Fall 2014

Survey of Archaeology
New College of Florida

Professor Uzi Baram
Class Meets on Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 to 11:50 a.m.
Classroom: ACE 102
Professor’s Office: College Hall 205
Office Hours: Wednesday 12:30-1:45 & drop-ins
Teaching Assistant: Leah Duncan, New College Public Archaeology Lab
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Course is on Moodle
Syllabus is available at: http://sites.ncf.edu/baram/courses

Catalogue Description:
The course offers an introduction to the subject of archaeology. It is divided into three parts: 1) the history of archaeology, 2) basic archaeological approaches to the human past, material culture, and social change over time, and 3) a brief survey of human history from the earliest ancestors of Homo sapiens to the modern period. The latter section will focus on selected topics of major methodological and theoretical concern in Anthropology.

Course Prospectus:
The course is an introduction to archaeology as part of anthropology. The three major concerns in archaeology are the study of the human past, the study of material culture, and investigations of social change over time. Techniques and methods, theories and ethical concerns will guide exploration of case studies and the overview of human history from the ancestors of Homo sapiens to the modern period. We will focus on transformations and stasis during the long history of humankind. To achieve this objective we will explore the fundamental methods and theories of archaeology including the role of scientific techniques in understanding the past, the formation of the archaeological record, the reconstruction of past social organizations, and the understanding of ideology through materiality. Topics for discussion will include the analysis of great transformations of the past, interpretations of significant finds, and controversies in the present about the past; contemporary archaeological understandings of material culture and of explanations of change will frame the examination of sites, events, and social processes.

Course Objectives:
1. An overview of archaeological methods, theories, ethics, and practices
2. Presentations on human history based on archaeological investigations, including how archaeologists reconstruct past cultures, including their history, religious ideology, political organizations, and social structures
3. Evaluation of the significance of archaeology for contemporary society and for Anthropology
4. Working with others on a project
5. Preparation for further study in the Anthropology Area of Concentration
Course Expectations:
Introductory survey courses present interesting challenges for students and for the professor, particularly on a topic as expansive in scope as archaeology within Anthropology (the study of human biological and cultural variation across time). The two textbooks provide the foundation for the endeavor with a tremendous richness of details on the human past and the achievements of the archaeological professional. The information in the textbooks is encyclopedic; they are used so that the professor does not have to lecture on the important empirical and technical details and instead focus on themes and issues. The articles and class presentations offer complimentary and occasionally contrarian arguments and perspectives to the information in the textbook; they introduce significant scholars, illustrate significant archaeological concerns, and point toward key journals in the profession but, most importantly, they are meant to raise questions about the past and how archaeologists know what they know. So while the course is lecture with discussions, the key for positive participation is to come with questions and concerns that come from the assigned readings. Those questions and concerns can be addressed during class but with the expectation that students will be discussing the concerns outside of class as well. As with any survey course, please treat the class as the launching pad for further investigations and research, not an end to itself.

This syllabus contains details on readings, topics, assignments, and expectations; look over the syllabus throughout the semester to keep track of assignments and topics as well as course goals.
* You are required to use this syllabus
* You should bring pen & paper or an electronic device for note-taking during class sessions
* You need to read the assigned chapters and articles before class meets and bring either the readings or your notes on the readings to class
* You are expected to respond to emails from the professor and to check the course’s Moodle page
* You are required to attend each and every class during the semester. If you need to miss a class meeting, let the professor know ahead of time via email, voice mail, or a note in the divisional mailbox (in the Social Science Building); all standard reasons for missing class will be accepted; skipping class is a basis for an unsatisfactory evaluation for the course.

Course Requirements:
New College has a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory designation system for courses. You need to complete, by deadline, all five of the below elements for a satisfactory evaluation:
1. Attendance and participation in class discussions/activities
2. Take-home Midterm Exam
3. Exam on the archaeological history from the Paleolithic to the Ancient Civilizations
4. Hands-on project (details to be provided early in the semester)
5. Final Exercise due on December 9th (details will be provided in a timely manner)

All New College Policies will be followed
• A student needing special accommodations because of a disability must work with the Counseling and Wellness Center, which will establish the need for specific accommodations and communicate them to the instructor.
• Any suspected instance of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with the College’s policy on academic dishonesty.
• No student shall be compelled to attend class or sit for an examination at a day or time when they would normally be engaged in a religious observance. Students are expected to notify their instructors if they intend to be absent for a class or announced examination prior to the scheduled meeting.
Texts:

The textbooks are on reserve at the Cook Library; the articles/book chapters are on electronic reserve via Moodle.

