

# MATERIAL CULTURE

ANG 6186/ANT4930

Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. James M. Davidson

Course Level/Structure: Undergraduate/Graduate seminar

Time: Thursday only – Periods 4 through 6 (10:40 am to 1:40 pm)

Class Room: Turlington B357

Office: Turlington B134

Email: [davidson@ufl.edu](mailto:davidson@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (and by appointment)

Website for electronic readings: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/davidson/>

**Course Description and Objectives:** The seminar's goal is to provide grounding in the anthropological literature of material culture. In addition to theoretical articles, there will be practical hands-on training on select 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century material culture, including bottles, ceramics, "small finds," such as clothing-related objects, and the material culture of historic cemeteries (e.g., coffins and caskets, coffin hardware).

## **Course Requirements:**

Class participation/attendance	20%
Synopses of Key Readings (18)	20%
Leading Class Discussion:	10%
Major research paper	50%

## **Required Texts:**

There are no required textbooks to purchase, but the course will rely heavily on a number of individual readings (e.g., articles, book chapters).

**Attendance:** Regular attendance and participation in class discussions is a requirement. Students are expected to have read the material for that day, and come to class prepared to discuss the readings.

## **Leading Discussion:**

For some weeks, one or more students will lead class discussion, and will need to prepare a list of questions/points of discussion.

## **Synopses of Readings:**

For some key readings, a synopsis (i.e., a critical summary) ranging from one to three paragraphs (not to exceed one page in length for each reading) will be required and due at the beginning of each class, before we begin the discussion. Readings requiring synopses are marked with a bold, underlined **XXX** at the end of each citation.

**Research Paper:**

One research paper will be due at the end of the semester (15 to 20 pages).

Each student will choose the individual topics of the paper, after consultation with me. It could involve original research, an analysis of an existing dataset, or a comparison of two or more papers, sites, or theories. Each student will be required to present his or her work to the class, during the last week of the semester. The formality of this presentation (e.g., power point, etc.) is negotiable.

**Grading:**

A final letter grade will be assigned at the end of the semester, according to this scale:

A	(90-100%)
B+	(86-89%)
B	(80-85%)
C+	(76-79%)
C	(70-75%)
D+	(66-69%)
D	(60-65%)
E	(59% or less)

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is expected. Excessive unexcused absences will detract from the final grade (see above).

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who in turn must provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

**Academic Honesty:**

The University reminds every student of the implied pledge of Academic Honesty: “on any work submitted for credit the student has neither received nor given unauthorized aid.” This refers to cheating and plagiarism. Consult the Student Guide at [www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/) for further information. Students caught cheating will be referred to the University administration for disciplinary action, the consequences of which can include (among other things) failure of this course.

## Schedule/Topics/Readings:

### Week 1 (Aug 24): General discussion of course and content

### Week 2 (Aug 31) Some Definitions of Material Culture

Ferguson edited volume: *Historical Archaeology and the Importance of Material Things*. Special Publication Series, Number 2. Society for Historical Archaeology.

1. Stanley South: Foreword
2. Leland Ferguson: Preface
3. Leland Ferguson: Historical Archaeology and the Importance of Material Things 5
4. James Deetz: Material Culture and Archaeology-What's the Difference? 9

Shackel, Paul A. and Barbara Little

1992 Post-Processual Approaches to Meanings and Uses of Material Culture in Historical Archaeology. *Historical Archaeology* 26(3):5-11.

Yentsch, Anne and Mary Beaudry

1999 American Material Culture in Mind, Thought and Deed. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, edited by Ian Hodder, pp. 214-240. Polity Press, Cambridge, England.

**XXX**

Robb, John E.

1998 The Archaeology of Symbols. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 27:329-346. **XXX**

Gosden, Chris and Yvonne Marshall

1999 The Cultural Biography of Objects. *World Archaeology* 31(2):169-178.

Binford, Lewis R.

1962 Archaeology as Anthropology. *American Antiquity* 28(2):217-225.

Deetz, James and Richard L. Bushman

1974 *A Cognitive Historical Model for American Material Culture: 1620-1835*. Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research. Supplementary Studies, No.20, Reconstructing Complex Societies: An Archaeological Colloquium:21-27.

### Week 3 (Sept 7): Making Sense of Material Culture: Typologies and Issues of Classification

Stone, Lyle M.

1970 Formal classification and the analysis of historic artifacts. *Historical Archaeology* 4(1):90-102.

Spaulding, Albert C.

1953 Statistical Techniques for the Discovery of Artifact Types. *American Antiquity* 18:305-13.

Krieger, Alex D.

1944 The Typological Concept. *American Antiquity* 9(3):271-288.

Ford, James A. and Julian H. Steward

1954 On the Concept of Types. *American Anthropologist* 56(1):42-57.

Gifford, James C.

