

# ARCHAEOLOGY LAB: MATERIAL CULTURE STUDIES

ANG 6186 (section 9205)

Spring 2007

Instructor: Dr. James M. Davidson

Course Level/Structure: Graduate seminar

Time: Monday only -- periods 7 through 9(1:55-4:55 pm)

Class Room: Turlington B357

Office: Turlington B128

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

Office Hours: Wed 1:30 - 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 studies. In addition to theoretical articles, there will be practical hands-on training in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century material culture. A heavy emphasis will be on the material culture of historic cemeteries of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (e.g., coffins and caskets, coffin hardware or trimmings, and the physical grave itself), as well as on "small finds," such as clothing-related objects. Additional forms of material culture will be covered, based on individual student interests.

## **Course Requirements:**

Class participation/attendance 50%

Major research paper 50%

## **Required Texts:**

1. Mainfort, Robert C. Jr., and James M. Davidson (editors)

2006 *Two Historic Cemeteries in Crawford County, Arkansas. Research Series No. 62.* Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville.

(Available for \$30 from the Arkansas Archeological Survey; website is:  
<http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo/Publications.pdf>)

2. Ferguson, Leland (Editor)

1977 *Historical Archaeology and the Importance of Material Things.* Special Publication Series, Number 2. Society for Historical Archaeology.

There will also be a number of individual readings (e.g., articles, book chapters) required.

**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.

**Research Paper:**

One major 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) will be 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 (Jan 8): General discussion of course and content**

**Week 2 (Jan 15) NO CLASS: Martin Luther King Jr., Day**

**Week 3 (Jan 22): Material Culture in Historical Archaeology**

Leland Ferguson edited volume: *Historical Archaeology and the Importance of Material Things*. Special Publication Series, Number 2. Society for Historical Archaeology (1977).

**Week 4 (Jan 29): Recent Views of Material Culture in Historical Archaeology**

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.

Beaudry, Mary, Lauren Cook and Stephen Mrozowski

1991 Artifacts and active voices: material culture as social discourse. In *The Archaeology of Inequality*, edited by R. McGuire and R. Paynter pp 150-91. Blackwell Publishers.

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.

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.

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.

**Week 5 (Feb 5): Making Sense of Material Culture: Typologies and Issues of Classification:**

McGuire, Joseph D.

1896 Classification and Development of Primitive Implements. *American Anthropologist* 9(7):227-236.

Peabody, C. and W. K. Moorehead

1905 The Naming of Specimens in American Archaeology. *American Anthropologist* (new series) 7(4):630-632.

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

**Ford Spaulding Debate:**

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

Ford, James A.  
1954a The Type Concept Revisited. *American Anthropologist* 56:42-53

Ford, James A.  
1954b Spaulding's Review of Ford. *American Anthropologist* 56:109-112.

Spaulding, Albert C.  
1954 Reply (to Ford). *American Anthropologist* 56:112-14.

Ford, James A.  
1961 In Favor of Simple Typology. *American Antiquity* 27:113-14.

Steward, Julian H.  
1954 Types of Types. *American Anthropologist* 56:54-57.

Rouse, Irving R.  
1960 The Classification of Artifacts in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 25:313-23.

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.

O'Brien, Michael J. and R. Lee Lyman  
2002 The Epistemological Nature of Archaeological Units. *Anthropological Theory* 2(1):37-56.

**Week 6 (Feb 12) Nature of Artifacts:**

Rathje, W. L., W. W. Hughes, D. C. Wilson, M. K. Tani, G. H. Archer, R. G. Hunt, and T. W. Jones  
1992 The Archaeology of Contemporary Landfills. *American Antiquity* 57(3):437-447.

Robb, John E.  
1998 The Archaeology of Symbols. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 27:329-346.

Gosden, Chris and Yvonne Marshall

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

### **Ways of Examining a Single Artifact Class:**

Kidder, M. A. and A. V. Kidder

1917 Notes on the Pottery of Pecos. *American Anthropologist* (new series) 19(3):325-360.

Sullivan, Alan P. III

1988 Prehistoric Southwestern Ceramic Manufacture: The Limitations of Current Evidence. *American Antiquity* 53(1):23-35.

### **Just what the Hell is that Thing??? Case Study of a single artifact type: Mushroom Stones**

Borhegyi, Stephen F.

1961 Miniature Mushroom Stones from Guatemala. *American Antiquity* 26(4):498-504.

Borhegyi, Stephen F.

1964 Pre-Columbian Pottery Mushrooms from Mesoamerica. *American Antiquity* 28(3):328-338.

Kohler, Ulrich

1976 Mushrooms, Drugs, and Potters: A New Approach to the Function of Precolumbian Mesoamerican Mushroom Stones. *American Antiquity* 41(2):145-153.

### **Cogged Stones**

Eberhart, Hal

1961 The Cogged Stones of Southern California. *American Antiquity* 26(3):361-370.

Apodaca, Paul

2001 Cactus Stones: Symbolism and Representation in Southern California and Seri Indigenous Folk Art and Artifacts. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 23(2):215-228.

Week 7 (Feb 19): 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Material Culture of Death

Mainfort and Davidson edited volume: Chapter 6

Week 8 (Feb 26): 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Material Culture of Death Part 2

Week 9 (March 5): 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Material Culture of Death Part 3

Week 10 (March 12) NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (March 19): Small Finds -- Safety Pins

Week 12 (March 26): Small Finds – Buttons, Buckles

Week 13 (April 2): Specific Topics to be decided in class

Week 14 ( April 9): Specific Topics to be decided in class

Week 15 (April 16): Specific Topics to be decided in class

Week 16 (April 23): **Presentations/Discussions of Individual Projects and Papers**

Semester Ends: Wednesday, April 25)