

**Spring 2011**  
**ANG 6930 – Proseminar II**  
**Biological and Archaeological Anthropology**

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**Archaeology Section**

**Department of Anthropology, University of Florida**

**Time:** Fridays -- 12:50 to 3:50 pm (Periods 6-8)

**Place:** Turlington Hall B304

**Website:**

**Instructor:**

Dr. James Davidson, Assistant Professor  
Office: B134 Turlington Hall Basement  
Hours: M: 1:00 –4:00 pm & by appointment  
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**Objectives, Expectations, & Grading**

Anthropology is a holistic discipline. As such, anthropologists attempt to view humans, their activities, and their cultural and biological history in as broad a context as possible. Proseminar II is designed to introduce first-year Anthropology graduate students to the fields of Biological Anthropology and Archaeological Anthropology. Lectures will provide background information and thematic context for key issues in these fields. Connie Mulligan will lead the first module in Biological Anthropology and James Davidson will lead the second module in Anthropological Archaeology. Readings from the primary literature, class discussion, and writing assignments will focus on the big questions and contemporary issues in these two subfields. Such topics tackled should resonate across subfields and student interests and are intended to provide students of varied experience in anthropology to critically assess the state of the field. “Hands on” review of the physical remains and material culture may also be presented in several labs over the course of the semester.

*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.*

**\*\* TURN OFF CELL PHONES IN CLASS \*\***

**Required Textbooks:**

O'Brien, Michael. J., R. Lee Lyman, and Michael Brian Schiffer  
2006 *Archaeology as a Process*. The University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Trigger, Bruce G.  
2006 *A History of Archaeological Thought* (Second Edition). Cambridge University Press.

## **Grading & Student Evaluation for Archaeology Section** **(i.e., 50% of final grade)**

Take Home Exam (N=1)	(30%)
Critical Essays (N=4)	(40%; 10% each)
Attendance & Participation	(10%)
Team Discussion (N=2)	(20%)

### percentile breakdown:

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)

### Take Home Exams

For the archaeology section there will be one take home exam. This exam will constitute 30% of your grade in the archaeology section of the course.

### Written Assignments

Writing assignments or critical essays will be assigned and due at the beginning of class the following week. These written assignments are intended to precede discussion of that week's readings. This will ensure reading of required materials, and provide a baseline for each student to actively engage in discussion. Written work should be double-spaced, 12-point font, 2-3 pages in length (1000 words maximum) and will be focused on a particular point, idea, and/or theme presented. Late papers will be docked five points and only accepted no later than the next class meeting, that week.

### Attendance & Participation

Attendance and class participation is mandatory.

### Team Discussion

Each week, teams of three or four students will lead class discussion. Each group will be expected to meet outside of class to organize readings and to prepare a list of questions/points of discussion. As this constitutes a substantial portion of the grade, each team member will be expected to participate and have an active voice.

### 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, WHICH WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLASS

Consult the Student Guide at [www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/) for further information. To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use another person’s idea, opinion, or theory; any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings (any pieces of information) that are not common knowledge; quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words; or paraphrase of another person’s spoken or written words.

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### **Week 1** (Jan 5 thru Jan 7)

### **Week 2** (Jan 10 thru Jan 14)

### **Week 3** (Jan 17 thru Jan 21)

### **Week 4** (Jan 24 thru Jan 28)

### **Week 5** (Jan 31 thru Feb 4)

### **Week 6** (Feb 7 thru 11)

### **Week 7** (Feb 14 thru Feb 18)

### **Week 8** (Feb 21 thru Feb 25)

Politics and Ethical Concerns in Biological and Archaeological Anthropology

### **Week 9** (Feb 28 thru March 4)

Paradigms and Schools of Archaeology

### **Week 10** (March 7 thru March 11) NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK (March 5-12)

Week 11 (March 14 thru March 18)

Material Culture

**Writing Assignment over readings for this week**

Week 12 (March 21 thru March 25)

Time

**Writing Assignment over readings for this week**

Week 13 (March 28 thru April 1)

Space and Place (natural and cultural landscapes, ecology, adaptation)

**Writing Assignment over readings for this week**

Week 14 (April 4 thru April 8)

Subsistence (diet, economies)

**Writing Assignment over readings for this week**

Week 15 (April 11 thru April 15)

Cosmology, Spirituality and Religion

Week 16 (April 18 thru April 20): No Class

## **READINGS BY WEEK**

### **Week 8 Ethics in Biological and Archaeological Anthropology**

Since you do not have to write a paper this week, spend the time you would be doing that reading more these case studies carefully, and reading ahead for next week.

