

ARCHAEOLOGY OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE
AFA 3360 (sect 5276)
ANT 3930 (sect 7114)

Fall 2011

Turlington Hall 2322

MWF Period 3 (9:35am -- 10:25am)

Instructor: James M. Davidson, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Wed 1-3 (and by appointment)

Course Website: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/davidson/courses.htm>

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)
1999 *"I, Too, Am America": Archaeological Studies of African-American Life*.
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:

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| Exams 1 and 2 (20% each) | 40% |
| Critical response essays (three total) | 30% |
| Attendance/Class Participation | 10% |
| Final Exam (comprehensive) | 20% |

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.**

Consult the Student Guide at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> 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, and expulsion from the University.

Schedule and Topics:

Week 1 (Aug 22 - Aug 26) **Introduction (Historical Archaeology, etc).**

Week 2 (Aug 29 - Sept 2) **Deetz’s “In Small Things Forgotten”**

Week 3 (Sept 5 - Sept 9) (no class Monday; Labor Day) **Deetz’s “In Small Things Forgotten”; Pioneering works and “Plantation Studies”**

Week 4 (Sept 12 – Sept 16) **Pioneering works and “Plantation Studies” (continued)**

Week 5 (Sept 19 – Sept 23) **Critiques of “Plantation Studies”**

Week 6 (Sept 26 – Sept 30) **Critiques of “Plantation Studies” (continued); Race, culture, ethnicity**

Week 7 (Oct 3 – Oct 7) **Race, culture, ethnicity (continued)**

*******Exam 1 (Friday – Oct 7) *******

ESSAY NO. 1 (DUE MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2011)

Week 8 (Oct 10 - Oct 14) **Belief Systems/Spirituality**

Week 9 (Oct 17 – Oct 21) **Belief Systems/Spirituality (continued)**

Week 10 (Oct 24 – Oct 28) **Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology**

Week 11 (Oct 31 – Nov 4) (no class Friday, Homecoming) **Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology (continued)**

Week 12 (Nov 7 – Nov 11) (no class Friday, Veteran's Day) **Politics and Representation**

*******Exam 2 (Wednesday – Nov. 16) *******

Week 13 (Nov 14 – Nov 18) **Politics and Representation (continued)**

ESSAY NO. 2 (DUE NOVEMBER 18, 2011)

Week 14 (Nov 21 – Nov 25) (no class Friday, Thanksgiving) **Early 20th Century Studies**

Week 15 (Nov 28 – Dec 2) **Early 20th Century Studies (continued)**

Week 16 (Dec 5 – Dec 7) **Rosewood: A Potential Archaeology**

ESSAY NO. 3 (DUE DECEMBER 7, 2011)

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

Final Exam Period (16B): 10:00 am to Noon – Friday, December 16

READINGS:

Week 1 (Aug 22-Aug 26)

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 (Aug 29-Sept 2)

James Deetz's (1996) book, *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*.

James Deetz
"Archaeology at Flowerdew Hundred"
(Chapter 3 in Theresa Singleton's edited volume)

Weeks 3 and 4 (Sept 5-Sept 16)

(Finish reading Deetz's book, In Small Things Forgotten...)

Pioneering works and "Plantation Studies"

Ascher, Robert and Charles Fairbanks

1971 Excavation of a Slave Cabin: Georgia, U.S.A. *Historical Archaeology* 5:3-17.

Bullen, Adelaide K. And Ripley P. Bullen

1945 Black Lucy's Garden. *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society* 6(2):17-28.

Otto, John Solomon

1980 Race and Class on Antebellum Plantations. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America: Afro-American and Asian American Culture History*, edited by Robert L. Schuyler, pp. 3-13. Baywood Publishing Co, Farmingdale, NY.

Ferguson, Leland

1980 Looking for the "Afro" in Colono-Indian Pottery. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America: Afro-American and Asian American Culture History*, edited by Robert L. Schuyler, pp. 14-28. Baywood Publishing Co, Farmingdale, NY

Wheaton, Thomas R. and Patrick H. Garrow

1985 Acculturation and the Archaeological Record in the Carolina Lowcountry. In *The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life*, edited by Theresa Singleton, pp. 239-269. Academic Press, Orlando, FL.

