Description: This course is designed to present a historical overview of the field of African-American archaeology, starting with the first scientific excavations in the 1940s. Participants will obtain knowledge of important case studies, key figures, major issues, and the overall development of the discipline. Theoretical, methodological, and ethical issues will be addressed. Through lectures, I will introduce the readings and provide broad overviews of the overarching topics and issues within the field of African-American Archaeology. A good portion of class time, however, will be spent discussing and critiquing the readings.

Required Readings:
1. James Deetz  
   1996 In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life.  
   Anchor (Revised and Expanded edition)

2. Singleton, Theresa (editor)  
   University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville.

3. Electronic documents, comprising key articles and book chapters, will be posted and downloadable as .pdf files from a university server.

Requirements: There will be two non cumulative exams, the format of which will be a mixture of objective questions (e.g., true false, multiple choice, etc), and one or more short answer or essay questions. There will also be a final exam (cumulative). Participation in class discussions is expected. Each student’s input will be especially crucial, since this will be a small class. Students are expected to have read the readings for that day, and come to class prepared to discuss them.
The writing component for this class is satisfied by three critical response essays on key readings to be assigned throughout the semester. Each essay will be three (maximum four) pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font, and one-inch margins. These will be corrected and returned with comments.

**Grading:**

- Exams 1 and 2 (20% each)  
- Critical response essays (three total)  
- Attendance/Class Participation  
- Final Exam (comprehensive)

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 expected. Excessive unexcused absences will detract from the student’s final grade (see above).

**Make-up Exams:**

If an exam is missed, and the absence was pre-arranged, or in the event of illness accompanied by a physician’s note, a make-up exam will be given. No make-up exams will be given for students who miss the testing period due to unexcused absences.

**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, AND IT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLASS.**


**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, and expulsion from the University.**

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**Schedule and Topics:**

Week 1 (August 25-29) Introduction (Historical Archaeology, etc).

Week 2 (September 1-5) Deetz’s “In Small Things Forgotten”
NO CLASS MONDAY – LABOR DAY

Week 3 (September 8-12) Deetz’s “In Small Things Forgotten”; Pioneering works and “Plantation Studies”

Week 4 (September 15-19) Pioneering works and “Plantation Studies” (continued)

Week 5 (September 22-26) Critiques of “Plantation Studies”

Week 6 (September 29- October 3) Critiques of “Plantation Studies” (continued); Race, culture, ethnicity

Week 7 (October 6-10) Race, culture, ethnicity (continued)

******Exam 1 (Wednesday – Oct 8) ******

Week 8 (October 13-17) Belief Systems/Spirituality
NO CLASS FRIDAY -- HOMECOMING

Week 9 (October 20-24) Belief Systems/Spirituality (continued)
ESSAY NO. 1 (DUE Monday -- OCTOBER 20)
Week 10 (October 27-31) Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology

Week 11 (November 3-7)

Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology (continued)

Week 12 (November 10-14) Politics and representation

******Exam 2 (Wednesday -- Nov. 12) ******

Week 13 (November 17-21)
Politics and Representation (continued)

ESSAY NO. 2 (DUE NOVEMBER 19)

Week 14 (November 24 – 28) NO CLASS Wednesday through Friday -- Thanksgiving

Current Research

Week 15 (December 1-5) Current research (continued)

Week 16 (December 8-10) Current research (continued)

ESSAY NO. 3 (DUE Wednesday -- DECEMBER 10)

******Final Exam ******

Final Exam Period (18B): Thursday, December 18 -- 10:00 AM to Noon

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READINGS:

Week 1 (August 25-29)

Warren Perry and Robert Paynter
“Artifacts, Ethnicity, and the Archaeology of African Americans”
(Chapter 15 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume)

Singleton, Theresa and Mark D. Bograd
1995 The African Experience in America: A Brief Overview. In The Archaeology of
the African Diaspora in the Americas. Guides to the Archaeological Literature of the
Immigrant Experience in America, Number 2. The Society for Historical Archaeology
**Week 2 (September 1-5)**


