

ANTHROPOLOGY 640
“Archaeological Methods and Analysis”
University of Massachusetts, Boston
Fall 2006

SCHEDULE

Thursday, 5:30-8:00 pm McCormack Building, 1st Floor, Room 503 (M/1/503)

INSTRUCTOR

Professor: Stephen Silliman
Office Location: McCormack Hall, 4th Floor, Room 439 (M/4/439)
Office Hours: Tues 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Thurs 2:00 – 3:30 pm, or by appointment
Office Phone: 617-287-6854
Email Address: stephen.silliman@umb.edu
Course Website: http://www.faculty.umb.edu/stephen_silliman/Anth640.html

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

Anthropology 640 is a graduate course that explores the nature of archaeological methods and analysis. As such, it is about method and about methodology. The course focuses on the practice of archaeology by paying careful attention to ways that archaeologists acquire, process, analyze, interpret, and present information. We will never forget that these methodological and analytical steps are set within broader theoretical frameworks, but we will leave the theoretical aspects to Anth 665 and focus here on the practical side of archaeology. The goal is to introduce a variety of methods employed in archaeology, generally, and frequently in historical archaeology, specifically, to study, interpret, and conserve the past. By necessity, we will sidestep the specifics of environmental archaeology (e.g., zooarchaeology, paleoethnobotany, archaeoparasitology, palynology, etc.) and documentary analysis since these are covered by Anth 645 and Anth 670, respectively. We will cover some field methods, although these are reserved for Anth 685, and devote the majority of the class to excavation, stratigraphy, writing, material culture analysis focused on a diverse materials, and dating. To achieve this, the course will blend readings and discussion with hands-on introductions to methods and data sets.

REQUIRED READING

- (1) Noël Hume, Ivor
 2001 *A Guide to the Artifacts of Colonial America*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia. (Original: 1970, Alfred A. Knopf, New York.)

- (2) Karklins, Karlis (compiler)
 2000 *Studies in Material Culture Research*. Society for Historical Archaeology, California, Pennsylvania.

- (3) Articles provided in electronic form.

Many of these articles are from the journal, *Historical Archaeology*, and will be available to use, print, and keep for free as PDF files at the following URL:

www.faculty.umb.edu/stephen_silliman/Anth640/Articles. Soon I hope to migrate them to www.faculty.umb.edu/stephen_silliman/coursematerials/Anth640/Articles/ with a password, so keep this URL handy. The full citations are listed in the bibliographies associated with each syllabus topic. You will find quite a few that do not come from *Historical Archaeology*; however,

should you prefer not to print those that are from *Historical Archaeology* and would rather own book versions that includes some of them (but not all, plus others we won't read), you could think about buying the following volume. The Society for Historical Archaeology is running a huge sale on them right now to clear house, and you can order at www.sha.org.

Brauner, David R. (compiler)

2000 *Approaches to Material Culture Research for Historical Archaeologists*, 2nd edition. Society for Historical Archaeology, California, Pennsylvania. On sale for \$36.

A better deal is probably to skip this book (unless you prefer printed books) and pick up the CD-ROM for all *Historical Archaeology* journal issues from Volumes 1-34 (1967-2000). This is also available on the SHA website for \$50 (regularly \$100). This is a great deal, but be careful how you spend. The reason they are selling this at 50% off is to clear the inventory since they are planning on putting ALL articles on-line on the website for free with the more recent ones accessible only to Society for Historical Archaeology members.

You will also be reading several chapters from the following two-volume, almost 1300-page handbook. Again, these chapters will be available for free in digital form, but you should be welcome to buy the 34-chapter entire collection, if you wish. Here is the information:

Maschner, Herbert D. G. and Christopher Chippindale

2005 *Handbook of Archaeological Methods*, Volumes 1 and 2. AltaMira Press, Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania. On sale at www.altamirapress.com for \$127.46 (15% online discount).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

15% Participation, Due Every Thursday!

You are expected to attend class regularly, read all assigned materials, and participate actively in class discussions and activities. You need to come to class prepared in order to insure a productive and rich discussion and learning environment. I hope that those of you with some developing expertise in the analytical and material components of the course will share this with the class as we go forward.

20% Research Proposal, Due October 26

To prepare you for thinking about your thesis proposal (and future research proposals) and to further develop your writing skills, you will complete a research proposal. It may well be the beginnings of your thesis proposal or perhaps just a trial run at doing one. Your final proposal will be due the week before the graduate program deadline in case you want to try to use this as your actual thesis proposal, assuming that I can get some comments back to you within a few days. You may want to integrate this proposal somewhat with the material culture analysis report due later in the semester, but this is not required. What is required is that this proposal concern primarily archaeological and material culture analysis. This proposal will be 6-8 pages long with the guidelines outlined in the Graduate Handbook for preparing a thesis proposal.

