

MATERIAL CULTURE

ANG 6186 (#25372; Sect 3A46 – Live)
ANG 6186 (#27328; Sect 3A47 – online)
ANT4930 (#25370; Sect 3A45 – Live)
ANT4930 (#27329; Sect 3A48 –online)

Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. James M. Davidson
Course Level/Structure: Undergraduate/Graduate seminar
Time: Tuesdays only -- periods 6 through 8 (12:50pm to 3:50 pm)
Classroom: Weil Hall Room 0238

Office: via Zoom
Email: davidson@ufl.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description and Objectives: The seminar's goal is to provide grounding in the anthropological literature of material culture studies. In addition to theoretical articles, there will be case studies to better understand how artifacts are used to interpret and literally construct the past through the writing of historical texts. While the majority of examples will focus on historical materials and North American contexts, some prehistoric or non-Western examples will be included.

Course Requirements (% of grade):

Class participation/attendance	10%
Leading Class Discussion:	10%
Synopses (of specific readings)	10%
Essay No. 1	5%
Essay No. 2	5%
Chronology Exercise	5%
Typology Exercise	5%
Major research paper	50%

Required Texts:

There are no required textbooks to purchase, but the course will rely heavily on a number of individual readings (e.g., articles, book chapters).

Attendance: Regular attendance and participation in class discussions is a requirement. Students are expected to have read the material for that day, and come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Excessive unexcused absences will detract from the final grade (see above).

Questions for Class Discussion:

Each week for those readings marked with a bold, underlined **X**, each student will need to formulate at least one question that will help facilitate class discussion.

Two Exercise or Reaction Papers:

Two different essays, on specific readings, will range from 3 to 5 pages each. Their topics and due dates are given below.

Artifact Typology and Artifact Seriation Exercises:

To better understand the concepts of typology, and the use of material culture to establish chronology, two take home exercises will be assigned. First, a seriation exercise, using historic mortuary objects, will be completed. Second, an exercise in typology will be assigned, using another class of material culture.

Leading Discussion:

For some weeks, a student will help lead class discussion, and prepare a list of questions/points of discussion. If you wish, you may meet with me to talk about the readings prior to class.

Research Paper:

The research paper for class will be due at the end of the semester: graduate students – 15 to 18 pages; undergraduate students – 12 to 15 pages.

Each student will choose the individual topics of the paper, after consultation with me. It could involve original research, an analysis of an existing dataset, or a comparison of two or more papers, sites, or theories. Each student will be required to present his or her work to the class, during the last week of the semester. The formality of this presentation (e.g., power point, etc) will be negotiable.

Grading:

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

- A (90-100%)
- B+ (86-89%)
- B (80-85%)
- C+ (76-79%)
- C (70-75%)
- D+ (66-69%)
- D (60-65%)
- E (59% or less)

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. Consult the Student Guide at www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/ for further information. 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.

Schedule/Topics/Readings

Week 1 (January 12): General discussion of course and content

Week 2 (Jan 19) Some Definitions of Material Culture

Ferguson edited volume: *Historical Archaeology and the Importance of Material Things*.
Special Publication Series, Number 2. Society for Historical Archaeology.

Stanley South	<u>Foreword</u>
Leland Ferguson	<u>Preface</u>
Leland Ferguson	<u>Historical Archaeology and the Importance of Material Things 5</u>
James Deetz	<u>Material Culture and Archaeology-What's the Difference? 9</u>

Shackel, Paul A. and Barbara Little

1992 Post-Processual Approaches to Meanings and Uses of Material Culture in Historical Archaeology. *Historical Archaeology* 26(3):5-11.

Beaudry, Mary, Lauren Cook and Stephen Mrozowski

1991 Artifacts and active voices: material culture as social discourse. In *The Archaeology of Inequality*, edited by R. McGuire and R. Paynter, pp 150-91. Blackwell Publishers,

Yentsch, Anne and Mary Beaudry

1999 American Material Culture in Mind, Thought and Deed. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, edited by Ian Hodder, pp. 214-240. Polity Press, Cambridge, England.

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.

Binford, Lewis R.

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

Week 3 (January 26): Making Sense of Material Culture: Typologies and Issues of Classification

Stone, Lyle M.

1970 Formal classification and the analysis of historic artifacts. *Historical Archaeology* 4(1):90-102.

Spaulding, Albert C.

1953 Statistical Techniques for the Discovery of Artifact Types. *American Antiquity* 18:305-13.

Krieger, Alex D.

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

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.