1960 The Type Variety Method of Ceramic Classification as an Indicator of Cultural Phenomena. *American Antiquity* 25(3):341-347.

Whittaker, John C., Douglas Caulkins, and Kathryn A. Kamp

1998 Evaluating Consistency in Typology and Classification. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 5(2):129-164.

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

1988 *The Material Basis of the Postbellum Tenant Plantation: Historical Archaeology in the South Carolina Piedmont*. The University of Georgia Press, Athens.  
(section on typologies.....)

#### **Week 4 (Sept 14): Chronology and Its Application**

Ford, J. A.

1938 A Chronological Method Applicable to the Southeast. *American Antiquity* 3(3):260-264.

Krieger, Alex D.

1947 The Eastward Extension of Puebloan Datings toward Cultures of the Mississippi Valley. *American Antiquity* 12(3):141-148.

Adams, William Hampton

2003 Dating Historical Sites: The Importance of Understanding Time Lag in the Acquisition, Curation, Use, and Disposal of Artifacts. *Historical Archaeology* 37(2):38-64. **XXX**

Mallios, Seth

2005 Back to the Bowl: Using English Tobacco Pipebowls to Calculate Mean Site-Occupation Dates. *Historical Archaeology* 39(2):89-104.

South, Stanley

1978 Pattern Recognition in Historical Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 43(2):223-230. **XXX**

Turnbaugh, William and Sarah Peabody Turnbaugh  
1977 Alternative Applications of the Mean Ceramic Date Concept for Interpreting Human Behavior. *Historical Archaeology* 11(1):90-104.

### **Week 5 (Sept 21): Assemblages and Patterning**

South, Stanley  
1979 Historic Site Content, Structure, and Function. *American Antiquity* 44(2):213-237.

South, Stanley  
1988 Whither Pattern? *Historical Archaeology* 22(1):25-28.

Cabak, Melanie, Mark D. Groover, and Scott J. Wagers  
1995 Health Care and the Wayman A.M.E. Church. *Historical Archaeology* 29(2):55-76. **XXX**

Otto, John Solomon  
1980 Race and Class on Antebellum Plantations. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America: Afro-American and Asian American Culture History*, edited by Robert L. Schuyler, pp. 3-13. Baywood Publishing Co, Farmingdale, NY. **XXX**

Wheaton, Thomas R. and Patrick H. Garrow  
1985 Acculturation and the Archaeological Record in the Carolina Lowcountry. In *The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life*, edited by Theresa Singleton, pp. 239-269. Academic Press, Orlando, FL.

### **Week 6 (Sept 28): Economies and Economics**

Miller, George L.  
1980 Classification and Economic Scaling of 19th Century Ceramics. *Historical Archaeology* 14:1-40.

Miller, George L.  
1991 A Revised Set of CC Index Values for Classification and Economic Scaling of English Ceramics from 1787 to 1880. *Historical Archaeology* 25(1):1-25.

Mullins, Paul  
2001 Racializing the Parlor: Race and Victorian Bric-Brac Consumption. In *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*, edited by Charles E. Orser, Jr., pp. 158-176. The University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. **XXX**

Wall, Diane Dizerega  
1999 Examining Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in Nineteenth-Century New York City. *Historical Archaeology* 33(1):102-117.

Cook, Lauren J., Rebecca Yamin, and John P. McCarthy  
1996 Shopping as Meaningful Action: Toward a Redefinition of Consumption in  
Historical Archaeology. *Historical Archaeology* 30(4):50-65. XXX

Adams, William Hampton and Sarah Jane Boling  
1989 Status and Ceramics for Planters and Slaves on Three Georgia Costal Plantations.  
*Historical Archaeology* 23(1):69-96.

### **Week 7 (Oct 5) Visible Artifacts, Invisible People**

Bullen, Adelaide K. And Ripley P. Bullen  
1945 Black Lucy's Garden. *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society*  
6(2):17-28.

Fairbanks, Charles  
1974 The Kingsley Slave Cabins in Duval County, Florida, 1968. *Conference on  
Historic Sites Archaeology Papers* 7:62-93.

Praetzellis, Adrian and Mary Praetzellis  
1998 A Connecticut Merchant in Chinadom: A Play in One Act. *Historical  
Archaeology* 32(1):86-93. XXX

Heath, Barbara J. and Amber Bennett  
2000 "The little Spots allow'd them": The Archaeological Study of African-American  
Yards. *Historical Archaeology* 34(2):38-55.

Seifert, Donna  
1991 Within Site of the White House: The Archaeology of Working Women. *Historical  
Archaeology* 25(4):83-108. XXX

Starzmann, Maria Theresia  
2015 The Materiality of Forced Labor: An Archaeological Exploration of Punishment  
in Nazi Germany. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 19:647-663.

