

AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY
ANT 3930
#22819 (Sect 2A77) (live)
#27411 (Sect 2A78) (online)

Spring 2021

Classroom: Turlington 1101

MWF Period 6 (11:50 pm -- 1:40 pm)

Instructor: James M. Davidson, Ph.D.

Office: Turlington B134

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Office Hours: via Zoom

Description: This course is designed to present a historical overview of the field of African-American archaeology, starting with the first scientific excavations in the 1940s. Participants will obtain knowledge of important case studies, key figures, major issues, and the overall development of the discipline. Theoretical, methodological, and ethical issues will be addressed. Through lectures, I will introduce the readings and provide broad overviews of the overarching topics and issues within the field of African-American Archaeology. A portion of class time, however, will be spent discussing and critiquing the readings.

Additionally, each student will serve

Required Readings:

1. James Deetz
1996 *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*.
Anchor (Revised and Expanded edition)
2. Singleton, Theresa (editor)
1999 *"I, Too, Am America": Archaeological Studies of African-American Life*.
University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville.
3. Electronic documents, comprising key articles and book chapters, will be posted on Canvas.

Requirements: There will be two non cumulative exams, the format of which will be a mixture of objective questions (e.g., true false, multiple choice, etc), and one or more short answer or essay questions. There will also be a final exam (cumulative). Participation in class discussions is expected. Each student's input will be especially crucial, since this will be a small class. Students are expected to have read the readings for that day, and come to class prepared to discuss them.

There will be one writing component for this class, in the form of a critical response essay on key readings. This essay will be four to five pages in length, double spaced, 12-point font, and one-inch margins.

Grading:

Exams 1 and 2 (25% each)	50%
Critical response essay	10%
Attendance/Class Participation	15%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	25%

A final letter grade will be assigned at the end of the semester, according to this scale:

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)

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Excessive unexcused absences will detract from the student's final grade (see above).

Make-up Exams:

If an exam is missed, and the absence was pre-arranged, or in the event of illness accompanied by a physician's note, a make-up exam will be given. No make-up exams will be given for students who miss the testing period due to unexcused absences.

Accommodating 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 in turn must provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

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,
AND IT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLASS.**

Download the Student Guide for further information:

<http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/4041.pdf>

Students caught cheating will be referred to the University administration for disciplinary action, the consequences of which can include (among other things) failure of this course, and expulsion from the University.

Schedule and Topics:

Week 1 (January 11 through 15)

Introduction (Historical Archaeology, etc.).

Week 2 (January 18 through Jan 22) NO CLASS MONDAY MLK Day

Deetz’s “In Small Things Forgotten”

Week 3 (January 25 through January 29)

Deetz’s “In Small Things Forgotten”; Pioneering Works and “Plantation Studies”

Week 4 (February 1 through February 5)

Pioneering works and “Plantation Studies” (continued)

Week 5 (February 8 through February 12)

Critiques of “Plantation Studies”

Week 6 (February 15 through February 19)

Critiques of “Plantation Studies” (continued)

Race, culture, ethnicity

Week 7 (February 22 through February 26)

Race, culture, ethnicity (continued)

Week 8 (March 1 through March 5)

Belief Systems/Spirituality

*******Exam 1 (Monday March 1) *******

Week 9 (March 8 through March 12)
Belief Systems/Spirituality (continued)

Week 10 (March 15 thru March 19)
Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology

ESSAY (DUE Wednesday – March 17)

Week 11 (March 22 through March 26)
Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology (continued)

Week 12 (March 29 through April 2)
Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology (continued)
Politics and Representation

Week 13 (April 5 through April 9)

*******Exam 2 (Monday – April 6) *******

Week 14 (April 12 through April 16)
Politics and Representation (continued)

Week 15 (April 19 through April 21)
Current Research

(Semester Ends: Wednesday — April 21, 2021)

*******Final Exam *******

Final Exam Period April 28, 2021 @ 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

READINGS:

Week 1 (January 11 through 15)
Introduction

Warren Perry and Robert Paynter
“Artifacts, Ethnicity, and the Archaeology of African Americans”
(*Chapter 15 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume*)

Singleton, Theresa and Mark D. Bograd

1995 The African Experience in America: A Brief Overview. In *The Archaeology of the African Diaspora in the Americas. Guides to the Archaeological Literature of the Immigrant Experience in America, Number 2*. The Society for Historical Archaeology

Week 2 (January 18 through Jan 22)

In Small Things Forgotten

James Deetz's (1996) book, *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*.