Focus on issues relating to ethical codes of conduct as drafted by the SAA and the AAPA (you should know what those stand for). Issues of descendant community rights and repatriation (e.g., NAGPRA), amateurs, hoaxes, etc., will all be touched upon.

#### **Ethics Codes:**

Anonymous

1961 Four Statements for Archaeology. (Report of the Committee on Ethics and Standards). *American Antiquity* 27(2):137-138.

Anonymous

1996 Society for American Archaeology Principles of Archaeological Ethics. *American Antiquity* 61(3):451-452.

Anonymous

2003 American Association of Physical Anthropologists. [www.physanth.org](http://www.physanth.org)

Lynott, Mark J.

1997 Ethical Principles and Archaeological Practice: Development of an Ethics Policy. *American Antiquity* 62(4):589-599.

### **Descendant communities/NAGPRA**

Bentzen, Conrad B.

1942 An Inexpensive Method of Recovering Skeletal Material for Museum Displays. *American Antiquity* 8(2):176-178.

Ferguson, T. J.

1996 Native Americans and the Practice of Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 25:63-79.

Rose, Jerome C., Thomas J. Green, and Victoria D. Green

1996 Nagpra is Forever: Osteology and the Repatriation of Skeletons. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 25:81-103.

Owsley, Douglas W. and Richard L. Jantz

2001 Archaeological politics and public interest in paleoamerican studies: lessons from gordon creek woman and kennewick man. *American Antiquity* 66(4):565-576.

Watkins, Joe

2004 Becoming American or Becoming Indian? NAGPRA, Kennewick, and cultural affiliation. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 4(1):60-80.

Bruning, Susan B.

2006 Complex Legal Legacies: The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Scientific Study, and Kennewick Man. *American Antiquity* 71(3):501-521.

Franklin, Maria

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

McDavid, Carol

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

### **Amateurs and Looting:**

Mallouf, Robert J.

1996 An Unraveling Rope: The Looting of America's Past. *American Indian Quarterly* 20(2):197-208.

### **Frauds and Hoaxes:**

Preston, Douglas

1995 The Mystery of Sandia Cave. *The New Yorker* (June 12<sup>th</sup>).

## **Week 9 Paradigms and Schools of Archaeology**

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There is no essay/paper this week, so take some care reading these case studies carefully, and reading ahead for next week.

### **Text Excerpts:**

Read Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-66) of O'Brien et al. 2005 (*Archaeology as a Process*)

Read Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-79) of Trigger 2006 (*A History of Archaeological Thought*)

### **Processual (New Archaeology):**

Binford, Lewis R.

1962 Archaeology as Anthropology. *American Antiquity* 28(2):217- 225.

Binford, Lewis R.

1965 Archaeological Systematics and the Study of Cultural Process. *American Antiquity* 31(2:1):

Reid, J. Jefferson, William L. Rathje, and Michael B. Schiffer

1974 Expanding Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 39(1):125-126.

Raab, Mark L. and Albert C. Goodyear

1984 Middle-Range Theory in Archaeology: A Critical Review of Origins and Applications. *American Antiquity* 49(2):255-268.

Watson, Richard A.

1991 What the New Archaeology Has Accomplished. *Current Anthropology* 32(3):275-291.

### **Postprocesual/Postmodern:**

Leone, Mark P, Parker B. Potter, and Paul A. Shackel

1987 Toward a Critical Archaeology. *Current Anthropology* 28(3):283-302.

Hodder, Ian

1991 Interpretative Archaeology and Its Role. *American Antiquity* 56(1):7-18.

Meskel, Lynn

2002 The Intersections of Identity and Politics in Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 31:279-301.

Hegmon, Michelle

2003 Setting Theoretical Egos Aside: Issues and Theory in North American Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 68(2): 213-243.

**Critiques/Defenses/Comments:**

Watson, Richard A.

1990 Ozymandias, King of Kings: Postprocessual Radical Archaeology as Critique. *American Antiquity* 55(4):673-689.

Krieger, Alex D.

1940 "The Basic Needs of Archaeology" – A Commentary. *American Antiquity* 42 (3:1):543-546.

Taylor, Walter W.

1972 Old Wine and New Skins: A Contemporary Parable. In *Contemporary Archaeology: A guide to Theory and Contributions*, edited by Mark P. Leone, pp. 28-33. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale.

Flannery, Kent V.

