ANTH 3220

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Course Description

In this course, the archaeology of historic sites in New Orleans will be used as the starting point for a broader discussion of material culture and its relationship to contemporary themes in anthropology. In particular, theoretical approaches to the city and to urban space will provide a background for addressing the issue of identity, as expressed along axes of race, class, ethnicity, religion, gender, and so on. Other topics to be addressed include the city and mortuary practices, health and sanitation, utopias and imagined cities, and the archaeology of disaster. Data from archaeological studies of other urban sites in the U.S. will supplement those focused in New Orleans. Students will also receive some hands-on training in analytical approaches to historic material culture, including ceramic and glass analyses.

Course Objectives

When you leave this class you will be able to:

- identify important archaeological studies of urban sites in the United States.
- define the chronological sequence of the development of New Orleans as a city
- describe important themes in urban anthropological studies
- evaluate the significance of archaeological sites and archaeological data sets
- understand the connection between material culture and the study of identity
- describe some of the distinctive spiritual and material practices in the history of New Orleans

Class Texts

All readings for this class will either be posted as PDFs on Moodle or will be available as electronic files through the UNO library. While there are no required textbooks for this class, there are a number of works from which we will have multiple readings assigned. These may be useful or worthwhile for those of you looking for more in-depth information on some of the topics covered. These include:


If you would like an overview of the history of the development of New Orleans, I also recommend:

*New Orleans: The Making of an Urban Landscape* by Peirce Lewis (Center for American Places; ASIN: B00866AE6K)
PLEASE NOTE: As the semester moves forward, I may add or otherwise revise the assigned readings for later weeks. I will be informing the class and making those readings available should there be any changes.

**Grading**

Grades for this course will be determined by four general components of the class, each of which will be described more fully below. The components of the class are as follows:

- Participation and Attendance (20%)
- Lab Activities and Short Writing Assignments (20%)
- Midterm Exam (30%)
- Final Project (30%)

Grading is on a ten-point letter grade scale (89.5+ = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F.).

**Participation and Attendance.** Participation and engagement are crucial elements of this class. You will be expected to actively take part in class discussions, ask questions, take notes, and be in class on time. *Class attendance is a formal part of the participation grade, as you can’t participate if you’re not here! If you have more than 2 unexcused absences, your grade will be negatively affected. You are responsible for making up any assignments that you miss. If you should be absent for both classes in the same week, you will be required to write a 2 page response to the readings for that week.*

**Lab Activities and In-Class/Short Assignments.** We will have a lab component of the class, where you will be expected to participate in some hands-on activities in the archaeology lab. We can’t accommodate the entire class in the archaeology lab at the same time, so we will divide up into some smaller groups for these activities.

**Midterm Exam.** The midterm exam will consist of a brief in-class midterm.

**Final Project.** This year, the class will be working with our Department of History in order to develop an archaeology tour for the “New Orleans Historical” website ([http://neworleanshistorical.org/](http://neworleanshistorical.org/)). This means that students will select an archaeological site here in the city, research that site using materials available in our library, on-line, and in our lab on campus, and put together a short narrative about the site. You will also select interesting images to include as part of the tour. Graduate students will then be working with me to edit and select material to include for the website. I’ll be providing details about the project during the semester, along with a list of the sites that you can choose.

**General Attendance Policy**

Attendance will be kept and considered as part of your participation grade (as described above). Please send an email prior to missing class (or as soon as possible in an emergency situation) to explain any potential absences in order to be considered for an excused absence.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to [http://www.ods.uno.edu](http://www.ods.uno.edu).
**Communications Policy and Moodle**

It is the student’s responsibility to obtain access information (username and password) for a UNO email account. To simplify matters in communication I will use only the email address that is registered to you on Moodle. The Computer Help Desk personnel (280-HELP) can help you set your UNO email system up to forward mail to you if you do not want to access your UNO account regularly.