Assignment: Typology Exercise

Week 4 (February 2): Chronology and Its Application

Adams, William Hampton

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

2005 Back to the Bowl: Using English Tobacco Pipebowls to Calculate Mean Site-Occupation Dates. *Historical Archaeology* 39(2):89-104.

South, Stanley

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

Turnbaugh, William and Sarah Peabody Turnbaugh

1977 Alternative Applications of the Mean Ceramic Date Concept for Interpreting Human Behavior. *Historical Archaeology* 11(1):90-104.

Shott, Michael J.
2012 Toward Settlement Occupation Span from Dispersion of Tobacco-Pipe Stem-Bore Diameter Values. *Historical Archaeology* 46(2):16-38.

Assignment: Seriation Exercise

Week 5 (February 9): Material Culture Assemblages and Patterning

South, Stanley

1979 Historic Site Content, Structure, and Function. *American Antiquity* 44(2):213-237.

South, Stanley

1988 Whither Pattern? *Historical Archaeology* 22(1):25-28.

Cabek, Melanie, Mark D. Groover, and Scott J. Wagers

1995 Health Care and the Wayman A.M.E. Church. *Historical Archaeology* 29(2):55-76.

Adams, William H.

1976 Trade Networks and Interaction Spheres – A View from Silcott. *Historical Archaeology* 10:99-112.

Orser, Charles E. Jr.

1988 *The Material Basis of the Postbellum Tenant Plantation: Historical Archaeology in the South Carolina Piedmont*. The University of Georgia Press, Athens.
(section on typologies.....)

Week 6 (February 16): Artifact Workshop --- Bottles

Firebaugh, Gail S.

1983 An Archaeologist's Guide to the Historical Evolution of Glass Bottle Technology. *Southwestern Lore (The Colorado Archaeological Society)* 49(2):9-29.

Farnsworth, Kenneth B. and John A. Walthall (editors)

2011 *Bottled in Illinois: Embossed Bottles and Bottled Products of Early Illinois Merchants from Chicago to Cairo, 1840-1880*. Illinois State Archaeological Survey: Champaign, IL.

Week 7 (February 23) The Subaltern – Visible Artifacts, Invisible People

Bullen, Adelaide K. And Ripley P. Bullen
1945 Black Lucy's Garden. *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society*
6(2):17-28.

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.

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

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.

Seifert, Donna
1991 Within Site of the White House: The Archaeology of Working Women. *Historical
Archaeology* 25(4):83-108.

Voss, Barbara L.
2005 The Archaeology of Overseas Chinese Communities. *World Archaeology*
37(3):424-439.

Diehl, Michael, Jennifer A. Waters, and J. Homer Thiel
1998 Acculturation and the Composition of the Diet of Tucson's Overseas Chinese
Gardeners at the Turn of the Century. *Historical Archaeology* 32(4):19-33.

Essay 1: Within the historic period, how have the material culture of subaltern individuals or groups in the past been examined by archaeologists? Can the theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches used for one group, be equally applied to another subaltern group?

Week 8: (March 2) The Strengths and Weakness of Single Artifact Narratives:

Davidson, James M.
2012 Encountering the Ex-Slave Reparations Movement from the Grave: The National Industrial Council and National Liberty Party, 1901-1907. *The Journal of African American History* 97(1-2):13-38.

Warner, Mark S. and Robert A. Genheimer
2008 "Cats Here, Cats There, Cats and Kittens Everywhere": An Urban Extermination of Cats in Nineteenth-Century Cincinnati. *Historical Archaeology* 42(1):11-25.

Sudderth, W. E. and Linda J. Darnell Hulvershorn
2000 The Rare Bone China Gorgets of Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, Williston, North Dakota. *Historical Archaeology* 34(4):102-117.

Torbenson, Michael, Robert H. Kelly, Jonathon Erlen, Lorna Cropcho, Michael Moraca, Bonnie Beiler, K. N. Rao, and Mohammed Virji
2000 Lash's: A Bitter Medicine: Biochemical Analysis of an Historical Proprietary Medicine. *Historical Archaeology* 34(2):102-117.

Schablitsky, Julie
2006 Genetic Archaeology: The Recovery and Interpretation of Nuclear DNA from a Nineteenth-Century Hypodermic Syringe. *Historical Archaeology* 40(3):8-19.

Week 9 (March 9): Multivalent Artifacts

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., 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.

Marshall, Yvonne and Alexandra Maas
1997 Dashing Dishes. *World Archaeology* 28(3):275-290.

