Colonial Continuities  
ANG6930, Friday 9:30 - 12:30  
Turlington Hall, 1208H

Instructor: Charles Cobb  
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Office: Dickinson Hall, Room 102  
Office Hours: Thursday, 1-3 pm; Friday, 1-3 pm

This course is about post-fifteenth century A.D. European (and Euro-American) colonialism as an ongoing process rather than a particular period of history. From this perspective, while the formal political institutions of colonialism had largely given way by the mid-twentieth century, the after-effects of this protracted history continue to be felt in economic, cultural, aesthetic, ecological and discursive domains. Despite the importance of the colonial shadow over today’s world, some scholars have pointed out that much of the research on the interconnections of the here and now (“globalization” if you will) lacks a historical depth that appreciates the genesis of the so-called world system. Our job in this seminar will be to engage a longitudinal history that addresses a fuller unfolding of colonial histories over the past 500+ years.

Our emphasis will be on the materiality of colonial continuities. Although this means that we will be emphasizing archaeological studies, that does not mean that this approach is limited to “artifacts.” We will more broadly consider how everyday things, from objects to ecofacts to households to the built environment, are not merely impacted by colonial processes, but become the media for reproducing and altering the practices and worldviews surrounding colonialism. Thus this class is not limited to archaeologists or archaeology, and many of the readings draw from social anthropology, history, and other fields.

The class meets in one three-hour seminar per week. There is a robust reading load for the course as we will cover a lot of ground. We also will have a number of visiting anthropologists this semester who will oversee seminars relevant to their expertise in colonialism. In addition they will be providing public lectures as part of their visit. While attendance at the latter is not required, I hope that you make the effort to listen to them to get acquainted with their research.

Your grade will be determined by three criteria:
• First, you will pursue a research paper of approximately 10 pp (not including citations) on a topic of your choosing under the rubric of colonial continuities. You should consult with me before undertaking your study. (50% of grade)
• Second, each student will be asked to co-supervise a seminar with me once during the semester. As part of this task you will help prep the class by distributing a series of points of discussion to your classmates a day before your seminar session meets.
This obviously requires you to do the readings for that week well beforehand in order to develop those points. I will be available for feedback as you develop those.
(25% of grade)
• Third, class participation will count as one-fourth of your grade. A seminar is not about me lecturing, it is about a free-wheeling discussion of concepts and case studies based on the notion that we are all familiar with the material. Your participation is critical for convincing me of your familiarity with the readings (25% of grade)

There are no textbooks for the course. All of the readings will be posted online via Canvas.

**Learning Outcomes.** By the end of the semesters students should be able to:
1) Outline those characteristics that distinguish post-1400s colonialism from other forms of colonialism
2) Explain how the development of globalization is rooted in colonial processes
3) Define materiality in relationship to archaeological, ethnohistorical and historical research
SCHEDULE

August 28     Introduction

Cooper, Frederick
  • Chapter 4. Globalization

Orser, Charles E., Jr.
  Chap. 3. “The Haunts of Historical Archaeology”

Sahlins, Marshall

Trouillot M-R.

September 4     Session 1: The Production of Knowledge and the Longue Durée

Guest Anthropologist: Ann Stahl

Jordan, Kurt A.

Gosden, Chris

Stahl, Ann B.
Stahl, Ann B.

**Session 2: Historical Ecology and Colonialism**

**Guest Anthropologist: Peter Stahl**

Balée, William

Ross, Nanci J.

Stahl, Peter W.

Stahl, Peter W.

**September 11  Alterity, Decolonization and Multiple Vantage Points**

Cooper, Frederick
•  Chapter 5. Modernity

Hantman, Jeffrey L.

Matthews, Christopher N.
•  Chapter 7 “The Archaeology of Race and African American Resistance”
Oland, Maxine

Silliman, Stephen W.

Wesson, Cameron B.

September 18  Objects, Commodities, and Materiality

Baram, Uzi

Jamieson, Ross W.

Liebmann, Matthew

Lightfoot, K.G., A. Martinez and A.M. Schiff

Mullins, Paul, and Robert Paynter

Richard, François G.
2010  Recharting Atlantic Encounters. Object Trajectories and Histories of Value in
the Siin (Senegal) and Senegambia. *Archaeological Dialogues* 17(1):1-27.

**September 25**  
**Spanning Scales of Analysis: Households to World Systems**

King, Julia A.  

Lenik S.  

Marcus, George E.  

Richard, François  

Voss, Barbara L.  

Wernke S.A.  

**October 2**  
**Conflict**  
**Guest Anthropologist: Richard Chacon**

Beckerman, Stephen, and James Yost  
Blair, Elliott H., and David Hurst Thomas

Chacon, Richard J., Yamiletter Chacon, and Angel Guandinango

Ferguson, R. Brian

Wilcox, Michael V.

Whitehead, Neil L.

October 9 Landscapes and Built Environments

Carroll, Lynda

Givens, Michael
• Chapter 8 “Landscapes of Resistance”
Jordan, Kurt A.

Mendoza, Rubén G.

Tveskov, Mark, and Amy Cohen

Wernke, Steven A.

**October 16 Migrations, Diasporas, Identities**

Clifford, James

Fennell, Christopher

Green, William, Chester B. DePratter, and Bobby Southerlin

Hofman, Corinne, Angus Mol, Menno Hoogland, and Roberto Valcárcel Rojas
Lilley, Ian  

**October 23  State-making and Geographies of Management**

Cobb, Charles R.  

Givens, Michael  
•  Chapter 5 “Living Between Lines”

Hauser, Mark, and Douglas V. Armstrong  

Naum, Magdalene  

Rice, Prudence M., and Don S. Rice  

Richard, François G.  

**October 30  Archaeology Engaging Heritage**

Harrison, Rodney  

McGuire, Randall H.  
•  Chapter 2 “Politics”

•  Presentation of Proposed Paper/Research Topics
**November 6**

Homecoming [no class]

**November 13**

Intimacy and the Body

*Guest Anthropologist: Diana Loren*

Beaudry, Mary

Loren, Diana DiPaolo

Muraca, David, John Coombs, Phil Levy, Laura Galke, and Paul Nasca

Voss, Barbara

White, Carolyn L. and Mary C. Beaudry

**November 20**

SEAC

**November 27**

Thanksgiving Break

**PAPER DUE, NOVEMBER 30**

**December 4**

Political Ecology, Colonialism and Enslavement

*Guest Anthropologist: Mark Hauser*

Deagan, Kathleen A.

Handler, Jerome S., and Diane Wallman.
2014 Production Activities in the Household Economies of Plantation Slaves:
Barbados and Martinique, Mid-1600s to Mid-1800s. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 18:441-466.

