

# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## SYLLABUS

### ANT 4193/ANG 6185: ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY

Professor Peter Schmidt  
Grinter 441  
Office hours: Tues 1-2:30  
by appt. Wed. afternoon, 4-5

Spring Semester 2014-15  
Dept. Anthropology  
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This course examines the theoretical and methodological foundations as well as the practice of ethnoarchaeology. The course begins with an examination of the processes of reasoning used in ethnoarchaeological approaches, with a particularly emphasis on analogy and middle range “theory.” It then considers theoretical issues surrounding concepts of time, and finally takes up a variety of case studies that illustrate how ethnoarchaeology has been and is being employed for interpretative problem solving. A practical, pragmatic perspective will be employed during the second half of the course, when students will be engaged in field exercises that employ the principles of ethnoarchaeology.

As archaeologists have come to realize their interpretative limitations, ethnoarchaeology has become an increasingly important part of the sub-discipline. Yet, one of the problems facing ethnoarchaeology has been its relative isolation from cultural theory in anthropology and its failure to grapple with methodological issues that have long faced ethnographers. This course will critically examine taken-for-granted assumptions about time that pervade the practice of ethnoarchaeology and explore some of the innovative approaches that depart from the mainstream archaeology.

An historical view is used in the course, with some of the classic writings on ethnoarchaeology forming an important part of the readings, as it is important to understand the genesis of thinking about ethnoarchaeology along with its many changing perspectives over the years. A broad range of topics are to be covered. This will provide a comprehensive understanding of the trends across continents and across various schools of thought. Class discussions and discussion papers will focus on the positive lessons to be learned from the readings as well as the pitfalls of various approaches.

This course will stress an active engagement in developing competency in the theory and methods of ethnoarchaeology. The seminars with their ancillary readings and discussions are designed to introduce students to the theoretical perspectives and appropriate methods. This approach will run parallel to the development of a practical understanding of how to design an ethnoarchaeological research project and how to execute it in the field. To this end, a portion of the course will focus on: proposing a research idea; developing a short research proposal about an approved topic; the execution of the research in a contemporary setting; and, writing a research report on research results. The instructor will individually work with students to develop their projects--group projects with two students are also possible--and will make a visit to the field site if assistance is requested by the student.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

This approach, putting theory and method to work, will entail sharing research plans, objectives, and issues with other students in the seminar so all may learn from both the potentials and problems that arise from each project, not just the end results. Accordingly, there will be two seminar sessions in which students make short 3-5 minute reports about the progress and issues arising during their proposal development to execution of the research. These sessions are marked in the syllabus. A meeting in mid-April will be devoted to presentation of the final project results.

Each graduate seminar participant will help to lead two seminars on a topic of his/her choice; each undergraduate participant will help to lead one seminar. This will entail the preparation of a short (5-7 pages) paper and its presentation in class. The papers will be sent to the instructor by 7 PM Tuesday prior to the Wed seminar, and then distributed to course participants via email by the instructor.

Each graduate student seminar participant is expected to submit two (2) critical questions to the instructor each week, each on a different assigned reading, 24 hours in advance of the seminar, e.g. by 5 PM every Tuesday; each undergraduate will submit 1 question. These questions will be compiled by the instructor and returned to all participants to use in preparation for the seminar discussion. Discussion leaders/paper presenters for each week do not need to submit questions.

Presentations/short papers will be 30% of the course grade. Participation in class discussions will be 20% of the course grade; weekly questions will count for 10%; and, a project paper will count for 40% of the grade. The final paper will be a report on an ethnoarchaeology project that the student [or two students] conduct(s) during the semester. It will be distributed to all course participants two days in advance of the final presentations. Each presenter will have 20 minutes to summarize the paper, using a format similar to professional conferences—good practice for future professional presentations. Students are encouraged to think about projects that have the potential for publication. The editors of the journal *Ethnoarchaeology* are receptive to student research that meets their guidelines. Participants must select possible projects by January 28. Meetings should be scheduled with the instructor if guidance and discussion of a project are needed.

