THE ARCHEOLOGY OF DEATH
ANG6930 (section 2F53)
Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. James M. Davidson
Course Level/Structure: Graduate seminar
Time: Monday only -- periods 6 through 8 (12:50 pm to 3:50 pm)
Class Room: Turlington Hall, Room 1208H

Office: Turlington B134
Email: davidson@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 2 – 5 pm (and by appointment)
Website for electronic readings: http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/davidson/courses.htm

Course Description and Objectives: The seminar’s goal is to provide a solid grounding in the anthropological literature of Mortuary studies; that is, data derived from a study of the Death Experience. In addition to archaeological data, a strong emphasis will be placed on the theoretical underpinnings of mortuary data, drawn from cultural anthropology and ethnography. Along with more theoretical papers, specific case studies will be used to address a variety of topics and issues, such as Social Organization and Social Structure, Spirituality and Religion, Skeletal Biology (e.g., Paleodemography, Paleopathology, and other issues of Bioarchaeology), Gender Issues, The Ethics of using Human Remains, and Post-Processual Critiques of Mortuary Archaeology. The time range that we will cover in the course will span from the Neolithic to the 20th century, and numerous cultures from all parts of the globe will be our subject matter.

Course Requirements:
Class participation/attendance 5%
Leading Class Discussion: 5%
Synopses (of specific readings) 20%
Two essay/reaction papers 20%
Major research paper 50%

Texts:


3). The primary texts will be derived from individual readings (e.g., articles, book chapters) (see website)
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.

Synopses of Readings/Two Exercise or Reaction Papers:
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 $X$ at the end of each citation.

Two smaller paper assignments, on specific readings, will range from 5 to 10 pages each. Their topics and due dates are given below.

Team Discussion:
Each week, teams of between two or three students will lead class discussion. Each group will be expected to meet outside of class to organize readings and to prepare a list of questions/points of discussion. If you wish, you may meet with me, to talk about the readings prior to class. As this constitutes a substantial portion of the grade (10%), each team member will be expected to participate and have an active voice.

Research Paper:
One major research paper will be due at the end of the semester: graduate students (15 to 20 pages); undergraduate students (10 to 15 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. If there is time, each student will briefly 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.

Final Papers are due by on last day of Spring Semester – Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Grading:
A final letter grade will be assigned at the end of the semester, according to this scale:
A  (93-100%)
A- (90-92%)
B+ (88-89%)
B  (83-87%)
B- (80-82%)
C+ (78-79%)
C  (73-77%)
C- (70-72%)
D+ (68-69%)
D  (63-67%)
D- (60-62%)
E  (59% or below)
Attendance: Regular attendance is required. Excessive unexcused absences will detract from the student’s 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/ 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 (January 9)

Introduction
Historical Perspectives on the Anthropological and Archaeological Study of Death
Emphasis during the first class sessions will be on some of the fundamental literature upon which contemporary interpretations of archaeological burials are based. The readings include both summaries of historical developments and older works; some of the latter have only historical value.

It may be helpful to read Chapman and Randsborg 1981 (pp. 1-24) first, as background.

Hertz, Robert

Read only pp. 27-86 of Hertz (notes for these pages are between 117-154).

Kroeber, Alfred L.
1927 Disposal of the dead. American Anthropologist 29:308-315

Childe, V. Gordon
1945 Directional changes in funerary practices during 50,000 years. Man 45:13-19.

Binford, Lewis R.
Ucko, Peter

Chapman, Robert, and Klavs Randsborg

**Supplementary Reading (not required, but useful)**
Palgi, Phyllis and Henry Abramovitch

Bartel, Brad

Parker Pearson --- Chapter One (pages 1-20)

**Week 2 (January 16) No Class – MLK Day Observed**

**Week 3 (January 23)**
**Theoretical Positions and Issues**
*This class will focus on the framework within which the interpretation of human burials developed in the 1970s and 1980s.*

Binford, Lewis R.

Goodenough, Ward

Brown, James A.
Tainter, Joseph A.
1978 Mortuary practices and the study of prehistoric social systems. *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory* 1:105-141.

Braun, David

(Supplementary reading: not required but strongly recommended, especially Saxe’s discussion and definition of his hypotheses)

Saxe, Arthur A.

Braun, David

Tainter, Joseph A.

Parker Pearson ---- Chapter 4 (pages 72-94)

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**Week 4 (January 30)**

**Theoretical Positions and Issues II**

O’Shea, John M.

