beginnings of Scientific Archaeology

### Defining the Archaeological Record

#### WEDNESDAY Feb 29

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 3, pp. 45-59

### Digging Deeper

#### FRIDAY Mar 2

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 3, pp. 59-72

**Archaeology and Material Traces of Culture**

**MONDAY Mar 5**

*SURVEY OF TOILETS AT OXFORD COLLEGE*

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 4

**Archaeology, Embodiment, and Materiality**

**WEDNESDAY Mar 7**

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 5

**Archaeology as Anthropology**

**FRIDAY Mar 9**

*MIDTERM RESPONSE PAPER DUE - SAFEASSIGN*

e-coursepack: 15 – Binford - Archaeology as Anthropology

16 – Rubin - Archaeology and the study of gay leathermen

***Spring Break***

***MONDAY Mar 12 – FRIDAY Mar 16***

**Space-Time Embodiment**

**MONDAY Mar 19**

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 6

**Deep-Time Archaeology**

**WEDNESDAY Mar 21**

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 7, pp. 152-170

**Explaining Variation and Change in the Archaeological Record**

**FRIDAY Mar 23**

Textbook: Gamble – Chapter 7, pp. 170-186

**Peer-Evaluated Essay “Exam”: Space-time Embodiment and Deep-Time Archaeology**

**MONDAY Mar 26**

*Peer-evaluated in-class essay exercise will ask you to connect what you have learned in Parts I, II, and III*

**Peer-Evaluation Exercise: Part A**

**WEDNESDAY Mar 28**

*IN-CLASS SMALL-GROUP PEER-EVALUATION OF IN-CLASS ESSAYS*

**Peer-Evaluation Exercise: Part B**

**FRIDAY Mar 30**

*IN-CLASS SMALL GROUP SYNTHESIS OF PARTS I, II, AND III*

## **PART IV: CHIEFDOMS OF SOUTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA**

### **Rediscovering the Regional Past**

**MONDAY Apr 2**

e-coursepack: 17 – Hudson – Social Context of Ichisi

### **What Are Chiefdoms?**

**WEDNESDAY Apr 4**

e-coursepack: 18 – Earle – The Nature of Political Power

### **Southeastern Chiefdoms in Context**

**FRIDAY Apr 6**

e-coursepack: 19 – Earle – The Long-Term Development of Three Chiefdoms

### **Dealing with Potsherds**

**MONDAY Apr 9**

e-coursepack: 20 – Hally – An Overview of Lamar Culture

### **Chiefdoms, Ancient Politics, and Social Interaction**

**WEDNESDAY Apr 11**

*IN-CLASS INQ EXERCISE – UNDERSTANDING LAMAR POTSDERDS*

### **Ethnoarchaeological Investigation into Potsherds**

**FRIDAY Apr 13**

e-coursepack: 21 – Bowser – Ceramic Style and Social Agency

### **Pots and People**

**MONDAY Apr 16**

e-coursepack: 22 – Gosselain – In Pots We Trust

### **People, Politics, and Maize: Back to Southeastern Chiefdoms**

**WEDNESDAY Apr 18**

e-coursepack: 23 – Riley – Mississippian Agronomic Practices  
24 – Wesson – Southeastern Chiefdoms and Storage

### **Maize, Mounds, and Gorgets: Putting It All Together**

**FRIDAY Apr 20**

e-coursepack: 25 – Cobb – Missippian Chiefdoms

### **REVIEW AND SYNTHESIS, PART A**

**MONDAY Apr 23**

*IN-CLASS REVIEW – SYNTHESIZING PARTS I-IV FOR EXAM II*

### **REVIEW AND SYNTHESIS, PART B**

**WEDNESDAY Apr 25**

*IN-CLASS REVIEW – SYNTHESIZING PARTS I-IV FOR EXAM II  
PLUS ... COURSE EVALUATIONS*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Exam: Part A**

**FRIDAY Apr 27**

*Exam II – Part A will take place in class*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Exam: Part B**

**MONDAY Apr 30**

*Exam II – Part B will take place in class*

**Exam Pick-Up and Final Reflective Essay Due  
THURSDAY May 3**

*Exam II will be available for pick-up in Language Hall 102 between 12 and 5 pm.  
You must also turn in your 2-4 page (double-spaced) final reflective essay on:  
**WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY AND WHO OWNS THE PAST?***

e-coursepack: 26 – SAA Code of Ethics  
27 – Watkins – Ethics in Anthropology and Archaeology