James Deetz

“Archaeology at Flowerdew Hundred”

(Chapter 3 in Theresa Singleton's edited volume)

Weeks 3 and 4 (January 25 through February 5)

(Finish reading Deetz's book, In Small Things Forgotten...)

Pioneering works and “Plantation Studies”

Ascher, Robert and Charles Fairbanks

1971 Excavation of a Slave Cabin: Georgia, U.S.A. *Historical Archaeology* 5:3-17.

Bullen, Adelaide K. And Ripley P. Bullen

1945 Black Lucy's Garden. *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society* 6(2):17-28.

Otto, John Solomon

1980 Race and Class on Antebellum Plantations. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America: Afro-American and Asian American Culture History*, edited by Robert L. Schuyler, pp. 3-13. Baywood Publishing Co, Farmingdale, NY.

Ferguson, Leland

1980 Looking for the “Afro” in Colono-Indian Pottery. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America: Afro-American and Asian American Culture History*, edited by Robert L. Schuyler, pp. 14-28. Baywood Publishing Co, Farmingdale, NY.

Wheaton, Thomas R. and Patrick H. Garrow

1985 Acculturation and the Archaeological Record in the Carolina Lowcountry. In *The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life*, edited by Theresa Singleton, pp. 239-269. Academic Press, Orlando, FL.

Moore, Sue Mullins

1985 Social and Economic status on the coastal Plantation: An Archaeological Perspective. In *The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life*, edited by Theresa Singleton, pp. 2141-160. Academic Press, Orlando, FL.

Adams, William Hampton and Sarah Jane Boling
1989 Status and Ceramics for Planters and Slaves on Three Georgia Costal Plantations. *Historical Archaeology* 23(1):69-96.

Week 5 (February 8 through February 12)

Critiques of and Alternatives to Plantation Studies.

Baker, Vernon G.

1980 Archaeological visibility of Afro-American Culture: An Example from Black Lucy's Garden, Andover, Massachusetts. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America*, ed. Robert L. Schuyler, pp. 29-37. Baywood Press, Farmingdale, New York.

Potter, Parker B. Jr.

1991 What is the Use of Plantation Archaeology? *Historical Archaeology* 25(3):94-107.

Howson, Jeane E.

1990 Social Relations and Material Culture: A Critique of the Archaeology of Plantation Slavery. *Historical Archaeology* 24(4):78-91.

Thomas, Brian W.

1995 Source Criticism and the Interpretation of African-American Sites. *Southeastern Archaeology* 14(2):149-157.

Heath, Barbara J. and Amber Bennett

2000 "The little Spots allow'd them": The Archaeological Study of African-American Yards. *Historical Archaeology* 34(2):38-55.

Farnsworth, Paul

2000 Brutality or Benevolence in Plantation Archaeology. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 4(2):145-158.

Deagan, Kathleen and Jane Landers

1999 Fort Mose: Earliest African-American Town in the United States. In *I, Too, Am America: Archaeological Studies of African-American Life*, edited by Theresa A. Singleton, pp. 261-282. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Week 6 (February 15 through February 19)

Race/Ethnicity

Babson, David W.

1990 The Archaeology of Racism and Ethnicity on Southern Plantations. *Historical Archaeology* 24(4):20-28.

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

1999 The Challenge of Race to American Historical Archaeology. *American Anthropologist* 100(3):661-668.

Epperson, Terrence W.

