

Anthropology 21307: History, Ethnohistory, and Archaeology
University of Chicago

Spring Quarter 2004
TTH 1:30-2:50

M. Lycett
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During the Quarter, we will critically examine both the intellectual history of and the recent renewal of claims to historical perspectives in archaeology. The goals of this course are twofold: first, to examine the many uses and understandings of *history* as evidentiary source, subject matter, and conceptual framework in the archaeological literature; and second, to assess the logic and methods used by researchers to incorporate documentary, ethnohistorical, and archaeological evidence. In the latter half of the Quarter, we will focus on recent intellectual projects that attempt to integrate archaeology and history.

Office Hours

My office hours are **M 1:00 - 3:00** by appointment. My office is in **Haskell Hall, room 224**. My office phone number is 2-6040. My email address is **m-lycett@uchicago.edu**. Routine questions and appointments should be handled by email.

Assignments

To the extent possible, this course will operate in a seminar format, emphasizing discussion and minimizing lectures. Students will have three principal responsibilities in this class. First, each student will prepare a critical review of one of three major works to be discussed in class (50% of the final grade). Guidelines for this review are appended, below. Second, each student will be responsible for leading some aspect of the in-class discussion of their assigned work (25% of the final grade). Because roughly one third of the class will review each work, I expect that this part of your grade will require playing nicely with other children. Finally, you will be responsible for leading in-class discussion of one or more articles for each topic and participating in class discussions on a day to day basis (25% of the final grade).

The written version of your critical review is due no later than 5:00 PM, Friday June 11.

All assignments for this class should be double spaced, typed or machine printed on plain white paper. References should be cited using social science conventions, i.e. listing author's last name and date of publication in parentheses within the text, and the full citation for all referenced articles should appear at the end of your text. All citations should follow **American Antiquity Style** guidelines (posted on chalk).

Reading

The following books have been ordered for this class and are available at the Seminary Co-op bookstore. These works along with Knapp 1992 are on reserve at the Regenstein Library. All other readings will be posted on chalk.

- Kirch, P.V. and M. Sahlins
1992 *Anahulu: the Anthropology of History in the Kingdom of Hawaii*. 2 Volumes. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Schmidt, P.R. and Patterson, T.C. editors
1995 *Making Alternative Histories: The Practice of Archaeology and History in Non-western Settings*. School of American Research Press, Santa Fe.
- Thomas, N.
1989 *Out of Time: History and Evolution in Anthropological Discourse*. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.
- Vansina, J.
1985 *Oral Tradition as History*. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.

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Course Outline

The following list includes the topics I expect to cover this Quarter, the approximate dates of their discussion, and the readings most relevant to their in-class discussion. Readings posted on chalk are underlined. Complete references can be found below.

I. *Temporality and Progression: History, Culture History, and Evolution.*

Readings (March 29): Thomas pp. 1-85 (on reserve at Regenstein Library); Taylor 1948; Deetz 1988.

Readings (April 6-8): Thomas pp. 85-126 (on reserve at Regenstein Library); Fabian 1983; Wolf 1983.

II. *Historical Archaeology, Ethnohistory, and historical Anthropology.*

Readings (April 13-15): Paynter 2000a, 2000b; Little 1994; Deagan 1982; Fontana 1965; Rubertone 2000; Historical Archaeology 35: 1-29.

Readings (April 20-22): Silverblatt 1991; Chance 1996; Williams 1992; Strong 1996; Fenton 1966; Krech 1991; Cohn 1980; Axtell 1979.

III. *Text as Evidentiary Source.*

Readings (April 27-29): Vansina (on reserve at Regenstein Library); Wood 1990; Galloway 1991; Morrison and Lycett 1997; Reff 1994, 1995; Rafael 1987.

IV. *Text in Archaeology .*

Readings (May 4-6): Steward 1942; Stahl 1993, 2004; Lightfoot 1995; Thomas 1989; Kepecs 1997; Historical Archaeology 34: 1-24; 37:1-39; Brumfiel 2003, Leone 1995.

V. *Anahulu as a Model.* (May 11-13).

Readings: Kirch and Sahlins. (on reserve at Regenstein Library).

VI. *Annales as a Model.* (May 18-20).

Readings: Knapp 1992. (on reserve at Regenstein Library).

VII. *History and Power.* (May 25-27).

Readings: Schmidt and Patterson 1995. (on reserve at Regenstein Library).

Discussion (June 1).

Final Essay Due June 11.

Readings

Axtell, J.

1979 Ethnohistory: An Historian's Viewpoint. *Ethnohistory* 26: 1-13.

Brumfiel, E.

2003 It's A Material World: History, Artifacts, and Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32:205-223.

Chance, J.K.

1996 Mesoamerica's Ethnographic Past. *Ethnohistory* 43:379-403.

Cohn, B.S.