James Deetz
“Archaeology at Flowerdew Hundred”
(*Chapter 3 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume*)

**Weeks 3 and 4 (Sept 8-Sept 19)**

(*Finish reading Deetz’s book, In Small Things Forgotten…*)

**Pioneering works and “Plantation Studies”**

Ascher, Robert and Charles Fairbanks

Bullen, Adelaide K. And Ripley P. Bullen

Otto, John Solomon

Ferguson, Leland

Wheaton, Thomas R. and Patrick H. Garrow

Moore, Sue Mullins

Adams, William Hampton and Sarah Jane Boling
**Week 5** (Sept 22-Sept 26)

**Critiques of Plantation Studies.**

Baker, Vernon G.

Potter, Parker B. Jr.

Howson, Jeane E.

Thomas, Brian W.

Heath, Barbara J. and Amber Bennett

Farnsworth, Paul

**Weeks 6 and 7** (Sept 29 - Oct 10)

**Race, Culture, Ethnicity**

Babson, David W.

Stine, Linda France

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

Epperson, Terrence W.

Mullins, Paul

Brown, Kenneth L.

**Weeks 8 and 9 (Oct 13-Oct 24)**

**Belief Systems/Spirituality**

Leland Ferguson “The Cross is a Magic Sign”: Marks on Eighteenth Century Bowls in South Carolina. *(Chapter 6 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume)*

Christopher R. DeCorse
“Oceans Apart: Africanist Perspectives of Diaspora Archaeology.” *(Chapter 7 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume)*

Stine, Linda France, Melanie A. Cabak, and Mark D. Groover

Leone, Mark P. and Gladys-Marie Fry

Young, Amy

Wilkie, Laurie A.  

Russell, Aaron E.  

Fennell, Christopher C.  

Davidson, James M.  
2004 Rituals Captured in Context and Time: Charm Use in North Dallas Freedman’s Town (1869-1907), Dallas, Texas. *Historical Archaeology* 38(2):22-54.

Davidson, James M.  

Davidson, James M., and Karen E. McIlvoy  

**Weeks 10 and 11 (Oct 27 - Nov 7)**  
**Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology**

Bolton, H. Carrington  

Ingersoll, Ernest  

Combes, John D.  

Garmon, James C.
Blakely, Robert L., and Lane A. Beck  

Harrington, Spencer P. M.  

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

McCarthy, John P.  

Armstrong, Douglas V. and Mark L. Fleishman  

Blakey, Michael L.  

**Weeks 12 through 13 (Nov 10 – Nov 21)**

**Politics and Representation.**

Franklin, Maria  

Franklin, Maria  
1997 Why are there so few black American archaeologists? *Antiquity: an international journal of expert archaeology* 71(274).
Barile, Kerri S.
2004 Race, the National Register, and Cultural Resource Management: Creating an Historical Context for Postbellum Sites. *Historical Archaeology* 38(1):90-100.

Davidson, James M.
2004 “Living Symbols of their Lifelong Struggles”: In Search of the home and household in the Heart of Freedman's Town, Dallas, Texas. In *Household Chores and Household Choices: Theorizing the domestic Sphere in Historical Archaeology*, edited by Kerri S. Barile and Jamie C. Brandon, pp. 75-106. The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

McDavid, Carol

McCarthy, John

Patten, M. Drake
1997 Cheers of Protest? The Public, the Post, and the Parable of Learning. *Historical Archaeology* 31(3):131-139.

La Roche, Cheryl and Michael L. Blakey

Epperson, Terrence W.

Edward A. Chappell
“Museums and American Slavery”
*(Chapter 12 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume)*

Streich, Gregory W.

**Week 14 through 15 (Nov 24 – Dec 5)**

**Early 20th Century Studies – Tales from Freedman’s Cemetery.**

Davidson, James M.

Davidson, James M.

Davidson, James M.

**Week 16 (Dec 8 – Dec 10)**

**Rosewood: A Potential Archaeology**

Williams, John A.

Dye, T. Thomas

James M. Davidson and Edward Tennant