### **Grading Summary:**

- Class presentations/Short paper(s) 30% (half based on paper, half on leading discussion).
- Weekly Questions 10%
- Discussion in class 20%
- Research paper: 40%

**Grading Policy:** Grading policies for assigning grade points may be accessed by using the following webpage: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

**For 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 must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

### **Required Texts:**

- 1) David, N. and C. Kramer. 2001. *Ethnoarchaeology in Action*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press. Available at Orange and Blue Textbooks, 13<sup>th</sup> St.
- 2) Schmidt, P.R. 1997. *Iron Technology in East Africa: Symbolism, Science, and Archaeology*. Univ. of Indiana Press, Bloomington. Purchase online, used.
- 3) Wilmsen, E.N. 1989. *Land Filled with Flies: A Political Economy of the Kalahari*. Univ. of Chicago Press. Purchase online, used.

### **January 7: Introduction to the Course**

A useful bibliography for ethnoarchaeology, up to 2004:  
<http://homepages.ucalgary.ca/~ndavid/Homepage/#Eabib>

### **January 14: Analogy and Cautionary Tales**

David and Kramer, *Ethnoarchaeology in Action*: Chapters 1-3.

Binford, L.R. 1967. "Smudge Pots and Hide Smoking: The Use of Analogy in Archaeological Reasoning." *American Antiquity* 32(1):1-12. Online UF.

Munson, Patrick. 1969. "Response to above." *American Antiquity* 34(1):83-85. Online UF.

Wylie, A. 1982. "An Analogy by another name is just as analogical: A commentary on the Gould-Watson dialogue." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 1(4):382-401. Online UF.

Hill, J. 1968. "Broken K. Pueblo; Patterns of Form and Function," in *New Perspectives in Archaeology*, L. and S. Binford, eds. Aldine Press, pp. 103-142. E-Learning.

Consult Useful History and Background for this module:

1. Schiffer, M. B. 2009. Ethnoarchaeology, Experimental Archaeology, and the 'American School'. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 1(1):7-25. E-Learning.
2. Skibo, J. M. 2009. Archaeological Theory and Snake-Oil Peddling: The Role of Ethnoarchaeology in Archaeology. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 1(1):27-55. E-Learning.

## **January 21: Theoretical Issues of Time and Ethnoarchaeology of Time**

Dietler, M. 1993. "Living on Luo Time: Reckoning Sequence, Duration, History, and Biography in a Rural African Society," *World Archaeology* 25(2):248-260. Online UF.

Schmidt, P.R. 2010. The Play of Tropes in Archaeology: Ethnoarchaeology as Metonymy. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeology, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 2(2):131-151. E-Learning.

Stahl, A.B. 1993. Analogical Reasoning in Historical Perspective. *American Antiquity* 58 (2):235-260. Online UF.

Schmidt, P.R. 1996. Rhythmed Time: Its Implications for Archaeology. In *Proceedings of the PanAfrican Congress of Prehistory and Related Studies, Harare*, pp. 556-564. E-Learning.

## **January 28: Middle Range 'Theory' and Related Perspectives**

David and Kramer, Chapter 4

Binford, L. R. 1983. Middle-range Research and the Role of Actualistic Studies. Chap. 28 in *Working at Archaeology*, pp. 411-422. New York: Academic Press. E-Learning.

Rabb, L.M. and A.C. Goodyear. 1984. Middle Range theory in Archaeology: A Critical Review of Origins and Applications. *American Antiquity* 49:255-268. Online UF.

David, N. 1992. Integrating Ethnoarchaeology: A Subtle Realist Perspective. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 11(4): 291-329. Online UF.

Cunningham, J. J. 2009. Ethnoarchaeology Beyond Correlates. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 1(2):115-136. E-Learning.

Tschauner, N. 1996. Middle-Range Theory, Behavioral Archaeology, and Postempiricist Philosophy of Science in Archaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 3(1):1-30. Online UF.