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- 1980 History and Anthropology: the State of Play. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22:198-221.
- Deagan, K.
1982 Avenues of Inquiry in Historical Archaeology, In *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory*, edited by M.B. Schiffer, pp. 151-177. Academic Press, New York.
- Deetz, J.
1988 History and Archaeological Theory: Walter Taylor Revisited. *American Antiquity* 53:13-22.
- Fabian, J.
1983 *Time and the Other: How Anthropology Makes Its Object*, pp. 1-35. Columbia University Press, New York.
- Fenton, W.N.
1966 Fieldwork, Museum Studies, and Ethnohistorical Research. *Ethnohistory* 13:71-85.
- Fontana, B.L.
1965 On the Meaning of Historic Sites Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 31:61-65.
- Galloway, P.
1991 The Archaeology of Historical Narrative. In *Columbian Consequences, Volume III: The Spanish Borderlands in Pan-American Perspective*, edited by D.H. Thomas, pp. 453-470, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C.
- Kepecs, S.
1997 Introduction to New Approaches to Combining the Historical and Archaeological Records. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 4:193-198.
- Knapp, A. B. editor
1992 *Archaeology, Annales and Ethnohistory*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Kretch, S.
1991 The State of Ethnohistory. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 20:345-375.
- Leone, M.P.
1995 A Historical Archaeology of Capitalism. *American Anthropologist* 97:251-268.
- Lightfoot, K.G.
1995 Culture Contact Studies: Redefining the Relationship between Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 60:199-217.
- Little, B.J.
1994 People with History: An Update on Historical Archaeology in the United States. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 1:5-40.
- Morrison, K.D. and M.T. Lycett
1997 Inscriptions as Artifacts: Precolonial South India and the Analysis of Texts. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 4:215-237.
- Rafael, V.L.
1987 Confession, Conversion, and Reciprocity in Early Tagalog Colonial Society. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 29: 320-339.
- Reff, D. T.
1994 Contextualizing Missionary Discourse: The Benevides *Memorials* of 1630 and 1634. *Journal of*

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- 1995 Anthropological Research 50:51-67.
The "Predicament of Culture" and Spanish Missionary Accounts of the Tepehuan and Pueblo Revolts. *Ethnohistory* 42:63-90.
- Rubertone, P.
2000 The Historical Archaeology of Native Americans. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29: 425-446.
- Silverblatt, I.
1991 Interpreting Women in States: New Feminist Ethnohistories. In *Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge: Feminist Anthropology in the Postmodern Era*, edited by M. di Leonardo, pp. 140-172. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Stahl, A.B.
1993 Concepts of Time and Approaches to Analogical Reasoning in Historical Perspective. *American Antiquity* 58:235-260.
2004 Making History in Banda: Reflections on the Construction of the African Past. *Historical Archaeology* 38:50-65.
- Steward, J.H.
1942 The Direct Historic Approach to Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 7:337-343.
- Strong, Pauline Turner
1996 Feminist Theory and the Invasion of the Heart in North America. *Ethnohistory* 43:683-712.
- Taylor, W.W.
1948 *A Study of Archaeology*, pp. 25-44. Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association, 69, Menasha. (reprinted 1967, 1983 SIU press).
- Thomas, D.H.
1989 Columbian Consequences: The Spanish Borderland in Cubist Perspective. In Thomas, D.H., *Columbian Consequences, Volume 1: Archaeological and Historical Perspectives on the Spanish Borderlands West*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C., pp. 1-14.
- Trigger, B.
1989 History and Contemporary American Archaeology: A Critical Analysis, In *Archaeological Thought in America*, edited by C.C. Lamberg-Karlovsky, pp. 19-34. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Wolf, E.
1982 *Europe and the People Without History*, pp 3-23. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Wood, R.
1990 Ethnohistory and Historical Method, In *Archaeological Method and Theory*, Vol. 2, edited by M.B. Schiffer, pp. 81-109. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Guidelines for Critical Review

Each of the following works is a self-conscious model for the incorporation of archaeology and documentary history into the study of the past. Choosing either **Kirch and Sahlin**, **Knapp** (ed.), or **Schmidt and Patterson** (eds.), you should critically evaluate the success of one of these volumes both as a substantive work of research and as a methodological exemplar.

Your review should encompass both a description of the research undertaken and a critical evaluation of the relationship between method and theory in this work. Describe the research problem, theoretical background, and methodology. Keeping in mind the issues discussed in class, evaluate the utility of the research design for investigating its stated problem. Is there a programmatic statement about how research should proceed? How does the author (or authors) conceive of archaeological and historical data and how are they methodologically conjoined? How are the theoretical goals of the author to be operationalized? Do you find the author's suggestions a useful basis for an historically oriented archaeology? Additional criteria on which you may base your evaluation are listed below. You should pay most attention to describing the relationship between theory and research strategies advocated by this study.

Address these questions in a well-structured essay. Your essay should not exceed **10** typed, double-spaced pages. You may use any source material you wish and you need not consult any additional sources; however, if sources other than class notes or the provided handout are used, you must reference this work by listing the author's last name and the date of publication in parentheses, e.g. (Knapp 1992). The full citation for referenced works should appear at the end of your essay. You may wish to speak to me prior to beginning this project in order to obtain additional relevant references. You may, for example, wish to consult reviews published in major journals (*American Anthropologist*, *American Antiquity*, etc.) in order to help you evaluate the importance of your assigned study to the discipline as a whole.

The written version of your review is due no later than 5:00 PM, December 11, 2004.

Potential criteria for evaluation. Please note that the following are more or less generic criteria that may be fruitfully applied to most critical evaluations of archaeological research. You may or may not find them of particular use in developing your argument.

I. Goals.

- A. What are the goals of this research project?
- B. Are these goals clearly stated?
- C. Is the proposed research relevant to investigating these goals?

II. Theoretical Perspective.

- A. How would you characterize the theoretical basis of the approach?
- B. Is the theoretical argument clear?
- C. Is the research problem clearly stated?
- D. What are the archaeological expectations or implications of the research problem?
- E. How does methodology link theory, problem, and data in this work?

III. Methods.

- A. Describe the research strategy and logic of data recovery techniques for both archaeological and historical evidence.

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- B. What body of knowledge does the author invoke to justify her/ his methods?
- C. Are the specifics of data acquisition described clearly and in detail?
- D. What analyses were conducted with recovered data and how are these relevant to the problem at hand?
- E. How well do these methods and analyses relate to the research problem?

IV. Evaluation.

- A. Briefly summarize the research described in this work, discussing its proposed goals, its clarity, and attention to detail.
- B. What unsolved problems or new questions can you identify on the basis of this article?
- C. How would you modify this project to address these questions in future research?