Moodle will be used for posting PDFs of readings, for class announcements, and for posting links to electronic resources. **YOU WILL NEED IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO MOODLE FOR CLASS READINGS!**

**Classroom Rules and Conduct**

Please arrive in class on time. All cell phones and handheld electronic devices should be turned off and put away before class; there should be no texting during class. Laptops will be allowed in class only to access specific readings for discussion. Otherwise, NO LAPTOP COMPUTERS, TABLETS, OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES ALLOWED DURING CLASS!

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at [http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu](http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu).

Cases of cheating will be taken to the university honor council for possible expulsion from the University. You will receive an F for any test you are caught cheating on and your academic record will be documented accordingly. I fully expect everyone in the class to uphold the University honor code with regards to academic honesty: [http://www.uno.edu/studentaffairs/sa-documents/academicdishonestypolicy.pdf](http://www.uno.edu/studentaffairs/sa-documents/academicdishonestypolicy.pdf).

Students are expected to treat their fellow students with civility, tolerance, and respect, and classroom discussions should be conducted in such a fashion. No harassment, sexual or otherwise, will be tolerated.

In emails to your professor, be sure to include your course number in the subject header.

**OUTLINE OF CLASS**

**WEEK 1 (8/19)**

WHAT IS HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY?

**Readings:**

Orser, Charles  
2004  Chapter 1 from *Historical Archaeology*. Prentice Hall, Pearson, NJ

**WEEK 2 (8/24 & 8/26)**

THE PAST THROUGH ARTIFACTS

Class Activity: Workshop on Historic Artifacts (Ceramics)

**Readings:**

Deetz, James  
1996  Chapters from *In Small Things Forgotten*. Anchor Books.

Martin, Amy Smart

Optional Readings:
Beaudry, Mary, Lauren Cook, and Stephen Mrozowski
Shackel, Paul A. and Barbara J. Little
1992 Post-Processual Approaches to Meanings and Uses of Material Culture in Historical Archaeology. Historical Archaeology 26(3):5-11.

WEEK 3 (8/31 & 9/2)
ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO URBAN LIFE

Readings:
Upton, Dell
Orser, Charles
2004 Chapter 9 and 10 from Historical Archaeology. Prentice Hall, Pearson, NJ

Optional Readings:
Wirth, Louis
Low, Setha

WEEK 4 (NO CLASS FOR LABOR DAY HOLIDAY on 9/7; 9/9)
PREHISTORY OF LOUISIANA

Readings:
Usner, Jr., Daniel
Chapter from The Archaeology of Louisiana, ed. By Mark Rees: Chapter 1, Introduction by Mark Rees

Optional Readings:
Chapters from The Archaeology of Louisiana, ed. By Mark Rees: Chapter 2, A History of Archaeology in Louisiana by Kathleen Byrd and Robert Neuman

Case Studies: Big and Little Oak Island; Kingsley House & Rising Sun Hotel Protohistoric Components

WEEK 5 (9/14 & 9/16)
THE CITY AS FRONTIER: NEW ORLEANS IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Readings:
Dawdy, Shannon and Chris Matthews

Dawdy, Shannon

Gray, D. Ryan
2015 Untangling the Strands of Creolization in an Urban Household: Recent Archaeology at Madame John’s Legacy (16OR51). *Louisiana Archaeology* #40.

Loren, Diana DiPaolo

Article on Rising Sun Hotel Dig from *Historic New Orleans Collection Quarterly*.

Optional:
Matthews, Christopher

**Case Study: St Antoine’s Garden**

**WEEK 6 (9/21 & 9/23)**

**THE RACIALIZED CITY: African, Creole, Black, American**

**Readings:**

Dawdy, Shannon

Joseph, J.W.

Listi, Ginesse and Mary Manhein
2015 Analysis of Burials Excavated from St. Peter Street Cemetery (16OR92), an 18th Century New Orleans Cemetery. *Louisiana Archaeology* #40.

Mullins, Paul

**Optional Reading:**

Orser, Charles
2007 *The Archaeology of Race and Racialization in Historic America*. Chapter 3.