1982 The Golden Marshalltown. *American Anthropologist* 84 (2):265- 278.

**Week 10 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**

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If possible, take this opportunity to read ahead in the two required texts (see chapter assignments in following weeks)

**Week 11 Material Culture**

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**Writing assignment this week**

**(2 pages, double-spaced. Proper citation of work required):**

Questions or themes to explore: How we structure or make sense of material culture is terribly important, but is the Type/Variety system the best means of imposing order on artifacts?

Are types real? How do Kreiger, Ford, Gifford, and the views expressed in the O'Brien, Lyman, and Schiffer text agree or disagree in regards to their views on

artifact typologies? Should symbols be considered in artifact typologies? Most ceramic typologies are based on sherds, not on whole vessels; does this conceivably complicate matters?

**Text Excerpts:**

Read Chapter 3 (pp. 80-120) of Trigger 2006 (*A History of Archaeological Thought*)

Read Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 67-120) of O'Brien et al. 2005 (*Archaeology as a Process*)

**Typology/Issues of Classification:**

McGuire, Joseph D.

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

Krieger, Alex D.

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

Ford, James A. and Julian H. Stewart

1954 The Type Concept Revisited. *American Anthropologist* 56(1):42-57.

Gifford, James C.

1960 The Type Variety Method of Ceramic Classification as an Indicator of Cultural Phenomena. *American Antiquity* 25(3):341-347.

Koerper, Henry C. and E. Gary Stickel

1980 Cultural Drift: A Primary Process of Culture Change. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 36(4):463-469.

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.

**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: Ceramics**

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.

Kamp, Kathryn A., Nichole Timmerman, Greg Lind, Jules Graybill, and Ian Natowsky

1999 Discovering Childhood: Using fingerprints to Find Children in the Archaeological Record. *American Antiquity* 64(2):309-315.

### **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 12 Time**

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**Writing assignment this week**

**(2 pages, double-spaced. Proper citation of work required):**

Clearly Archaeology is all about time, but whose time? Was/Are the concepts of time (and implied chronologies) different among the culture historians, processualists, and post processualists? What distinctions can be drawn from diachronic versus synchronic views of time?

How can we reconcile chronometric dating techniques with Richard Bradley's view of ritual time, and is there a false sense of security in chronometric dating that may suggest a precision that actually could be illusory?

**Text Excerpts:**

Read Chapter 4 (pp. 121-165) of Trigger 2006 (*A History of Archaeological Thought*)

Read Chapters 5 and 6 (pp. 121-177) of O'Brien et al. 2005 (*Archaeology as a Process*)

**Overviews and Concepts:**

Michaels, Joseph W.

1972 Dating Methods. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 1:113-126.

(USE THIS ARTICLE FOR REFERENCE ONLY -- do not get lost in details)

**Relative Dating:**

Ford, James A.

1938 A Chronological Method Applicable to the Southeast. *American Antiquity* 3(3):260-264.

Woodbury, Richard B.

1960a Nels C. Nelson and Chronological Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 25(3):400-401.

Woodbury, Richard B.

1960b Nelson's Stratigraphy. *American Antiquity* 26(1):98-99.

Manuel Gamio and Stratigraphic Excavation. *American Antiquity* 26(1):99.

(note: this article is contained in the above pdf file; Woodbury 1960b)

Rowe, John Howland

1961 Stratigraphy and Seriation. *American Antiquity* 26(3):324-330.

Harris, Edward C.

1979 The Laws of Archaeological Stratigraphy. *World Archaeology* 11(1):111-117.

**Chronometric Dating:**

Haury, Emil W.

1935 Tree Rings: The Archaeologist's Time Piece. *American Antiquity* 1(2):98-108.

Merrill, Robert S.  
1948 A Progress Report on the Dating of Archaeological Sites by Means of Radioactive Elements. *American Antiquity* 13(4):281-286.

Nash, Stephen E.  
2002 Archaeological Tree Ring Dating at the Millennium. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 10(3):243-275.

**Application of Chronology/ Historic Case Studies:**

Nelson, N. C.  
1916 Chronology of the Tanos Ruins, New Mexico. *American Anthropologist* (new series) 18(2):159-180.

Krieger, Alex D.  
1947 The Eastward Extension of Puebloan Dating toward Cultures of the Mississippi Valley. *American Antiquity* 12(3):141-148.

Olsen, Alan P.  
1962 A History of the Phase Concept in the Southwest. *American Antiquity* 27(4):457-472.

**Concepts of Time:**

Meltzer, David J.  
2005 The Seventy-Year Itch: Controversies over Human Antiquity and Their Resolution. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 61(4):433-468.

Bailey, G. N.  
1983 Concepts of Time in Quaternary Prehistory. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 12:165-192.

