

Anthropology 738 - Archaeology as History

The course examines the goals, forms, theory and methods of archaeological history. It considers parallels, contrasts and complementarities in historical and archaeological perspectives, and identifies the specific limitations and possibilities of archaeology. Readings and discussion highlight the roles of structure, agency, contingency and causality in archaeological narratives, and the implications of time perspectivism, materiality, and relational understandings of historical phenomena. Beyond its theoretical foundations, the course looks at examples of historically oriented archaeology and encourages students to examine and develop applications that match their specific areas of research interest.

Readings and discussions consider the basis and practice of archaeology-based history. The course begins with a brief overview of historical perspectives and foundational theoretical perspectives. The second half will focus on elaborations on particular topics and applications of historically oriented approaches in archaeological research.

Weekly topics and readings:

September 13

Introduction: Issues and Concepts in Archaeology as History.

READING: Lekson 2009:1-29, Mithen 2003:3-7.

September 20

What is Archaeological History?

READING: Bailey 2007, Jordan 2015:1-63, Pauketat 2001, Sassaman 2011.

September 27

What is Archaeological History?

READING: Fowler 2013:219-255, Hodder 2011, Ingold 2015, Robb and Pauketat 2013, Robb 2010.

October 4

What is History?

READING: Carr 1961.

October 11

Mid-term Recess.

October 18

Historical Perspectives: Scale, Narrative and Performance.

READING: Clark 1985, Denning 1996:33-63, White 1978, 1987:26-57.

October 25

Some Theoretical Foundations: Structure, Agency and Practice.

READING: Bourdieu 2005[1977], Giddens 2005[1986], Sahlins 2005[1982], Sewell 2005[1992].

Assignments and value:

10% - Seminar presence, preparation, and participation

35% - Midterm paper: review a monograph-length archaeological analysis and interpretation that adopts a more explicitly historical perspective.

55% - Final paper: evaluate the implications of adopting an explicitly defined historical approach to the archaeological study and interpretation of a particular region or area of study.

Reading list:

Bailey, Geoff

2007 Time Perspectives, Palimpsests and the Archaeology of Time. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 26:198-223.

Bourdieu, Pierre

2005 Outline of the Theory of Practice: Structures and the Habitus. In *Practicing History: New Directions in Historical Writing since the Linguistic Turn*, edited by Gabrielle M. Spiegel, pp. 179-198. London: Routledge. [Original: Bourdieu, Pierre (1977) *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.1-30, 72-97]

Carr, E.H.

1961 *What is History?* London: Macmillan.

Clark, Stuart

1985 The *Annales* Historians. In *The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences*, edited by Quentin Skinner, pp. 177-198. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dening, Greg

1996 *Performances*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Fowler, Chris

2013 *The Emergent Past: A Relational Realist Archaeology of Early Bronze Age Mortuary Practices*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Giddens, Anthony

2005 The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration: Elements of the Theory of Structuration. In *Practicing History: New Directions in Historical Writing since the Linguistic Turn*, edited by Gabrielle M. Spiegel, pp. 121-142. London: Routledge. [Original: Giddens, Anthony (1986) *The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Excerpts from Ch. 1 and from pp. 281-284]

Hodder Ian

2011 Human-Thing Entanglement: Towards an Integrated Archaeological Perspective. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (N.S.) 17:154-177.

- Ingold, Timothy
2015 Things Tied Up: An Archaeology for All Seasons. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (N.S.) 21:924-926.
- Jordan, Peter
2015 *Technology as Human Social Tradition: Cultural Transmission among Hunter-Gatherers*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Lekson, Stephen H.
2009 *A History of the Ancient Southwest*. Santa Fe: School for Advanced Research Press.
- Mithen, Steven
2003 *After the Ice: A Global Human History, 20,000-5000 BC*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.
- Pauketat, Timothy R.
2001 Practice and History in Archaeology: An Emerging Paradigm. *Anthropological Theory* 1:73-98.
- Robb, John
2010 Beyond Agency. *World Archaeology* 42:493-520.
- Robb, John, and Timothy R. Pauketat
2013 From Moments to Millennia: Theorizing Scale and Change in Human History. In *Big Histories, Human Lives: Tackling Problems of Scale in Archaeology*, edited by John Robb and Timothy R. Pauketat, pp. 3-33. Santa Fe, NM: School for Advanced Research Press.
- Sahlins, Marshall
2005 Individual Experience and the Cultural Order. In *Practicing History: New Directions in Historical Writing since the Linguistic Turn*, edited by Gabrielle M. Spiegel, pp. 111-120. London: Routledge. [Original: Sahlins, Marshall (1982) Individual Experience and the Cultural Order, In *The Social Sciences: Their Nature and Uses*, edited by William Kruskal. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.]
- Sassaman, Kenneth E.
2011 History and Alterity in the Eastern Archaic. In *Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology as Historical Process*, edited by Kenneth E. Sassaman and Donald H. Holly, pp. 188-208. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- Sewell, William H.
2005 A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency and Transformation. In *Practicing History: New Directions in Historical Writing since the Linguistic Turn*, edited by Gabrielle M. Spiegel, pp. 143-465. London: Routledge. [Original: Sewell, William H. (1992) A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency and Transformation. *American Journal of Sociology* 98: 1-29.]
- White, Hayden
1978 The Historical Text as Literary Artifact. In *The Writing of History: Literary Form and Historical Understanding*, edited by Robert H. Canary and Henry Kozicki, pp. 41-62. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
1987 *The Content of the Form: Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.