Peebles, Christopher S. and Susan M. Kus

Hodder, Ian
Week 5 (February 6)

Explanation and Mortuary Studies
Case studies highlighting specific applications of mortuary theory. The readings for this week deal with the interpretation of the rise of sedentism and marking control over critical resources. This is the subject of Saxe’s (1970) Hypothesis 8.

Chapman, Robert

Charles, Douglas and Jane Buikstra

Saxe, Arthur A. and Patricia L. Gall

Goldstein, Lynne

Dillehay, Tom D.

Glazier, Jack

Paper No. 1: write an essay (5 to 10 pages in length), that discusses the Saxe-Binford approach to Mortuary data, emphasizing the middle range nature of their efforts, and how their approach may be defined as “representationist.” How can it be applied to archaeological data, and what would be some potential pitfalls in this application?
Week 6 (February 13)

Bioarchaeological Perspectives
Topics covered in this class would include paleodemography, paleopathology, diet and nutrition, and the biological costs and benefits of maize agriculture. Consider the prehistoric and historic case studies; how do they differ?

Ambrose, Stanley H., Jane Buikstra, and Harold W. Krueger

Rose, Jerome C., Murray K. Marks, and Larry L. Tieszen

Larsen, Clark Spencer; Mark C. Griffin, Dale L. Hutchinson, Vivian E. Noble, Lynette Norr, Robert F. Pastor, Christopher B. Ruff, Katherine F. Russell, Margaret J. Schoeninger, Michael Schultz, Scott W. Simpson, and Mark F. Teaford

Davidson, James M., Jerome Rose, Myron Gutmann, Michael Haines, Cindy Condon, and Keith Condon

Wood, James W., George R. Milner, Henry C. Harpending, and Kenneth M. Weiss

Wright, Lori E. and Cassady J. Yoder

**Supplementary Readings (not required, but may be useful, especially if you have little experience in skeletal biology, paleopathology, paleodemography, etc.)**

Larson, Clark Spencer
Boquet-Appel, Jean-Pierre and Claude Massett

Van Gerven, Dennis P. and George J. Armelagos

**Week 7 (February 20)**

**Archaeological Case Studies I: North America**

Brown, James A.

Gilman, Patricia S.

Howell, Todd L. and Keith W. Kintigh

Shryock, Andrew J.

Mainfort, Robert C., Jr.

Milner, George R., Eve Anderson, and Virginia G. Smith

**Week 8 (February 27)**

**Archaeological Case Studies II: South America, Europe, the Near East**

Byrd, Brian F., and Christopher M. Monahan
Dillehay, Tom D.

Pollock, Susan

Randsborg, Klavs

**Week 9 (March 6) No Classes – Spring Break**

**Week 10 (March 13)**

**Ethnographic and Historical Observations on Treatment of the Dead**

Metcalf, Peter A.

Metcalf, Peter

Precourt, Walter E.

Aries, Phillipe

**Week 11 (March 20)**

**Ethnographic Observations II**

Elliott, John R.

Pearson, Michael Parker

Farrell, James J.

McGuire, Randall H.

Dethlefsen, Edwin N. and James Deetz

Jamieson, Ross W.

**Week 12 (March 27)**

**Archaeological Case Studies III: Historical Archaeology**

Mainfort, Robert C., Jr.

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

Bell, Edward L.

Cannon, Aubrey
Davidson, James M.  

Little, Barbara J., Kim M. Lamphear, and Douglas W. Owsley  

Gould, Elspeth M. and David B. Chappel  

Davidson, James M.  

**Paper No. 2: Write an essay (5 to 10 pages in length) discussing the methodologies and theoretical underpinnings of historic mortuary studies, contrasting them with prehistoric theory and datasets. Especially emphasize the search for “status” markers.**

**Week 13 (April 3)**

**Ethical Perspectives in Mortuary Archaeology**

McGowan, Gary S. and Cheryl J. LaRoche  

Crist, Thomas  

Buikstra, Jane E., and Claire C. Gordon  
Walker, Phillip L.  

Rose, Jerome C., Thomas J. Green, and Victoria D. Green  

Watkins, Joe  

Morrell, Virginia  

World Council of Indigenous Peoples  

**Week 14 (April 10)**

**Postprocessual and other Criticisms of Mortuary Site Studies**

Chapman, Robert  

Barrett, John C.  

Sullivan, Lynne P.  

Joyce, Rosemary A.  
Brown, James

Chapman, Robert

Lull, Vicente

Morris, Ian

Harke, Heinrich

Pearson, Mike Parker

**Week 15 (April 17)**

**Final Thoughts – Presentations of Papers**