► Selection of Research Topic by today with a short 150-200 word abstract

## **February 4: Living Lithics: Guest Co-Instructor, TBA**

## David and Kramer, Chapter 6

Haman, C., and Gall, V. 2013. Millet and sauce: The uses and function of querns among the Manyinka (Mali). *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 32:109-121. Online UF.

Weedman, K. 2006. An Ethnoarchaeological Study of Hafting and Stone Tool Diversity among the Gamo of Ethiopia. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 13(3):189-238. Online UF.

Brandt, S. A., Weedman, K. J., and G. Hundie 1996. Gurage Hide Working, Stone Tool Use and Social Identity: An Ethnoarchaeological Perspective. In G. Hudson, ed., *Essays on Gurage Language and Culture*. Berlin: Harrasowitz, pp. 35-51. E-Learning.

White, P. 1972. What mean these stones?: Ethno-taxonomic models and archaeological interpretations in the New Guinea highlands. In *Models in Archaeology*, ed. D. Clarke, pp. 275-308. London: Methuen. E-Learning.

Sahle, Y., Negash, A., and Braun, D. R. 2012. Variability in Ethnographic Hidescraper Use among the Hadiya of Ethiopia: Implications for Reduction Analysis. *African Archaeological Review* 29:383-397. Online UF.

Sillitoe, P., and K. Hardy. 2003. Living Lithics: ethnoarchaeology in Highland Papua New Guinea. *Antiquity* 77(297):555-566. Online UF.

Film: *Woman the Tool Maker*.

## February 11: Issues of Timelessness, the Kalahari

Wilmsen, E. 1989. *Land Filled with Flies: A Political Economy of the Kalahari*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. Selected chapters for class participants.

Denbow, J., and Wilmsen, E. 1986. Advent and Course of Pastoralism in the Kalahari. *Science* 234(4783):1509-1515. Online UF.

Denbow, J. 1984. Prehistoric Herders and Foragers of the Kalahari: The Evidence for 1500 years of Interaction. In C. Schrire, ed. *Past and Present in Hunter Gatherer Studies*. Academic Press, pp. 175-193. In Reader.

Wilmsen, E., and Denbow, J. 1990. Paradigmatic History of San-speaking Peoples and Currents Attempts at Revision. *Current Anthropology* 31(1):489-524. Available online.

Consult:

1. [http://www.antiquityofman.com/eibl-eibesfeldt\\_hitchcock\\_kalahari.html](http://www.antiquityofman.com/eibl-eibesfeldt_hitchcock_kalahari.html)
2. <http://web.mnstate.edu/robertsb/307/ANTH%20307/hadzahuntergatherers.pdf>

## February 18: Symbolic Perspectives: Ethnoarchaeology and Ritual Process

David and Kramer, Chapter 13

Schmidt, P.R. 1997. *Iron Technology in East Africa: Symbolism, Science and Archaeology*. Indiana Univ. Press. Chapters 9, 10.

Fernandez, V. M. 2011. Schematic Rock Art, Rain-Making and Islam in the Ethio-Sudanese Borderlands. *African Archaeological Review* 28:279-300. Online UF.

Huffman, T. N. 2014. Ritual Space in the Zimbabwe Culture. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeology, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 6(1):4-39. E-Learning.

Kus, S. and V. Raharijaona. 1998. Between Earth and Sky there are only a few large Boulders: Sovereignty and Monumentality in Central Madagascar. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 17:53-79. Online UF.

Schmidt, P. R. 2009. Tropes, Materiality, and Ritual Embodiment of African Iron Smelting Furnaces as Human Figures. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 16(3):262-282. Special Issue, eds. S. Nanoglou and L. Meskell. Online UF.

Schmidt, P. R., and A. Naty. 2008. Bulls' Heads and Enigmas: Strong Inference and Interpretative Puzzles in Eritrea." In *The Archaeology of Ancient Eritrea*, eds. P. Schmidt, M. Curtis. Z. Teka, pp. 235-246. Trenton, NJ: Red Sea Press. E-Learning.

