Lecture 3

* After 1800s, we moved to more dynamic worldview, no longer young earth model and accepted that all questions are not already answered (e.g., through biblical means)
* By 1900, archeology grew as a discipline (differently in different parts of the world)
  + Debates on how archeology should be done
  + Debates on what the important artifices are
  + Stage like development – innovation
  + Explanatory period after 1960s (asking about how and why)
    - But at the root, you need to know when and where
* In popular culture in 1800s, we needed explanations for Indians that was consistent with young earth model
  + Andrew Jackson argument: They weren’t here for long, so they pushed out another population, so we can push them out
  + Human-made mountains and piling behavior observed
  + Archeology intrudes on politics
  + No dating methods – how to explain the mound builder myth
    - A lost civilization
* Anthropologists created cultural areas based on similar human cultural behavior
  + Archeologists try to do the same thing – figure out the time and space
* Marxists – economy defines culture
* “New archeology”: Archeology becomes more scientific and theoretical
* We should know what we are interested in (start with a question) before excavating archeological sites
* What people think matters what people do
  + E.g., Marxist way of thinking, culture, etc.
  + Not just text, look at behavior -> archeology
* People change based on uncontrolled changes to the environment
* Summary: Development of anthropological archeology
  + Archeology was history oriented originally – when and where
  + New motive: reasons, how and why
  + Archeology develops in response to cultural currents (1960s -> pressentual archeology, due to cultural evolution – more scientific)
  + 1980s-90s – think about biases in our research
  + Archeology as scientific - Replicable and accessible

Trash

* Stuff we find are mainly trash and things that are unwanted… not a great indicator of one’s life
* Most of what we find is trash.. found where they are threw away.. not valuable.. not where it was used
* Systematic context vs. Archaeological context
* Trash is archeological context (and probably secondary context, because it is far from where is resided in systematic context)

Middle-range theory

Perssetual Archeology

* Determine a question you want to answer before doing excavations
  + More scientific
* Verifiable method

Archeology is destructive (excavation)

Giong deep -> chronological -> how did the place form (how long)

Dating

* Relative
  + Order, sequence
* Absolute
  + Date in years, precise, unit of time, rate
  + Radiocarbon dating
* Direct
  + Date objects in interest
  + E.g., radiocarbon can only date Carbon, not rocks e.g.
* Indirect
  + Assign dates to another objects to understand another object
  + E.g., date organic material under a wall to learn more about a wall

Stratigraphy

* Stuff in layer N at the same time, layer N – 1 is newer
* But some layers may take a lot longer to lay down

Paleoanthropology

* Study a lot older artifacts (early human evolution, fossils)

Sahul (ancient austailia)

~50kya -> radiocarbon dating no longer works .. have to use more controversial dating techniques

Melanesia – one of the centers of agriculture

How did people go from Siberia to Americas?

* Ice-free corridor / gap?
* Pacific coast?
* Across the Atlantic coast on the ice-caps – very very unlikely

Animals that went extinct don’t have much evidence for hunting, so maybe not overkill theory

Is Agriculture Good for Us? (Domestication)

* Hunter-gatherers before
* Transition happened 10kya
* Archeologists investigate this transition
* Not a biological or cognitive change alone -> environment also changed
* Domesticated corn can no longer spread without human aid
* Agricultural tools found as archeological evidence
* Social consequences with emergence of agriculture
  + Settle down into houses
  + No need to be mobile
  + Settlement -> building a community, complex societies -> social status
  + Population grew faster
* Archeological artifacts for agriculture: Storage areas, grinding stones, …