20% Response Paper, **Due October 5**

Directed by a question from me provided the week before, this paper will ask you to reflect on the first month's worth of topic in archaeological practices and methods, drawing on the course readings and discussions. It will be 4-5 pages long.

15% Book Review, **Due November 30**

You will locate and critically review one historical archaeological book or monograph that has a significant materials analysis component, as opposed to a primarily theoretical or conceptual orientation. Hopefully it has the latter, too, but it will need to have a major "data" component. This means that you will probably need to choose a case study kind of book rather than an edited volume. You will submit your choice for instructor approval by **November 2**.

30% Material Culture Analysis Report, **Due December 12 (Tuesday)**

You will complete a report on a class or classes of artifacts from the Eastern Pequot, Shelter Island, Grafton, or African Meeting House project collections available on campus (or another relevant collection of your choosing). I will likely not allow any analyses of environmental data given the focus of this course. Depending on the size of the collection, we will need to insure that you have enough objects to process and analyze but not too many to complete during the course of a couple of months. The report will be at least 10 pages long and will contain relevant but brief literature reviews as a way of discussing and presenting your analysis. Your project must be approved by the instructor by **October 5**.

COURSE OUTLINE

Sept. 7 **Introduction**

Sept. 14 **History of Methods and Practices**

A Guide to the Artifacts: Signposts to the Past

Archer, Steven N. and Kevin M. Bartoy

2006 Introduction: Considering Methods and Methodology in Historical Archaeology. In *Between Dirt and Discussion: Methods, Methodology, and Interpretation in Historical Archaeology*, edited by Steven N. Archer and Kevin M. Bartoy, pp. 1-9. Springer, New York. (in press, chapter in proof stage only)

Fagan, Brian

2005 Short History of Archaeological Methods, 1870-1960. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 1*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 40-72. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

South, Stanley

1978 Pattern Recognition in Historical Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 43(2):223-230.

Sept. 21

Field Strategies and Beyond

Glassow, Michael A.

- 2005 Excavation. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 1*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 133-175. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Kvamme, Kenneth L.

- 2001 Current Practices in Archaeogeophysics: Magnetics, Resistivity, Conductivity, and Ground Penetrating Radar. In *Earth Sciences and Archaeology*, edited by Paul Goldberg, Vance T. Holliday, and C. Reid Ferring, pp. 353-384. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York.

Clark, Bonnie and Kathleen Corbett

- 2006 Finding Common Ground in Common Places: Interdisciplinary Methods for Analyzing Historic Architecture on Archaeological Sites. In *Between Dirt and Discussion: Methods, Methodology, and Interpretation in Historical Archaeology*, edited by Steven N. Archer and Kevin M. Bartoy, pp. 151-168. Springer, New York. (in press, chapter in proof stage only)

Hodder, Ian

- 2005 Reflexive Methods. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 1*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 643-669. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Brown, Marley R. and Andrew C. Edwards

- 2006 Re-Excavation, Reflexivity and Responsibility at Colonial Williamsburg: The Archaeology of Archaeology and the Refinement of Site Interpretation. In *Between Dirt and Discussion: Methods, Methodology, and Interpretation in Historical Archaeology*, edited by Steven N. Archer and Kevin M. Bartoy, pp. 169-182. Springer, New York. (in press, chapter in proof stage only)

Roberts, Daniel G. and David Barrett

- 1984 Nightsoil Disposal Practices of the 19th Century and the Origin of Artifacts in Plowzone Proveniences. *Historical Archaeology* 18(1):108-115.

Optional Readings

Gillings, Mark and David Wheatley

- 2005 Geographic Information Systems. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 1*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 373-425. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Aldenderfer, Mark

- 2005 Statistics for Archaeology. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 1*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 501-553. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Sept. 28

Collaboration, Ethics, and Heritage

RESPONSE PAPER ASSIGNED

McManamon, Francis P.

2005 Managing Archaeological Resources. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 2*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 1227-1269. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Berggren, Åsa and Ian Hodder

2003 Practice, Method, and Some Problems of Field Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 68(3):421-434.

Reybrouck, David Van and Dirk Jacobs

2006 The Mutual Constitution of Natural and Social Identities during Archaeological Fieldwork. In *Ethnographies of Archaeological Practice: Cultural Encounters, Material Transformation*, edited by Matt Edgeworth, pp. 33-44. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Watkins, Joe and T. J. Ferguson

2005 Working with and Working for Indigenous Communities. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 2*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 1372-1406. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Perry, Jennifer E.