Moore, Sue Mullins

1985 Social and Economic status on the coastal Plantation: An Archaeological Perspective. In *The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life*, edited by Theresa Singleton, pp. 214-160. Academic Press, Orlando, FL.

Adams, William Hampton and Sarah Jane Boling

1989 Status and Ceramics for Planters and Slaves on Three Georgia Coastal Plantations. *Historical Archaeology* 23(1):69-96.

Week 5 (Sept 19-Sept 23)

Critiques of Plantation Studies.

Baker, Vernon G.

1980 Archaeological visibility of Afro-American Culture: An Example from Black Lucy's Garden, Andover, Massachusetts. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America*, ed. Robert L. Schuyler, pp. 29-37. Baywood Press, Farmingdale, New York.

Potter, Parker B. Jr.

1991 What is the Use of Plantation Archaeology? *Historical Archaeology* 25(3):94-107.

Howson, Jeane E.

1990 Social Relations and Material Culture: A Critique of the Archaeology of Plantation Slavery. *Historical Archaeology* 24(4):78-91.

Thomas, Brian W.

1995 Source Criticism and the Interpretation of African-American Sites. *Southeastern Archaeology* 14(2):149-157.

Heath, Barbara J. and Amber Bennett

2000 "The little Spots allow'd them": The Archaeological Study of African-American Yards. *Historical Archaeology* 34(2):38-55.

Farnsworth, Paul

2000 Brutality or Benevolence in Plantation Archaeology. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 4(2):145-158.

Weeks 6 and 7 (Sept 26 - Oct 7)

Race, Culture, Ethnicity.

Babson, David W.

1990 The Archaeology of Racism and Ethnicity on Southern Plantations. *Historical Archaeology* 24(4):20-28.

Stine, Linda France

1990 Social Inequality and Turn-of-the-Century Farmsteads: Issues of Class, Status, Ethnicity, and Race. *Historical Archaeology* 24(4):37-49.

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

1990 Archaeological Approaches to New World Plantation Slavery. In *Archaeological Method and Theory*, vol. 2, edited by Michael B. Schiffer, pp. 111-154. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

1999 The Challenge of Race to American Historical Archaeology. *American Anthropologist* 100(3):661-668.

Epperson, Terrence W.

1999 The Contested Commons: Archaeologies of Race, Repression, and Resistance in New York City. In *Historical Archaeologies of Capitalism*, edited by Mark P. Leone and Parker B. Potter, Jr., pp. 81-110. Plenum Press, New York.

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.

Brown, Kenneth L.

1994 Material Culture and Community Structure: The Slave and Tenant Community at Levi Jordan's Plantation, 1848-1892. In *Working toward Freedom: Slave Society and Domestic Economy in the American South*, edited by Larry E. Hudson, Jr., pp. 95-118.

Weeks 8 and 9 (Oct 10-Oct 21)

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)

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

1994 The Archaeology of African-American Slave Religion in the Antebellum South. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 4 (1):33-45.

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

1996 Blue Beads as African-American Cultural Symbols. *Historical Archaeology* 30(3):49-75.

Leone, Mark P. and Gladys-Marie Fry

2001 Spirit Management among Americans of African Descent. In *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*, edited by Charles E. Orser Jr., pp. 143-157. The University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Young, Amy

1996 Archaeological Evidence of African-Style Ritual and Healing Practices in the Upland South. *Tennessee Anthropologist*, 21(2):139-155.

Wilkie, Laurie A.

1995 Magic and Empowerment on the Plantation: An Archaeological Consideration of African-American World View. *Southeastern Archaeology*, 14(2): 136-157.

Russell, Aaron E.

1997 Material Culture and African-American Spirituality at the Hermitage. *Historical Archaeology* 31(2):63-80.

Fennell, Christopher C.

2003 Group Identity, Individual Creativity, and Symbolic Generation in a Bakongo Diaspora. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 7(1):1-31.

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.

Weeks 10 and 11 (Oct 24 - Nov 4) **Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology.**

Bolton, H. Carrington

1891 Decoration of Graves of Negroes in South Carolina. *Journal of American Folk-Lore* 4 (12):214.

Ingersoll, Ernest

1892 Decoration of Negro Graves. *Journal of American Folk-Lore* 5 (16):68-69.

Combes, John D.