### **February 25: Independent Research for Final Project**

Instructor will be attending international meeting in South Africa.

### **March 4: Spring Break**

### **March 11: Crossroads—Intersections of Experimental Arch. and Ethnoarchaeology:**

David and Kramer, Chapter 11

Tringham, R. 1978. Experimentation, Ethnoarchaeology, and the Leapfrog in Archaeological Methodology. In R. Gould, ed., *Explorations in Ethnoarchaeology*. Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, pp. 169-199. E-Learning.

Skibo, J. M. An Ethnoarchaeological and Experimental Study of Technological Change. In *Kalinga Ethnoarchaeology*, pp. 113-126. E-Learning.

Schmidt, P.R. 1997. *Iron Technology in East Africa: Symbolism, Science, and Archaeology*. Indiana Univ. Press. [Chapters 3, 4, 5 (skim), 6 (skim), 7].

Film: *The Tree of Iron*

### **March 18: Faunal Analysis and Interpretation**

David and Kramer, Chapter 5

Binford, L.R. 1978. *Nunamiut Ethnoarchaeology*. Academic Press. [several selected chapters]. E-Learning.

Gifford-Gonzalez, D. 2014. Constructing Community through Refuse Disposal. *African Archaeological Review* 31:339-382. Online UF.

Hadjikoumis, A. 2012. Traditional pig herding practices in southwestern Iberia: Questions of scale and zoological implications. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 31:353-364. Online UF.

Lyman, R. L. 2012. Lewis R. Binford's Impact on Zooarchaeology: A Consideration of Three Volumes (and assorted other things) that Altered the Way We Think about the Bones of Human Prey. *Ethnoarchaeology: The Journal of Archaeology, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 4(1):55-78. E-Learning.

Schmitt, D., and Lupo, K. 2008. Do faunal remains reflect socioeconomic status? An ethnoarchaeological study among central African farmers in the northern Congo basin. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 27:315-325. Online UF.

### ► Short research reports in class

### March 25: Ceramics: Style and Context

David and Kramer, Chapter 7

Arthur, J. W. 2014. Pottery uniformity in a stratified society: an ethnoarchaeological perspective from the Gamo of southwestern Ethiopia. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 35:106-116. Online UF.

Skibo, J. M.; M. B. Schiffer; and N. Kowalski. 1989. Ceramic Style Analysis in Archaeology and Ethnoarchaeology: Bridging the Analytical Gap. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 8(4): 388-409. Online UF.

Gosselain, O. 1992. Technology and Style: Potters and pottery among Bafia of Cameroon. *Man* 27:559-586. Online UF.

Pikirayi, I., and Lindahl, A. 2013. Ceramics, Ethnohistory, and Ethnography: Locating Meaning in Southern African Iron Age Ceramic Assemblages. *African Archaeological Review* 30:455-473. Online UF.

Stanislawski, M. 1978. If Pots were Mortal. In R. Gould, ed. *Explorations in Ethnoarchaeology*. Univ. of New Mexico Press, pp. 201-227. E-Learning.

David, N.J. et. al. 1988. Why are Pots Decorated? *Current Anthropology* 29(3):365-389. Online UF.

Bowser, B. J. 2000. From Pottery to Politics: An Ethnoarchaeological Study of Factionalism, Ethnicity, and Domestic Pottery Style in the Ecuadorian Amazon. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 7(3):219-248. Online UF.

Film: *The Potters of Buur Heybe, Somalia*

Consult:

1. Stark, M. 2003. Current Issues in Ceramic Ethnoarchaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 11(3):193-242. Available online, good bibliography.
2. Arthur, J. 2006. *Living With Pottery: Ethnoarchaeology Among the Gamo of Southwest Ethiopia*. Salt Lake City: Univ. of Utah Press. On Reserve.
3. Arnold, D. 2010. Ceramic Theory and Cultural Process after 25 years. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 3(1):63-98. E-Learning.