1999 The Contested Commons: Archaeologies of Race, Repression, and Resistance in New York City. In *Historical Archaeologies of Capitalism*, edited by Mark P. Leone and Parker B. Potter, Jr., pp. 81-110. Plenum Press, New York.

Mullins, Paul

2001 Racializing the Parlor: Race and Victorian Bric-Brac Consumption. In *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*, edited by Charles E. Orser, Jr., pp. 158-176. The University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Week 7 (February 15 through February 26)

The Jim Crow Era —Late 19th and 20th Century Contexts

Brown, Kenneth L.

1994 Material Culture and Community Structure: The Slave and Tenant Community at Levi Jordan's Plantation, 1848-1892. In *Working toward Freedom: Slave Society and Domestic Economy in the American South*, edited by Larry E. Hudson, Jr., pp. 95-118.

Stine, Linda France

1990 Social Inequality and Turn-of-the-Century Farmsteads: Issues of Class, Status, Ethnicity, and Race. *Historical Archaeology* 24(4):37-49.

Arjona, Jamie M.

2017 Homesick Blues: Excavating Crooked Intimacies in Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Jook Joints. *Historical Archaeology* 51:43-59.

Franklin, Maria

2020 Gender, Clothing Fasteners, and Dress Practices in Houston's Freedmen's Town, ca. 1880–1904. *Historical Archaeology* 54:556-580.

Davidson, James M.

2004 “Living Symbols of their Lifelong Struggles”: In Search of the home and household in the Heart of Freedman's Town, Dallas, Texas. In *Household Chores and Household Choices: Theorizing the domestic Sphere in Historical Archaeology*, edited by

Kerri S. Barile and Jamie C. Brandon, pp. 75-106. The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Weeks 8 through 10 (March 1 through March 19)

Belief Systems/Spirituality

Leland Ferguson “The Cross is a Magic Sign”: Marks on Eighteenth Century Bowls in South Carolina.

(Chapter 6 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume)

Christopher R. DeCorse

“Oceans Apart: Africanist Perspectives of Diaspora Archaeology.”

(Chapter 7 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume)

Stine, Linda France, Melanie A. Cabak, and Mark D. Groover

1996 Blue Beads as African-American Cultural Symbols. *Historical Archaeology* 30(3):49-75.

Davidson, James M.

2020 Black and White Beads in the African Diaspora. *Historical Archaeology* 54(4):681-737.

Leone, Mark P. and Gladys-Marie Fry

2001 Spirit Management among Americans of African Descent. In *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*, edited by Charles E. Orser Jr., pp. 143-157. The University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Young, Amy

1996 Archaeological Evidence of African-Style Ritual and Healing Practices in the Upland South. *Tennessee Anthropologist*, 21(2):139-155.

Wilkie, Laurie A.

1995 Magic and Empowerment on the Plantation: An Archaeological Consideration of African-American World View. *Southeastern Archaeology*, 14(2): 136-157.

Russell, Aaron E.

1997 Material Culture and African-American Spirituality at the Hermitage. *Historical Archaeology* 31(2):63-80.

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.

Davidson, James M.
2014 Deconstructing the Myth of the “Hand Charm”: Mundane Clothing Fasteners and Their Curious Transformations into Supernatural Objects. *Historical Archaeology* 48(2):18-60.

Davidson, James M., and Karen E. McIlvoy
2012 New Perspectives from Old Collections: Potential Artifacts of African Spirituality at Couper Plantation, Georgia. *The Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage* 1(2):107-166.

Weeks 11 and 12 (March 22 through April 2)
Mortuary Studies and Bioarchaeology

Bolton, H. Carrington
1891 Decoration of Graves of Negroes in South Carolina. *Journal of American Folk-Lore* 4 (12):214.

Ingersoll, Ernest
1892 Decoration of Negro Graves. *Journal of American Folk-Lore* 5 (16):68-69.