1974 Ethnography, Archaeology and Burial Practices Among Coastal South Carolina Blacks. *The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers 1972, Volume 7*. The Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Garmon, James C.

1994 Viewing the Color Line through the Material Culture of Death. *Historical Archaeology* 28(3):74-93.

Blakely, Robert L., and Lane A. Beck

1982 Bioarchaeology in the Urban Context. In *Archaeology of Urban America: The Search for Pattern and Process*, edited by Roy S. Dickens, Jr., pp. 175-207. Academic Press, New York.

Harrington, Spencer P. M.

1993 Bones and Bureaucrats: New York's Great Cemetery Imbroglio. *Archaeology* 46(2):30-38.

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

2002 The Quality of African-American Life in The Old Southwest Near the Turn of the 20th Century. In *The Backbone of History: Health and Nutrition in the Western Hemisphere*, edited by Richard Steckel, pp. 226-277. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

McCarthy, John P.

1997 Material Culture and the Performance of Sociocultural Identity: Community, Ethnicity, and Agency in the Burial Practices at the First African Baptist Church Cemeteries, Philadelphia, 1810-1841. In *American Material Culture: The Shape of the Field*, eds. Ann Smart Martin and J. Ritchie Garrison, pp. 359-379. Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware.

Armstrong, Douglas V. and Mark L. Fleishman

2003 House-Yard Burials of Enslaved Laborers in Eighteenth-Century Jamaica. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 7(1): 33-65.

Blakey, Michael L.

2001 Bioarchaeology of the African Diaspora in the Americas: Its Origins and Scope. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30:387-422.

Weeks 12 through 13 (Nov 7 - Nov 18)

Politics and Representation.

Franklin, Maria

1997 "Power to the People": Sociopolitics and the Archaeology of Black Americans. *Historical Archaeology* 31(3):36-50.

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

1997 Descendants, Decisions, and Power: The Public Interpretation of the Archaeology of the Levi Jordan Plantation. *Historical Archaeology* 31(3):114-131.

McCarthy, John

1996 Who Owns These Bones?: Descendant Communities and Partnerships in the Excavation and Analysis of Historic Cemetery Sites in New York and Philadelphia. *Public Archaeology Review* 4(2):3-12.

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

1997 Seizing Intellectual Power: The Dialogue at the New York African Burial Ground. *Historical Archaeology* 31(3):84-106.

Epperson, Terrence W.

2004 Critical Race Theory and the Archaeology of the African Diaspora. *Historical Archaeology* 38(1):101-108.

Edward A. Chappell

“Museums and American Slavery”
(Chapter 12 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume)

Joseph, J. W.

2004 Resistance and Compliance: CRM and the Archaeology of the African Diaspora. *Historical Archaeology* 38(1):18-31.

Weeks 14 through 15 (Nov 21 – Dec 2)

Early 20th Century Studies.

Beverly E. Bastian

“Elmwood: The Archaeology of Twentieth Century African American Pioneers in the Great North Woods” (Chapter 14 in Therese Singleton’s edited volume)

Davidson, James M.

2007 “Resurrection Men” in Dallas: The Illegal Use of Black Bodies as Medical Cadavers (1900-1907). *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 11 (3):193-220.

Davidson, James M.

2008 Identity and Violent Death: Contextualizing Lethal Gun Violence within the African-American Community of Dallas, TX (1900-1907). *The Journal of Social Archaeology* 8(3):321-356.

Week 16 (Dec 5 – Dec 7)

Rosewood: A Potential Archaeology

Streich, Gregory W.

2002 Is There a Right to Forget? Historical Injustices, Race, Memory and Identity. *New Political Science* 24(4):525-542.

Williams, John A.

1968 The Long Hot Summers of Yesteryear. *The History Teacher* 1(3):9-23.

Dye, T. Thomas

1996 Rosewood, Florida: The Destruction of an African American Community. *The Historian* 58(3):605-622.

James M. Davidson and Edward Tennant

2008 A Potential Archaeology of Rosewood, Florida: The Process of Remembering a Community and a Tragedy. *The SAA Archaeological Record, the Magazine of the Society for American Archaeology* (January) 8(1):13-16.