This course critically examines the development of thought in archaeology that goes beyond a materialist interpretation of culture. An underlying premise of this course is that the normative characterizations of New Archaeology about idealist interpretations were both naive and infused with positive orthodoxy. Rather than label theoretical postures, this course will question how we can develop a more synthetic archaeological science that incorporates concern for culture, or the influence of ideas on material culture patterning and on culture change.

Over the last two decades attempts to incorporate the affect of ideas have often been portrayed in reactionary terms and considered outmoded. Ironically, such responses are contrary to the conventional notion that archaeology is anthropology. Post-processual approaches in archaeology continued to be passed off as extreme relativism. If we are to develop an anthropological and humanistic science, however, then we must sponsor inquiry that seeks to establish parameters for germane and important idealist explanations, explanations that need not and should not exclude compatible and systematically related materialist explanations. Our foremost task is to see how and in what context we can affirm a connection between the ideological superstructure and material culture, patiently working through methodologies that clearly demonstrate the ties between archaeological evidence and the domain of symbolic thought and expression.

In this course we will explore the question of causality from the material base of infrastructure to ideology or the superstructure. Recent thinking by anthropologists and Marxists scholars help us to understand the role of mind and culture as a mediator between environment /modes of production and political, economic, and social structures.

It is undeniable that spatial arrangements of material culture are sometimes expressive of the symbolic concerns in culture that are linked to economic and political life. We seek to develop new ways in which we can link patterned symbolic meaning, patterned environmental attributes and material culture to arrive at a methodology in archaeology that creates a synthetic and scientific history.

Requirements and Grading

- At each seminar meeting there will be 2 (two) 5-8 page papers presented by seminar participants.
- The paper presenters are in charge of the seminar and responsible for guiding and directing discussion. These papers will reflect the participants' personal reaction and evaluation of the readings, as well as an assessment of the theoretical and methodological perspectives of the work in light of the issues to be highlighted in the seminar. These papers must be distributed via email directly to the instructor and to seminar participants by noon of the Wednesday prior to the seminar meeting. Grades on the small papers will take into account the timeliness of paper delivery.
• Each seminar participant (except those presenting papers) must submit 3 critical questions each week on the readings directly to the instructor via email for his distribution to the other class participants. The deadline is 6 PM of each Wed, before the seminar date. These questions will focus on key issues and will partly guide class discussion the following day. The instructor will compile the questions and will normally distribute them the same evening.

• Each seminar participant will prepare a final research essay on a pertinent topic. This essay will be no less than 15 pages nor more than 30 pages. You will be expected to have your paper topic selected by September 21, by which time you will submit a one page abstract. A meeting may be scheduled with the instructor to discuss possible topics if someone needs guidance. The final paper will be distributed electronically to all class participants and the instructor 48 hours in advance of its presentation.

Grading will be based on:
20% class discussion;
20% quality, thoughtfulness, and timeliness of questions submitted
30% class papers and class presentations;
30% final paper.

Each presenter of a weekly topic paper is expected to make an appointment with the instructor 2 weeks in advance of a presentation.

This seminar begins its regular meetings on August 31. Each participant will select weekly topics for which he/she wants to present papers; this selection will begin during the organizational meeting of August 24 and will be completed within 24 hours for those needing more time, via email to the instructor. The selections must be prioritized, with a list of five choices submitted by each participant.

The syllabus is open to revision and will function as a general guide. Suggestions for supplemental readings are welcome.

Books or parts thereof that will be used in the course:


Books for Independent Purchase:


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**August 24: Introduction to Syllabus and Selection of Topics**

**August 31: Ideology--Praxis and Representation; Overview of Symbolic Perspectives**


**Sept. 7: Transformation in Archaeological Reasoning. The Role of Metaphor and Metonymy**

Schmidt, P. 2004. "The Play of Tropes in Archaeology." © ms. [In readings]


Schmidt, P. 2006. “Tropes, Space, and Historical Archaeology.” Chapter 5 in *Historical Archaeology in Africa: Representation, Social Memory, and Oral Traditions*, pp. 99-130. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek. [In readings]


Levi Strauss, C. 1966. *The Savage Mind*. For the play of metonymy read pp. 204-208 and 224-228. [In readings].


**Sept. 14: Towards Structure and Subjects: The First Movements**
Leach, E. ----. "A View from the Bridge", in Archaeology and Anthropology: Areas of Mutual Interest. M. Spriggs (ed.) BAR Supplementary Series, 19, Oxford, pp. 161-176. [In readings]

Leach, E. 1977. Concluding Address. In The Explanation of Culture Change: Models in Prehistory C. Renfrew, ed. [In readings]


Sept. 21: The First Experiments: Symbols in Action, or Symbols Projected?

Hodder, I. 1982. Symbols in Action: Ethnoarchaeological Studies of Material Culture. Cambrdfdge Univ. Press. [In readings]

Sept 28: Borrowing Theory


Giddens, A. 1979. Central Problems in Social Theory. Univ. of California Press. Selected chapters. [In readings]

Thompson, John B. 1990. Ideology and Modern Culture. Stanford U. Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 3: pp, 28-162. [In readings]

Oct. 5: Ideology, Symbolism, and Space


Kus, S. 1983. "The Social Representation of Space: Dimensioning the Cosmological and the


Oct 26: Landscapes and Space—Symbolic Perspectives; Grid and Group


**Nov. 2: Different Perspectives: Structuration in Practice? The Viability of the Dominance Paradigm?**


**Nov. 9: Ideology and the Practice of History.**


Schmidt, P. 2006. “Questions that Count: Africa and Beyond.” In *Historical Archaeology in Africa: Representation, Social Memory, and Oral Traditions*, pp. 3-15. AltaMira Press. [In readings]

Nov. 16: *Ideology, Technology, and Symbolism*


Nov. 23: *Thanksgiving Holiday*

Nov. 30: *Reactions, Reflections, and New Directions?*


Dec. 7: *Paper Presentations*

Dec. 9: *Paper Presentations*