Survey History Archaeology

ANT 625 Section 001

Spring 2014, Lecture

Dr. Ian Brown

Office Hours and Contact Information

Monday–Thursday, 10:00-11:00 a.m., or by appointment.

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

No prerequisites or none listed.

Enrolled as a Graduate Student in the Department of Anthropology (any exceptions must be approved by instructor).

Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

A critical examination of archaeology’s history as a science, with emphasis on intellectual trends, changes in method and theory, and recent developments. Offered once a year.

If we are to consider any single event of the past, there can be no doubt that something clearly happened. But even at the time the event occurred, a dozen different people would have given a dozen different reasons as to why. This is both the plight and the joy of the historian. The archaeologist fares the same—truth, or rather interpretation, depends upon perspective. Although the basic raw materials of archaeology, the artifacts and their contexts, remain the same, perspectives are constantly changing. Consequently, our views of the past are very different now than they were even a generation ago. But why archaeology has gone in one direction instead of another has much to do with the individuals who have practiced and continue to practice within the discipline. Some archaeologists are very strong-willed, or charismatic, and attract many disciples. Others are able to convert more on the strength of
their words than their personalities. Still others, with equally potent thoughts, are unable to stir any interest whatsoever in their ideas.

Sometimes in the past, because the intellectual climate was not ready for dramatic change, the course of the discipline remained unaltered. But often individuals in positions of authority were able to fashion the trajectory of archaeological research by virtue of their status. Knowing something about the people involved in archaeology and how they interacted with each other can reveal a great deal about the present state of archaeology in this country and elsewhere. Over the next several months, as we venture forth in time and space around the globe, we will touch upon the lives of many people who have played an important role in fashioning archaeology as we know it in 2014. Archaeologists today are very much a product of their education, but with each generation something new is added. What you learn now and how you think about the past will affect the future of our discipline.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will:

- appreciate the scope and extent of how archaeology has been conducted in the past.
- know the principal figures and cohorts involved in the growth of archaeology as a profession.
- have a basic understanding of the history of archaeology on a global basis, with a more intensive comprehension of its development in North America.
- be able to discuss current approaches to method and theory in archaeology.
- have written five essays on various topic relating to the history of archaeology.

Required Texts

UA Supply Store Textbook Information

PRAETZELLIS / DEATH BY THEORY (Required)

STIEBING / UNCOVERING THE PAST (Required)

BROWMAN, DAVID L / ANTHROPOLOGY AT HARVARD:A BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY, 1790-1940 (Required)

JOHNSON (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY (RENTAL)

JOHNSON / ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY (Choose One)

(E-BOOK) JOHNSON / ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY (Choose One)

Outline of Topics
Note that in addition to the book sections, there will be additional assigned readings for each class session.

January 8       Introduction

January 15     The Reasons for Theory in Archaeology
Praetzellis (whole book)

January 22     Archaeological Theory Today, Pt. 1
Johnson, Chaps. 1-6

January 29     Archaeological Theory Today, Pt. 2
Johnson, Chaps. 7-12
Essay 1 questions handed out

February 5     Essay 1 Due and Presentation

February 12   A General Introduction to the History of Archaeology, Pt. 1
Stiebing, Chaps. 1-4

February 19   A General Introduction to the History of Archaeology, Pt. 2
Stiebing, Chaps. 5-10
Essay 2 questions handed out

February 26   Essay 2 Due and Presentation

March 5       Specifics on the History of Archaeology, Importance of Cohorts, Pt. 1
Browman and Williams, Chaps. 1-2
March 12       Specifics on the History of Archaeology, Importance of Cohorts, Pt. 2
Browman and Williams, Chaps. 3-4

March 19       Specifics on the History of Archaeology, Importance of Cohorts, Pt. 3
Browman and Williams, Chaps. 5-6

Biographical Profiles Due

March 26       No Class (Spring Break)

April 2        No Class (Comprehensive Exams)

April 9        Specifics on the History of Archaeology, Importance of Cohorts, Pt. 4
Browman and Williams, Chaps. 7-8

April 16       Specifics on the History of Archaeology, Importance of Cohorts, Pt. 5
Browman and Williams, Chaps. 9-10

April 23       Specifics on the History of Archaeology, Importance of Cohorts, Pt. 6
Browman and Williams, Chaps. 11-12

Final Exam questions (3) handed out

April 30       Final Exam Due

Exams and Assignments

Two Essays and Presentation:
Length: Approximately 5 pages each (excluding references and illustrations)

Important Dates:

Essay 1 questions handed out: January 29

   Essay 1 due: February 5

Essay 2 questions handed out: February 19

   Essay 2 due: February 26

Biographical Profiles:

Assignment: Compose short biographies of 50 archaeologists from the list that is provided you. Each biography should be no more than a paragraph or two and should include when and where the archaeologist worked, his or her main accomplishments, and the significance of that individual in the history of archaeology. The final work should present the individuals in alphabetical order and there should also be a table of contents.

   Due date: March 19

Final Exam:

Important Dates:

   Final Exam questions (3) handed out: April 23

   Final Exam essays due: April 30

Grading Policy

Class Participation: 20%

Two Essays and Presentation: 30%

Biographical Profiles: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework
It is the student’s responsibility to complete all assignments by the end of the course. The student will be assigned an Incomplete as a grade until all assignments are submitted.

Attendance Policy

It is the student’s responsibility to complete all assignments by the end of the course. It is expected that students will attend all classes. In the event that a student is sick and misses a class, he/she must obtain and turn in a medical excuse. Absences without medical excuses will result in an automatic letter grade reduction.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at [http://wvuatv.com/content/weather](http://wvuatv.com/content/weather). WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check [http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts](http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts) for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a
building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: “I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.”

See the Code of Student Conduct for more information.

Emergency Contact Information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.