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

Cabak, Melanie and Stephen Loring
2000 "A Set of Very Fair Cups and Saucers": Stamped Ceramics as an Example of Inuit Incorporation. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 4(1):1-34.

Burley, David V.
1989 Function, Meaning and Context: Ambiguities in Ceramic Use by the Hivernant Metis of the Northwestern Plains. *Historical Archaeology* 23(1):97-106.

Week 10 (March 16): Confinement: Internment camps, POW Camps, Prisons

Barnes, Jodi A.

2016 From Caffé Latte to Catholic Mass: The Archeology of a World War II Prisoner of War Camp. In *Research, Preservation, Communication: Honoring Thomas J. Green on his Retirement from the Arkansas Archeological Survey*, edited by Mary Beth Trubitt, pp. 183-207. Research Series No. 67. Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville.

Camp, Stacey Lynn

2016 Landscapes of Japanese American Internment. *Historical Archaeology* 50(1):169-186.

Carr, Gilly

2018 The Small Things of Life and Death: An Exploration of Value and Meaning in the Material Culture of Nazi Camps. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 22:531-552.

Casella, Eleanor Conlin

2001 To Watch or Restrain: Female Convict Prisons in 19th-Century Tasmania. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 5(1):45-72.

Colls, Caroline Sturdy and Michael Branthwaite

2018 "This is Proof"? Forensic Evidence and Ambiguous Material Culture at Treblinka Extermination Camp. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 22:430-453.

Jameson, John H.

2013 Artifacts of Internment: Archaeology and Interpretation at Two American Civil War Prisoner-of-War Sites. In *Prisoners of War: Archaeology, Memory, and Heritage of 19th- and 20th-Century Mass Internment*, Harold Mytum and Gilly Carr, editors, pp. 23-40. Springer: New York, NY.

Starzmann, Maria Theresia

2015 The Materiality of Forced Labor: An Archaeological Exploration of Punishment in Nazi Germany. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 19:647-663.

Essay 2: Compare and contrast the different conditions of these diverse contexts, vis-à-vis prisons, concentration and death camps, slave cabins on plantations, and internment camps, and the material cultural forms, theoretical approaches or frameworks within which archaeologists have operated.

Week 11 (March 23): Artifact Workshop – Buttons, Buckles, Safety Pins and Other Small Finds

Pool, Juliann C.

1991 *An Overview of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Buttons*. Research Notes, Historic Sites and Materials, No. 1. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas.

Franklin, Maria

2020 Gender, Clothing Fasteners, and Dress Practices in Houston's Freedmen's Town, ca. 1880–1904. *Historical Archaeology* 54(3):556-580.

Week 12 (March 30) Material Culture and Museums

Gulliford, Andrew

1992 Curation and Repatriation of Sacred and Tribal Objects. *The Public Historian* 14(3):23-38.

Mithlo, Nancy Marie

2004 "Red Man's Burden": The Politics of Inclusion in Museum Settings. *American Indian Quarterly* 28(3/4):743-763.

Place, Linna Funk, Joanna Schneider Zangrando, James W. Lea and John Lovell

1974 The Object as Subject: The Role of Museums and Material Culture Collections in American Studies. *American Quarterly* 26(3):281-294.

Matthews, Christy S.

1997 Where do we go from here? researching and interpreting the African-American experience. *Historical Archaeology* 31(3):107-113.

Week 13 (April 6): 19th/early 20th Century Material Culture of Death

Bell, Edward L.

1990 The historical archaeology of mortuary behavior: Coffin hardware from Uxbridge, Massachusetts. *Historical Archaeology* 24(3):54-78.

Cannon, Aubrey

1989 The Historic Dimension in Mortuary Expressions of Status and Sentiment. *Current Anthropology* 30(4):437-458.

Little, Barbara J., Kim M. Lamphear, and Douglas W. Owsley

1992 Mortuary display and status in a nineteenth-century Anglo-American cemetery in Manassas, Virginia. *American Antiquity* 57(3):397-418.

Davidson, James M.

2004 Material Culture, Chronology, and Socioeconomics. In *Two Historic Cemeteries in Crawford County, Arkansas*, edited by Robert C. Mainfort, Jr. and James M. Davidson, pp. 73-194. Final Report, submitted to Burns and McDonnell. AAS Project 02-02. Arkansas Archeological Survey: Fayetteville, AR.

Week 14 (April 13): Artifact Workshop on Coffins, Caskets, and etc.

Week 15 (April 20): Presentations/Discussions of Individual Projects and Papers

(Semester Ends: Wednesday — April 21, 2021)
Final Research Papers are Due This week