Course description: This is a class in applied theory that draws case studies from the prehistory of the Caribbean. Every week we will discuss a major archaeological theme and explore the different theoretical perspectives that have been applied to this theme. The class meets on Wednesday (periods 6-8). Students will be responsible for one reading per week, they are asked to prepare a one-page written outline for distribution to the rest of the class. They are expected to be prepared to discuss this reading along with other relevant knowledge that they bring from their own areas of expertise.

Grading: 50% of the final grade will be based on class participation. The other 50% will be based on individual projects. I do not believe in grades. Anyone who does the assigned work will receive an A. Anyone falling below this threshold will be informed during the semester.

Project: At the end of the semester, students will make a presentation to the class based on their field of research. Each presentation should last no more than 30 minutes, including time for questions. Students can choose between a written paper of no longer than 10 pages, or an oral presentation, whichever they prefer.

Textbooks:

**PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE**

Week 1 (1/4): Introduction
Week 2 (1/11): History of Caribbean Archaeology
Week 3 (1/18): Problems in Caribbean Prehistory -- Classification
Week 4 (1/25): Epistemology -- How do you know anything?
Week 5 (2/1): Kinship and Social Organization
Week 6 (2/8): Island Colonization
Week 7 (2/15): Human-Environmental Interactions
Week 6 (2/22): Economy
Week 7 (3/1): Demography
Week 8 (3/8): Spring Break
Week 9 (3/15): Political Organization
Week 10 (3/22): Myth and Ritual
Week 11 (3/29): SAA meeting – no class
Weeks 12-15: Student Presentations