Bradley, Richard  
1991 Ritual, Time and History. *World Archaeology* 23(2):209-219.

Foxhall, Lin  
2000 The Running Sands of Time: Archaeology and the Short-Term. *World Archaeology* 31(3):484-498.

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**WEEK 13                      Space and Place**

**Writing assignment this week**

**(2 pages, double-spaced. Proper citation of work required):**

This week we move from issues of artifacts and resulting typologies, which directly determine site and regional chronologies, to analyses that apply these chronologies -- of how and where people lived in the past. How do the authors this week grapple with such issues as: determining how long sites were occupied (given the still course grained chronologies we employ); deal with issues of assessing site contemporaneity in regional settlement patterns; and employing ethnographic data and modeling to infer past behavior in regard to site features, population totals in rooms, sites, and regions? Are environmental factors of overarching importance in detecting and understanding settlement patterns, or is this too mechanical and deterministic a view?

**Text Excerpts:**

Read Chapter 5 (pp. 166-210) of Trigger 2006 (*A History of Archaeological Thought*)

Read Chapter 7 (pp. 178-218) of O'Brien et al. 2005 (*Archaeology as a Process*)

**Intrasite Studies:**

Binford, Lewis R.

1967 Smudge Pits and Hide Smoking: The Use of Analogy in Archaeological Reasoning. *American Antiquity* 32(1):1-12.

Munson, Patrick J.

1969 Comments on Binford's "Smudge Pits and Hide Smoking: The Use of Analogy in Archaeological Reasoning." *American Antiquity* 34(1):83-85.

Hill, James N. and Richard H. Hevley

1968 Pollen at Broken K Pueblo: Some New Interpretations. *American Antiquity* 33(2):200-210.

Diehl, Michael W.

1988 The Interpretation of Archaeological Floor Assemblages: A Case Study from the American Southwest. *American Antiquity* 63(4):617-634.

Pauketat, Timothy R.

1989 Monitoring Mississippian Homestead Occupation Span and Economy Using Ceramic Refuse. *American Antiquity* 54(2):288-310.

Mobley-Tanaka, Jeannette L.

1997 Gender and Ritual Space during the Pithouse to Pueblo Transition: Subterranean Mealing Rooms in the North American Southwest. *American Antiquity* 62(3):437-448.

Hodder, Ian and Craig Cessford

2004 Daily Practice and Social Memory at Catalhoyuk. *American Antiquity* 69(1):17-40.

**Settlement Pattern Studies:**

Trigger, Bruce G.

1967 Settlement Archaeology: Its Goals and Promise. *American Antiquity* 32(2):149-160.

Parsons, Jeffery R.

1972 Archaeological Settlement Patterns. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 1:127-150.

Fletcher, Roland

1986 Settlement Archaeology: World-Wide Comparisons. *World Archaeology* 18(1):59-83.

**Population studies:**

Naroll, Raoul

1962 Floor Area and Settlement Population. *American Antiquity* 27(4):587-589.

Glassow, Michael A.

1967 Considerations in Estimating Prehistoric California Coastal Populations. *American Antiquity* 32(3):354-359.

Weissner, Polly

1974 A Functional Estimator of Population from Floor Area. *American Antiquity* 39(2):343-350.

**Landscape Studies:**

Anschuetz, Kurt F., Richard H. Wilshusen, and Cherie L. Scheick

2001 An Archaeology of Landscapes: Perspectives and Directions. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 9(2):157-211.

Fleming, Andrew

2006 Post-Processual Landscape Archaeology: A Critique. *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 16(3):267-280.

**Week 14 Subsistence (diet, economies)**

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**Writing assignment this week**

**(2 pages, double-spaced. Proper citation of work required).**

Subsistence is a key concept in archaeology, and directly influences settlement patterns and other issues of land use. What are the kinds of inferences that can be made regarding past subsistence strategies and diet, and can/should different

methodologies (e.g., pollen analysis, faunal remains) be combined? Is food always just food, or is it something more? How can subsistence data be used to extract information beyond simple nutrition (e.g., chronology, status, culture, ethnicity)?