2004 Authentic Learning in Field Schools: Preparing Future Members of the Archaeological Community. *World Archaeology* 36(2):236-260.

Silliman, Stephen W. and Katherine H. Sebastian

2007 Working on Pasts for Futures: Eastern Pequot Field School Archaeology in Connecticut. In *Collaborative Indigenous Archaeology at the Trowel's Edge: Explorations in Methodology, Education, and Ethics*, edited by Stephen W. Silliman. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, and the Amerind Foundation, Dragoon. In press.

Oct. 5

Stratigraphy

RESPONSE PAPER DUE

Mills, Barbara J. and Rafael Vega-Centeno

2005 Sequence and Stratigraphy. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 1*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 176-215. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Courty, Marie-Agnès

2001 Microfacies Analysis Assisting Archaeological Stratigraphy. In *Earth Sciences and Archaeology*, edited by Paul Goldberg, Vance T. Holliday, and C. Reid Ferring, pp. 205-239. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York.

Goldberg, Paul and Richard I. Macphail

2006 Soils. In *Practical and Theoretical Geoarchaeology*, pp. 33-71. Blackwell Science Ltd., Malden and London.

Praetzelis, Adrian

- 1993 The Limits of Arbitrary Excavations. In *Practices in Archaeological Stratigraphy*, edited by Edward C. Harris, Marley R. Brown III, and Gregory Brown, pp. 68-86. Academic Press, London.

Brown, Gregory and D. Muraca

- 1993 Phasing Stratigraphic Sequences at Colonial Williamsburg. In *Practices in Archaeological Stratigraphy*, edited by Edward C. Harris, Marley R. Brown III, and Gregory Brown, pp. 155-166. Academic Press, London.

Simmons, David M., Myron O. Stachiw and John E. Worrell

- 1993 The Total Site Matrix: Strata and Structure at the Bixby Site. In *Practices in Archaeological Stratigraphy*, edited by Edward C. Harris, Marley R. Brown III, and Gregory Brown, pp. 181-197. Academic Press, London.

Oct. 12

Writing and Interpretation

MATERIAL CULTURE ANALYSIS REPORT PROPOSAL DUE

Chippindale, Christopher

- 2005 Colleagues, Talking, Writing, Publishing. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods, Volume 2*, edited by Herbert D. G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale, pp. 1339-1371. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Zimmerman, Larry

- 2003 Chapter 4: Developing Needed Skills and Tool. In *Presenting the Past*, Volume 7 of "The Archaeologist's Toolkit, pp. 21-40. Walnut Creek, AltaMira Press.

Yamin, Rebecca

- 1998 Lurid Tales and Homely Stories of New York's Notorious Five Points. *Historical Archaeology* 32(1):74-85.

Gibb, James G.

- 2000 Imaginary, But by No Means Unimaginable: Storytelling, Science, and Historical Archaeology. *Historical Archaeology* 34(2):1-6

McKee, Larry and Jillian Galle

- 2000 Scientific Creativity and Creative Science: Looking at the Future of Archaeological Storytelling. *Historical Archaeology* 34(2):14-16.

Majewski, Teresita

- 2000 "We Are All Storytellers": Comments on Storytelling, Science, and Historical Archaeology. *Historical Archaeology* 34(2):17-19.

Optional Reading

Banning, Edward B.

- 2000 Archaeological Illustration. In *The Archaeologist's Laboratory*, pp. 277-292. Kluwer/Academic, New York.

Oct. 19

Ceramics, Part 1

Barker, David and Teresita Majewski

- 2006 Ceramic Studies in Historical Archaeology. In *The Cambridge Companion to Historical Archaeology*, edited by Dan Hicks and Mary Beaudry, pp. 205-231. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. (in press, chapter in proof stage only)

Barker, David

- 1999 The Ceramic Revolution 1650-1850. 226-234. In *Old and New Worlds*, edited by Geoff Egan and Ronald L. Michael, pp. 226-234. London, Oxbow Books.

Miller, George L.

- 1991 A Revised Set of CC Index Values for Classifications and Economic Scaling of English Ceramics from 1787 to 1880. *Historical Archaeology* 25(1):1-25.

Beaudry, Mary C., Janet Long, Henry M. Miller, Fraser D. Neiman, Gary W. Stone

- 1983 A Vessel Typology for Early Chesapeake Ceramics: The Potomac Typological System. *Historical Archaeology* 17(1):17-43.