Combes, John D.
1974 Ethnography, Archaeology and Burial Practices Among Coastal South Carolina Blacks. *The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers 1972, Volume 7*. The Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Garmon, James C.
1994 Viewing the Color Line through the Material Culture of Death. *Historical Archaeology* 28(3):74-93.

Blakely, Robert L., and Lane A. Beck
1982 Bioarchaeology in the Urban Context. In *Archaeology of Urban America: The Search for Pattern and Process*, edited by Roy S. Dickens, Jr., pp. 175-207. Academic Press, New York.

Harrington, Spencer P. M.
1993 Bones and Bureaucrats: New York's Great Cemetery Imbroglio. *Archaeology* 46(2):30-38.

Davidson, James M., Jerome Rose, Myron Gutmann, Michael Haines, Cindy Condon, and Keith Condon
2002 The Quality of African-American Life in The Old Southwest Near the Turn of the 20th Century. In *The Backbone of History: Health and Nutrition in the Western*

Hemisphere, edited by Richard Steckel, pp. 226-277. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

McCarthy, John P.

1997 Material Culture and the Performance of Sociocultural Identity: Community, Ethnicity, and Agency in the Burial Practices at the First African Baptist Church Cemeteries, Philadelphia, 1810-1841. In *American Material Culture: The Shape of the Field*, eds. Ann Smart Martin and J. Ritchie Garrison, pp. 359-379. Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware.

Armstrong, Douglas V. and Mark L. Fleishman

2003 House-Yard Burials of Enslaved Laborers in Eighteenth-Century Jamaica. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 7(1): 33-65.

Blakey, Michael L.

2001 Bioarchaeology of the African Diaspora in the Americas: Its Origins and Scope. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30:387-422.

Weeks 13 and 14 (April 5 through April 16)

Politics and Representation.

Franklin, Maria

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

Franklin, Maria

1997 Why are there so few black American archaeologists? *Antiquity: an international journal of expert archaeology* 71(274).

Barile, Kerri S.

2004 Race, the National Register, and Cultural Resource Management: Creating an Historical Context for Postbellum Sites. *Historical Archaeology* 38(1):90-100.

McDavid, Carol

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

McCarthy, John

1996 Who Owns These Bones?: Descendant Communities and Partnerships in the Excavation and Analysis of Historic Cemetery Sites in New York and Philadelphia. *Public Archaeology Review* 4(2):3-12.

Patten, M. Drake

1997 Cheers of Protest? The Public, the Post, and the Parable of Learning. *Historical Archaeology* 31(3):131-139.

La Roche, Cheryl and Michael L. Blakey
1997 Seizing Intellectual Power: The Dialogue at the New York African Burial Ground. *Historical Archaeology* 31(3):84-106.

Epperson, Terrence W.
2004 Critical Race Theory and the Archaeology of the African Diaspora. *Historical Archaeology* 38(1):101-108.

Franklin, Maria, Justin P. Dunnivant, Ayana Omilade Flewellen, and Alicia Odewale
2020 The Future is Now: Archaeology and the Eradication of Anti-Blackness. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 24:753-766.

Edward A. Chappell
“Museums and American Slavery”
(Chapter 12 in Theresa Singleton’s edited volume)

Week 15 (April 19 thru April 21) **Rosewood, Florida: A Potential Archaeology**

Streich, Gregory W.
2002 Is There a Right to Forget? Historical Injustices, Race, Memory and Identity. *New Political Science* 24(4):525-542.

Williams, John A.
1968 The Long Hot Summers of Yesteryear. *The History Teacher* 1(3):9-23.

Dye, T. Thomas
1996 Rosewood, Florida: The Destruction of an African American Community. *The Historian* 58(3):605-622.

James M. Davidson and Edward Tennant
2008 A Potential Archaeology of Rosewood, Florida: The Process of Remembering a Community and a Tragedy. *The SAA Archaeological Record, the Magazine of the Society for American Archaeology* (January) 8(1):13-16.