**Text Excerpts:**

Read Chapters 7 and 8 (pp. 314-483) of Trigger 2006 (*A History of Archaeological Thought*)

Read Chapter 8 (pp. 219-252) of O'Brien et al. 2005 (*Archaeology as a Process*)

**Overviews and Methodologies:**

Daly, Patricia

1969 Approaches to Faunal Analysis in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 34(2):146-153.

Riley, Thomas J., Richard Edging, and Jack Rossen

1990 Cultigens in Prehistoric Eastern North America: Changing Paradigms. *Current Anthropology* 31(5):525-541.

Hastorf, Christine

1999 Recent Research in Paleoethnobotany. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 7(1):55-103. (READ THIS ARTICLE FOR REFERENCE ONLY -- do not get lost in details)

Smith, Bruce D

2001 Low-Level Food Production. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 9(1):1-43. (Focus on broad themes; do not get lost in details)

**Problems and Critiques:**

Begler, Elsie B. and Richard W. Keatinge

1979 Theoretical Goals and Methodological Realities: Problems in the Reconstruction of Prehistoric Subsistence Economies. *World Archaeology* 11(2):208-226.

Lyman, R. Lee

1979 Available Meat from Faunal Remains: A Consideration of Techniques. *American Antiquity* 44(3):536-546.

Bryant, Vaughn M. Jr. and Stephen A. Hall

1993 Archaeological Palynology in the United States: A Critique. *American Antiquity* 58(2):277-286.

**Case Studies:**

Munson, Patrick J., Paul W. Parmalee, and Richard A. Yarnell

1971 Subsistence Ecology of Scovill, a Terminal Middle Woodland Village. *American Antiquity* 36(4):410-431.

Berlin, G. Lennis, J. Richard Ambler, Richard H. Hevley, and Gerald G. Schaber  
1977 Identification of a Sinagua Agricultural Field by Aerial Thermography, Soil Chemistry, Pollen/Plant Analysis, and Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 42(4):588-600.

Wesson, Cameron B.  
1999 Chieftly Power and Food Storage in Southeastern North America. *World Archaeology* 31(1):145-164.

Roth, Barbara J.  
2006 The Role of Gender in the Adoption of Agriculture in the Southern Southwest. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 62(4):513-538.

Atalay, Sonya and Christine A. Hastorf  
2006 Food, Meals, and Daily Activities: Food Habitus at Neolithic Çatalhöyük. *American Antiquity* 71(2):283-319.

## **Week 15 Cosmology, Spirituality and Religion**

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### **Text Excerpts:**

Read Chapters 9 and 10 (pp. 484-548) of Trigger 2006 (*A History of Archaeological Thought*)

Read Chapter 9 (pp. 253-268) of O'Brien et al. 2005 (*Archaeology as a Process*)

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Barrett, John C.  
1990 The Monumentality of Death: The Character of Early Bronze Age Mortuary Mounds in Southern Britain. *World Archaeology* 22(2):179-189.

Brown, James A.  
1997 The Archaeology of Ancient Religion in the Eastern Woodlands. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26:465-485.

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.

Gazin-Schwartz, Amy

2001 Archaeology and Folklore of Material Culture, Ritual, and Everyday Life. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 5(4):263-280.

Howey, Meghan C. L. and John M. O'Shea

2006 Bear's Journey and the Study of Ritual in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 71(2):261-282.

Mason, Ronald J.

2009 Bear's journey and the study of ritual in archaeology: some comments on Howey and O'Shea's Midewiwin paper. *American Antiquity* 74(1):189-192.

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## **Final Take Home Exam**

Write a cogent and coherent essay for each of the following questions.

Each essay should be between 2 and 4 pages in length (double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point font). Please take some care in your writing, as both grammatical coherence and accurate assessments of the literature will count.

In this section of the course, we began with the various schools of archaeological thought, and examined how material culture has been sorted and defined into typologies, which are later used to establish time.

Once chronology is established, issues of land use and subsistence can be addressed. Finally, we dealt with issues of the mind, a belief in spirituality and religion, which fortunately have at least some identifiable material correlates. Given this....

### **Question 1:**

Most of the cases studies we have read dealt with small discrete projects, but what are some of the implications that could be derived from these individual projects or single sites leading towards the greater goals of: establishing a record of human history prior to writing; of understanding cultural processes; of documenting unique moments in human history (e.g., introduction of agriculture); or better understanding the human condition? Chose key readings that compliment (or stand in stark contrast to) one another, and chart their implications on these greater scales. Now that you have digested some pertinent literature, do the three major paradigms (culture history, processual, post-processual) ultimately have



different goals or only different paths towards those goals?

**Question 2:**

Beyond acknowledging that spiritual beliefs and religious systems existed in the past, archaeologists have often been reluctant to “attempt an archaeology” that focuses on these belief systems. In the readings assigned to the last topic, *Spirituality and Religion*, how successful are the authors in grappling with these issues, and can we ever know the veracity of their conclusions? Do the prehistoric studies have radically different goals or methodologies than the historic examples?