#### **April 1: Settlement and Space**

David and Kramer, Chapter 8

Bowser, B. J., and Patton, J. Q. 2004. Domestic Spaces as Public Places: An Ethnoarchaeological Case Study of Houses, Gender, and Politics in the Ecuadorian Amazon. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 11(2):157-181. Online UF.

Donley-Reed, L. 1990. A Structuring Structure: The Swahili House. In S. Kent, ed., *Domestic Architecture and the Use of Space*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, pp. 114-126. E-Learning.

Back, M. E., and Hill, M. E. 2004. Rubbish, Relatives, and Residence: The Family Use of Middens. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 11(3):297-333. Online UF.

Kus, S. and V. Raharijaona. 1990. Domestic Space and the tenacity of tradition among some Betsileo of Madagascar. In S. Kent, ed., *Domestic Architecture and the Use of Space*. Cambridge Univ. Press, pp. 21-33. E-Learning.

Agorsah, E. K. 1988. Evaluating Spatial Behavior Patterns of Prehistoric Societies. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 7(3):231-247. Online UF.

Smith, A. 1995. The Production of Space and the House of Xidi Sukur. *Current Anthropology* 36(3):441-456. Online UF.

#### **April 8: Gender Issues**



Brumbach, H.J. 1997. Ethnoarchaeology of subsistence space and gender: a subarctic dene case. *American Antiquity* 62(3):414-436. Online UF.

Hernando, A., et. al. Gender, Power, and Mobility among the Awa-Guaja (Maranhao, Brazil). *Journal of Anthropological Research* 67:189-211. Online UF.

Logan, A. I., and Cruz, M. D. 2014. Gendered Taskscapes: Food, Farming, and Craft Production in Banda, Ghana in the Eighteenth to Twenty-first Centuries. *African Archaeological Review* 31:203-231. Online UF.

Lyons, D. 2009. How I Built My House: An Ethnoarchaeological Study of Gendered Technical Practice in Tigray, Ethiopia. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 1(2):137-161. E-Learning.

Lyons, D. 1998. Witchcraft, gender, power and intimate relations in Mura Compounds in Dela, Northern Cameroon. *World Archaeology* 29(3):344-362. Online UF.

Arthur, K. W. 2010. Feminine Knowledge and Skill Reconsidered: Women and Flaked Stone Tools. *American Anthropologist* 112(2):228-243. Online UF.

Roth, B. J. 2006. The Role of Gender in the Adoption of Agriculture in the Southern Southwest. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 62:513-538. Online UF.

Consult:

1. Jarvenpa, R., and H. J. Brumbach. 2009. Fun with Dick and Jane: Ethnoarchaeology, Circumpolar toolkits, and Gender “Inequality”. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 1(1):57-77. E-Learning.

### ► Short Research Reports in class

#### **April 15: Reflections on Ethnoarchaeology and Future Directions**

Bernardini, W. 2008. Identity as History: Hopi Clans and the Curation of Oral Traditions. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 64:483-509. Online UF.

Gonzalez-Ruibel, A. Hernando, and G. Politis. 2011. Ontology of the self and material culture: Arrow-making among the Awa hunter-gatherers (Brazil). *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 30:1-16. Online UF.

Kearney, A. 2010. An Ethnoarchaeology of Engagement: Yanyuwa Places the Lived Cultural Domain in Northern Australia. *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* 2(1):99-119. E-Learning.

Schmidt, P. R. 2010. Social Memory and Trauma in NW Tanzania: Organic, Spontaneous Community Collaboration.” *Journal of Social Archaeology* 10(2):255-279. Online UF.

Colwell-Chanthaphonyh, C., and J. J. Ferguson. 2006. Memory Pieces and Footprints: Multivocality and the Meanings of Ancient Times and Ancestral Places among the Zuni and Hopi. *American Anthropologist* 108(1):148-162. Online UF.

**April 22: Presentation of Projects**