Casella, Eleanor Conlin  
2001 To Watch or Restrain: Female Convict Prisons in 19th-Century Tasmania.  
*International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 5(1):45-72. XXX

### **Week 8: (Oct 12) The Strengths and Weakness of Single Artifact Narratives:**

Davidson, James M.  
2012 Encountering the Ex-Slave Reparations Movement from the Grave: The National  
Industrial Council and National Liberty Party, 1901-1907. *The Journal of African  
American History* 97(1-2):13-38.

Warner, Mark S. and Robert A. Genheimer  
2008 "Cats Here, Cats There, Cats and Kittens Everywhere": An Urban Extermination of Cats in Nineteenth-Century Cincinnati. *Historical Archaeology* 42(1):11-25. XXX

Sudderth, W. E. and Linda J. Darnell Hulvershorn  
2000 The Rare Bone China Gorgets of Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, Williston, North Dakota. *Historical Archaeology* 34(4):102-117.

Torbenson, Michael, Robert H. Kelly, Jonathon Erlen, Lorna Cropcho, Michael Moraca, Bonnie Beiler, K. N. Rao, and Mohammed Virji  
2000 Lash's: A Bitter Medicine: Biochemical Analysis of an Historical Proprietary Medicine. *Historical Archaeology* 34(2):102-117

Schablitsky, Julie  
2006 Genetic Archaeology: The Recovery and Interpretation of Nuclear DNA from a Nineteenth-Century Hypodermic Syringe. *Historical Archaeology* 40(3):8-19. XXX

### **Week 9 (Oct 19): Multivalent Artifacts**

Stine, Linda France, Melanie A. Cabak, and Mark D. Groover  
1996 Blue Beads as African-American Cultural Symbols. *Historical Archaeology* 30(3):49-75.

Davidson, James M., and Karen E. McIlvoy  
2012 New Perspectives from Old Collections: Potential Artifacts of African Spirituality at Couper Plantation, Georgia. *The Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage* 1(2):107-166.

Russell, Aaron E.  
1997 Material Culture and African-American Spirituality at the Hermitage. *Historical Archaeology* 31(2):63-80.

Marshall, Yvonne and Alexandra Maas  
1997 Dashing Dishes. *World Archaeology* 28(3):275-290. XXX

Gazin-Schwartz, Amy  
2001 Archaeology and Folklore of Material Culture, Ritual, and Everyday Life. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 5(4):263-280. XXX

Adams, William Hampton  
2002 Recycling Bottles as Building Materials in the Pacific Islands. *Historical Archaeology* 36(2):50-57.

Cabak, Melanie and Stephen Loring  
2000 "A Set of Very Fair Cups and Saucers": Stamped Ceramics as an Example of Inuit Incorporation. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 4(1):1-34.

Burley, David V.  
1989 Function, Meaning and Context: Ambiguities in Ceramic Use by the Hivernant Metis of the Northwestern Plains. *Historical Archaeology* 23(1):97-106.

**Week 10 (Oct 26): Artifact Workshop    Historic Bottles**

Firebaugh, Gail S.  
1983 An Archaeologist's Guide to The Historical Evolution of Glass Bottle Technology. *Southwestern Lore* (The Colorado Archaeological Society) 49(2):9-29.

**Week 11 (March 19): Artifact Workshop    Historic Ceramics**

Kwas, Mary L.  
1999 *A Guide to The Identification of Historic Refined Earthenwares*. Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville.

**Week 12 (Nov 2) Artifact Workshop: Small Finds -- Buttons, Buckles, Safety Pins**

**Week 13 (Nov 9): 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Material Culture of Death**

Bell, Edward L.  
1990 The historical archaeology of mortuary behavior: Coffin hardware from Uxbridge, Massachusetts. *Historical Archaeology* 24(3):54-78. **XXX**

Cannon, Aubrey  
1989 The Historic Dimension in Mortuary Expressions of Status and Sentiment. *Current Anthropology* 30(4):437-458. **XXX**

Little, Barbara J., Kim M. Lamphear, and Douglas W. Owsley  
1992 Mortuary display and status in a nineteenth-century Anglo-American cemetery in Manassas, Virginia. *American Antiquity* 57(3):397-418.

Davidson, James M.  
2004 Material Culture, Chronology, and Socioeconomics. In *Two Historic Cemeteries in Crawford County, Arkansas*, edited by Robert C. Mainfort, Jr. and James M. Davidson, pp. 73-194. Final Report, submitted to Burns and McDonnell. AAS Project 02-02. Arkansas Archeological Survey: Fayetteville, AR.



**Week 14 (Nov 16): 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Material Culture of Death Part 2**

Workshop on Coffins, Caskets, and etc.

**Week 15 (Nov 23): Thanksgiving No Class**

**Week 16 (Nov 30): Presentations/Discussions of Individual Projects and Papers**

Semester Ends: Wednesday — December 6, 2017)