Miller, George L.

- 1986 Of Fish and Sherds: A Model for Estimating Vessel Populations from Minimal Vessel Counts. *Historical Archaeology* 20(2):59-85.

Sussman, Lynne

- 2000 Objects vs. Sherds: A Statistical Evaluation. In *Studies in Material Culture Research*, edited by Karlis Karklins, pp. 96-103. California, Pennsylvania, Society for Historical Archaeology. (textbook)

Optional Reading

Adams, William H. and Sarah J. Boling

- 1989 Status and ceramics for planters and slaves on three coastal plantations. *Historical Archaeology* 23(1):69-96

Oct. 26

Ceramics, Part 2

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE

A Guide to the Artifacts: Bellarmine; Bottles, Pottery; Ceramics, American; Ceramics, British; Ceramics, European; Chamber Pots; Drug Pots; Porcelain, Chinese; Stoneware, Rhenish; Tiles.

Barker, David

- 2001 The Usual Classes of Useful Articles”: Staffordshire Ceramics Reconsidered. In *Ceramics in America 2001*, edited by Robert Hunter, pp. 73-93. Hanover and London, Chipstone Foundation.

Miller, George and Robert Hunter

- 2001 How Creamware Got the Blues: The Origins of China Glaze and Pearlware. In *Ceramics in America 2001*, edited by Robert Hunter, pp. 135-161. Hanover and London, Chipstone Foundation.

Sussman, Lynne

- 1977 Changes in Pearlware Dinnerware, 1780-1830. *Historical Archaeology* 11:105-111.

Turnbaugh, Sarah P.
1983 17th and 18th Century Lead-Glazed Redwares in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. *Historical Archaeology* 17(1):3-17.

Samford, Patricia M.
1997 Response to a Market: Dating English Underglaze Transfer-Printed Wares. *Historical Archaeology* 31(2):1-30.

Optional Reading

Erickson, M. and Robert Hunter
2001 Dots, Dashes, and Squiggles: Early Slipware Technology. In *Ceramics in America 2001*, edited by Robert Hunter, pp. 95-114. Hanover and London, Chipstone Foundation.

Nov. 2

Glass

BOOK REVIEW PROPOSAL DUE

A Guide to the Artifacts: Bottles, Glass Liquor; Bottles, Glass Pharmaceutical; Drinking Glasses and Decanters.

White, John R.
1978 Bottle Nomenclature: A Glossary of Landmark Terminology for the Archaeologist. *Historical Archaeology* 12:58-77.

Staski, Edward
1984 Just What Can a 19th Century Bottle Tell Us? *Historical Archaeology* 18(1):38-51.

Jones, Olive R
1971 Glass Bottle Push-Ups and Pontil Marks. *Historical Archaeology* 5:62-73.

Miller, George L., and C. Sullivan
1984 Machine-made glass containers and the end of production for mouth-blown bottles. *Historical Archaeology* 18(2):83-96.

Newman, T. Stell
1970 A Dating Key for Post-Eighteenth Century Bottles. *Historical Archaeology* 4:70-75.

Jones, Olive R.
2000 A Guide to Dating Glass Tableware: 1800-1940. In *Studies in Material Culture Research*, edited by Karlis Karklins, pp. 141-232. California, Pennsylvania, Society for Historical Archaeology. (textbook)

Optional Reading

Lorraine, Dessamae
1968 An Archaeologist's Guide to Nineteenth Century American Glass. *Historical Archaeology* 2:35-44.

Busch, Jane
1977 Second Time Around: A Look at Bottle Reuse. *Historical Archaeology* 21(1):67-80.

Nov. 9

Metals

A Guide to the Artifacts: Cutlery and Spoons; Furniture Hardware; Hinges; Horseshoes; Locks; Nails; Glass, Window; Cooking Vessels

Light, John D.

- 2000 A Field Guide to the Identification of Metal. In *Studies in Material Culture Research*, edited by Karlis Karklins, pp. 3-19. California, Pennsylvania, Society for Historical Archaeology. (textbook)

Martin, Ann S

- 1989 The role of pewter as the missing artifact: Consumer attitudes toward tablewares in late 18th century Virginia. *Historical Archaeology* 23(2):1-27.

Dunning, Phil

- 2000 Composite Table Cutlery from 1700 to 1930. In *Studies in Material Culture Research*, edited by Karlis Karklins, pp. 32-45. California, Pennsylvania, Society for Historical Archaeology. (textbook)

Busch, Jane

- 1981 An Introduction to the Tin Can. *Historical Archaeology* 15(1):95-104.