Franklin, Maria

Matthews, Christopher

**Case Study: The St. Peter Street Cemetery**

**WEEK 7 (9/28 & 9/30)**

**THE CITY AS CONCEIVED SPACE: Models and Maps**
Readings:

Upton, *Another City*, Chapter 6: The Grid and the Republican Spatial Imagination

Optional Reading:
Foucault, Michel
Lefebvre, Henri

WEEK 8 (10/5 & 10/7)
MIDTERM WEEK: REVIEW AND DISCUSS FINAL PROJECTS; MIDTERM EXAM on 10/7

WEEK 9 (10/12 & 10/14; MID-SEMESTER BREAK ON 10/15 & 10/16)
ETHNICITY & IDENTITY: From Chinatown to the Irish Channel

Readings:
Emberling, Geoff
Linn, Meredith
Dawdy, Shannon

Optional Readings
Brubaker, Rogers and Frederick Cooper
Campanella, Richard
Gray, D. Ryan
Jones, Sian
1999 *The Archaeology of Ethnicity* [Electronic Resource available through UNO library website; page assignments TBA]
Meskell, Lynn

Case Study: WWII Museum Excavations (Chinese Laundry); GNO Bridge Excavations

WEEK 10 (10/19 & 10/21)
THE OUTLAW CITY: Vagrants, Outcasts, and Suspicious Characters

Readings:
Optional Reading:
Asbury, Herbert

Case Study: City Square 33

WEEK 11 (10/26 & 10/28)
THE DISCIPLINED CITY/THE SANITIZED CITY: Prisons, Hospitals, Orphanages

Readings:

Upton, Another City, Chapter 10: Gridded Utopias
Dawdy, Building the Devil’s Empire, Chapter 5
Casella, Eleanor

Crane, Brian

Morgan, Gwenda and Peter Rushton

Optional Reading:
Excerpts from Craig Colten, An Unnatural Metropolis: Wrestling New Orleans from Nature

Archaeological Case Study: The Cabildo; St. Joseph Orphan Asylum

WEEK 12 (11/2 & 11/4)
THE CAPITALIST CITY: Class, Labor, and Politics in the City

Readings:

Gray, D. Ryan and Jill-Karen Yakubik

Kelley, Robin D.G.

Leone, Mark
McCarthy, John  

Praetzellis, Adrian and Mary Praetzellis  

**Case Study: St. Thomas and Magnolia Housing Projects**

**WEEK 13 (11/9 & 11/11)**  
**THE GENDERED CITY: Domesticity and Abandoned Women**

**Readings:**

Dawdy, Shannon and Richard Weyhing  

Gould, Virginia  

Long, Alecia  

Wall, Diana diZerega  

Wilkie, Laurie  

**Case Study: Iberville, Rising Sun Hotel**

**WEEK 14 (11/16 & 11/18)**  
**THE CITY AS SPIRITUAL SPACE AND UTOPIA**

**Readings:**

WPA Accounts of Spiritual Churches  
Gray, D. Ryan  

Palmié, Stephan  

Wehmeyer, Stephen  

**Case Study: Temple of the Innocent Blood**
CITIES OF THE DEAD

Readings:

Upton, Dell

Mack, Mark E. and Michael L. Blakey

Gundaker, Grey and Judith McWillie, Excerpt from *No Space Hidden*

Huber, Leonard, Peggy McDowell, and Mary Louise Christovich, Excerpt from *New Orleans Architecture, Vol. III: The Cemeteries*

Optional Reading:
Upton, *Another City*, Chapter 9: Gridding the Graveyard
Joseph Roach, Excerpt from *Cities of the Dead: Circum-Atlantic Performance*

Case Study and Field Trip (Optional): Holt Cemetery

WEEK 16 (11/30 & 12/2)
URBAN DISASTERS

Readings:

Dawdy, Shannon

Jackson, Joyce Marie

Landphair, Juliette

FINALS WEEK (12/7)
FINAL PROJECTS DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON 12/9