Accessing the Professor:
I will strive to arrive early to the classroom for each class meeting: that is a wonderful time to raise any questions about the course or anthropology in general. My office hours are organized as open door: there is no need to sign up for a time slot, just come by my office and I promise to be there to discuss the course and other issues that radiate from the class. If there is a crowd of students, I will address your specific questions. If you are the only student to arrive, you have the time to discuss nearly anything related to the course, anthropology, or the college. Beyond office hours, if the door to my College Hall office is open and I’m free, we can chat. You can also find me in NCPAL. In addition, I will reply to emails but please be polite in your requests and acknowledge my response to your questions/concerns.

Cross-listing:
*Survey of Archaeology* is a required introductory course for the Anthropology AOC. It also fulfills the college’s diversity LAC requirement and the social science requirement, and the course is Gender Studies (GS) Eligible. If you are interested in having this course count toward the GS AOC, your coursework needs to include gender explicitly; the professor will guide all students interested in GS.

**Schedule of Topics**

8/21 Mini-Class: People, Things, and Meanings

I. What is Archaeology: Definitions and Theories
8/26 - Archaeology in the Popular Imagination/Definition and Range of Archaeologies
Readings:
- Gamble Chapter 1 What is Archaeology?

8/28 - Current Issues in Archaeology: Exciting Finds and 21st Century Ethics
Readings:
- Code of Ethics for World Archaeological Congress http://www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org/site/about_ethi.php
9/2 – A Brief History of Archaeological Theories
Readings:
- Gamble Chapter 2 How Many Archaeologies Are There?

II. Methods for Doing Archaeology: Research Designs, Fieldwork, and Chronology
9/4 – The Archaeological Process
Readings:
- Gamble Chapter 3 Basic Concepts

9/9 – Finding Archaeological Sites: The Detective Work
Readings:
- Gamble Chapter 4 Objects

9/11 – FPAN Workshop Lithics
Readings:
- Gamble Chapter 5 People

9/16 – Dating in Archaeology
Readings:
- Gamble Chapter 6 Time and Space

9/18 – Case Study for Change and Stasis: Recovering Past Lifeways at Little Salt Spring
Readings:
- Gamble Chapter 7 Change and Stasis
- Price & Feinman Chapter 10 The Past as Present and Future

9/23 - Case Study for Identity: the Question of Biblical Israel from Tel Dan
Readings:
- Gamble Chapter 8 Identity and Power

9/25 Class does not meet
Take-home Midterm – due at the start of class on 9/30
III. A Brief Survey of World Prehistory
9/30 – The Origins of *Homo sapiens*
Readings:
- Price & Feinman chapter 2 The First Humans, pages 35-58

10/2 – The Lower Paleolithic
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 2 The First Humans, pages 59-96

10/7 – Middle Paleolithic: Neanderthals and Modern Humans
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 3 The Hunters, pages 99-116

10/9 – Upper Paleolithic and the Holocene: Cave Art, Female Figurines, and Central Places
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 3 The Hunters, pages 117-176

**FALL BREAK**

10/21 – From Complex Gather-Hunters to Farming: the Neolithic
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 4 The Origins of Agriculture

10/23 – Focus on Çatalhöyük: Economic and Ideological Origins for Settled Life
Readings:
10/28 - Mesopotamia: the Heartland of Cities
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 8 States and Empires in Asia and Africa, pages 419-435

10/30 – Monumentality in Africa: the Complex Societies of the Nile and of the Sub-Sahara
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 8 States and Empires in Asia and Africa, pages 444-456, 474-487

11/4 - Civilization in the Indus Valley and Northern China and Secondary States in Europe: Variation across Complex Societies
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 8 States and Empires in Asia and Africa, pages 436-443, 457-473.
- Price & Feinman Chapter 9 Prehistoric Europe

11/6 – The Peopling of the Americas
Readings:

11/11 Veteran’s Day – class does not meet

11/13 – Complex Societies across North America
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 5 Native North Americans
11/18 - Development of Complex Society in MesoAmerica and South America
Readings:
- Price & Feinman Chapter 6 Ancient Mesoamerica
- Price & Feinman Chapter 7 South America: The Inca and Their Predecessors

IV. Archaeology of and in the Modern World
11/20 – Another Revolution in Human History: the Archaeology of Modernity and of Today
Readings:

11/25 – Reviewing the Sequence: Exam on Prehistory and Ancient Civilizations

11/27 – Thanksgiving - Class does not meet

12/2 - What Can Archaeology Contribute to Peace, Social Justice, and Saving the Earth?
Readings:
- Price & Feinman chapter 10 The Past as Present and Future
- Barbara Little 2013 Reversing the Narrative from Violence to Peace: Some Thoughts from an Archaeologist. *Historical Archaeology* 47(3):124-129.