Lenik, Edward J.

- 1977 A Study of Cast Iron Nails. *Historical Archaeology* 11:45-47.

Wells, Tom

- 1998 Nail Chronology: The Use of Technologically Derived Features. *Historical Archaeology* 32(2):78-99.

Optional Readings

Priess, Peter J.

- 2000 Historic Door Hardware. In *Studies in Material Culture Research*, edited by Karlis Karklins, pp. 46-95. California, Pennsylvania, Society for Historical Archaeology. (textbook)

Rock, James

- 1984 Cans in the Countryside. *Historical Archaeology* 18(2):97-111.

Nov. 16

Personal objects and adornment

A Guide to the Artifacts: Bayonets; Beads; Bells; Buckles; Buttons; Candlesticks; Clocks; Coins; Combs; Firearms and Gunflints (Firearm part); Pins, Needles, and Thimbles; Rings; Scissors; Spades; Tobacco Pipes and Smoking Equipment; Toys

Bradley, Charles S.

- 2000 Smoking Pipes for the Archaeologist. In *Studies in Material Culture Research*, edited by Karlis Karklins, pp. 104-133. California, Pennsylvania, Society for Historical Archaeology. (textbook)

Higgins, David A.

- 1999 Little Tubes of Mighty Power: A Review of British Clay Tobacco Pipe Studies. In *Old and New Worlds*, edited by Geoff Egan and Ronald L. Michael, pp. 310-321. London, Oxbow Books.

Agbe-Davis, Anna

- 2006 Alternatives to Traditional Models for the Classification and Analysis of Pipes of the Early Colonial Chesapeake. In *Between Dirt and Discussion: Methods, Methodology, and Interpretation in Historical Archaeology*, edited by Steven N. Archer and Kevin M. Bartoy, pp. Springer, New York. (in press, chapter in proof stage only)

White, Carolyn L.

- 2005 Chapter 2: Sources for Interpreting Artifacts of Personal Adornment. In *American Artifacts of Personal Adornment, 1680-1820*, pp. 14-29. New York, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Sprague, Roderick

- 1985 Glass Trade Beads: A Progress Report. *Historical Archaeology* 19(2):87-105.

Hill, Erica

- 1995 Thimbles and Thimble Rings from the Circum-Caribbean Region, 1500–1800: Chronology and Identification. *Historical Archaeology* 29(1):84-92.

Optional Reading

Faulkner, Alaric

- 1995 Maintenance and Fabrication of Fort Pentagoet 1635–1654: Products of an Acadian Armorer's Workshop. *Historical Archaeology* 20(1):63-94.

Nov. 30

Dating Methods

BOOK REVIEW DUE

Miller, George L.

- 2000 Telling Time for Archaeologists. *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 29:1-22.

Turnbaugh, William, and Sarah P. Turnbaugh

- 1977 Alternative Applications of the Mean Ceramic Date Concept for Interpreting Human Behavior. *Historical Archaeology* 11:90-104.

Adams, William H

- 2003 Dating Historical Sites: The Importance of Understanding Time Lag in the Acquisition, Curation, Use and Disposal of Artifacts. *Historical Archaeology* 37(2):38-64.

Mallios, Seth

- 2003 Back to the Bowl: Using English Tobacco Pipebowls to Calculate Mean Site-Occupation Dates. *Historical Archaeology* 39(2):89-104.

Groover, Mark D.

- 2001 Linking Artifact Assemblages to Household Cycles: An Example from the Gibbs Site. *Historical Archaeology* 35(4):38-57.

Dec. 7

Lithic Artifacts and Lithic Technology

A Guide to the Artifacts: Firearms and Gunflints (Gunflint part)

Kenmotsu, Nancy

1990 Gunflints: A Study. *Historical Archaeology* 24(2):92-125.

Luedtke, Barbara

1999 Gunflints in the Northeast. *Northeast Anthropology* 57:27-43.

Banning, Edward B

2000 Analysing Lithics. In *The Archaeologist's Laboratory*, pp. 141-160.
Kluwer/Academic, New York.

Wilkie, Laurie A.

1996 Glass-Knapping at a Louisiana Plantation: African-American Tools? *Historical Archaeology* 30(4):37-49.

Optional

Silliman, Stephen W.

2003 Using a Rock in a Hard Place: Native American Lithic Practices in Colonial California.
In *Stone Tool Traditions in the Contact Era*, edited by Charles Cobb, pp. 127-150.
Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press.

Dec. 11

Not regular class day

MATERIAL CULTURE ANALYSIS REPORT DUE