

ANTH 201/CLAS 221 — Principles of Archaeology

Written Assignment – journal article review

Due: Tuesday, March 20, 2011, in class (although you may hand it in earlier if you prefer)

Total 20% final grade

The aim of this course is to explore different varieties of archaeology and examine the theories, methods and techniques used by archaeologists in investigating, reconstructing, preserving and in general learning about the past. This course is therefore geared towards providing you with the background and necessary tools to investigate the material remains of the past.

One of the direct outcomes of this course should be your ability to begin to understand the way that professional archaeologists use theory and method to investigate, reconstruct and write about the past. In any number of archaeological journals you will see examples of just this: archaeologists conducting research using a wide range of methodologies and communicating the results in the context of a variety of different theoretical models.

This written assignment is designed to give you the opportunity to read, analyze and report on a research article and see how one particular bit of archaeological research was carried out, analyzed, and published.

On page 2 (over) I list a number of articles, recently published in major archaeological journals (for example: The *Journal of Field Archaeology*). In order to complete this assignment you need to choose one of the proposed journal articles, read it very carefully and thoroughly and write a comprehensive review of the journal article.

I suggest that you begin by printing out the article and reading it through once trying to understand the general topic and discussion. At this stage you may want to highlight any terms (or concepts, theories, methods) you are unfamiliar with or which you do not understand. Once you have finished, look up any of the terms you need to understand further. When you have done this, read the article again more thoroughly and this time make notes to help you write your report in the context of the questions below:

Your review should include the following:

- A summary of the article, explaining what it is about
- What is the problem it is trying to solve, or claim it is trying to make?
- What methods and data does it use?
- What is the main argument?
- Is the conclusion well supported?
- Can you perceive a specific theoretical perspective of the authors?
- Does the article make any problematic assumptions or logical errors that you can see?
- What sort of importance, interest, or impact do the conclusions, data, theories, or methods have for other areas of research, in or out of archaeology? That is, how might this work be useful to others, or help with related research?

Your review must begin with the full bibliographic reference at the top of the page (so I know which article you are reviewing), and be written in a clear, concise and well-organized prose. Your review should be a typed and 5-6 pages in length double spaced (12 pt, 1 inch margins).

Choose ONE of the following articles for your review

Each article is available on the LEARN home page for the course, and the individual articles as PDF files can also be copied from there, but you can also get these as electronic articles from Course Reserve link at the Porter Library.

Haldenby, D. and Julian D. Richards. "Charting the effects of plough damage, using metal-detected assemblages." *Antiquity* 84 (2010): 1151–1162.

Hubbard, Emily M. "Livestock and people in a Middle Chalcolithic settlement: a micromorphological investigation from Tel Tsaf, Israel." *Antiquity* 84 (2010): 1123–1134

Keith, Kathryn. "Spindle Whorls, Gender, and Ethnicity at Late Chalcolithic Hacinebi Tepe." *Journal of Field Archaeology* 25(4), (Winter, 1998): 497–515.

Kelder, Jorrit M. "Royal Gift Exchange Between Mycenae and Egypt: Olives as "Greeting Gifts" in the Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean." *American Journal of Archaeology* 113 (2009) 339–352.

MacKinnon, Michael. "'Sick as a dog': zooarchaeological evidence for pet dog health and welfare in the Roman world." *World Archaeology* 42(2), (2010): 290–309.