

Fall 2015

ANTH 3220

Ryan Gray
University of New Orleans

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ANTH 3220-001
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW ORLEANS AND URBAN AMERICA
Exploring Identity and Meaning through Urban Archaeology
D. Ryan Gray
Fall 2015

Mon/Wed., 2:00-3:15
Classroom: 213 Milneburg
Office: 335 Milneburg [office hrs also held in 272 Liberal Arts]
Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-4; Wednesday, 12-2; Friday, 12-4.
Phone: 504-280-1072

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:

The Archaeology of Louisiana ed. by Mark Rees (LSU Press; ISBN-13: 978-0807137055)

Building the Devil's Empire by Shannon Dawdy (University of Chicago Press; ISBN-13: 978-0226138428)

Another City: Urban Life and Urban Spaces in the New American Republic by Dell Upton (Yale University Press; ISBN-13: 978-0300124880)

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/>). 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>.

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>.

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>.

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

- 2001 Magical, Mythical, Practical, and Sublime: The Meanings and Uses of Ceramics in America. In *Ceramics in America 2001*, ed. by Robert Hunter. University Press of New England.

Optional Readings:

Beaudry, Mary, Lauren Cook, and Stephen Mrozowski

- 1991 Artifacts and Active Voices: Material Culture as Social Discourse. In *The Archaeology of Inequality*, ed. by Randall McGuire and Robert Paynter. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford and Cambridge.

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

- 1992 The City as Material Culture. In *The Art and Mystery of Historical Archaeology: Essays in Honor of James Deetz*, ed. by Anne Yentsch and Mary Beaudry. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida.

Orser, Charles

- 2004 Chapter 9 and 10 from *Historical Archaeology*. Prentice Hall, Pearson, NJ

Optional Readings:

Wirth, Louis

- 1938 The City as a Way of Life, *American Journal of Sociology* 44(1):1-24.

Low, Setha

- 1996 The Anthropology of Cities: Imagining and Theorizing the City. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 25:383-409.

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

PREHISTORY OF LOUISIANA

Readings:

Usner, Jr., Daniel

- 1989 American Indians in Colonial New Orleans. From *Powhatan's Mantle: Indians in the Colonial Southeast*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and London.

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

- 2010 Colonial and Early Antebellum New Orleans. In *The Archaeology of Louisiana*, ed. By Mark Rees, LSU Press.
- Dawdy, Shannon
2010 'A Wild Taste': Food and Colonialism in 18th Century Louisiana. *Ethnohistory* 57(3):389-414.
- 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
2001 Social Skins: Orthodoxies and Practices of Dressing in the Early Colonial Lower Mississippi Valley. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 1(2):172-189.
- Article on Rising Sun Hotel Dig from *Historic New Orleans Collection Quarterly*.

Optional:

- Matthews, Christopher
2001 Political Economy and Race: Comparative Archaeologies of Annapolis and New Orleans in the Eighteenth Century. In *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*, ed. by Charles Orser. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Case Study: St Antoine's Garden

WEEK 6 (9/21 & 9/23)

THE RACIALIZED CITY: African, Creole, Black, American

Readings:

- Dawdy, Shannon
2000 Understanding Cultural Change through the Vernacular: Creolization in Louisiana. *Historical Archaeology* 34(3):107-123. [Plus Preface from same volume]
- Joseph, J.W.
2000 Archaeology and the African American Experience in the Urban South. In *The Archaeology of Southern Urban Landscapes*. University of Alabama Press
- 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
2006 Racializing the Commonplace Landscape: An Archaeology of Urban Renewal along the Color Line. *World Archaeology* 38(1):60-71.

Optional Reading:

- Orser, Charles
2007 *The Archaeology of Race and Racialization in Historic America*. Chapter 3.
- Franklin, Maria
1997 "Power to the People": Sociopolitics and the Archaeology of Black Americans. *Historical Archaeology* 31(3):36-50.
- Matthews, Christopher
2001 Black, White, Light, and Bright: A Narrative of Creole Color. Paper available at: <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/archaeology/journal/newdraft/matthews/paper.pdf>

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
Dawdy, *Building the Devil's Empire*, Chapter 2: La Ville Sauvage: Nature and Urban Planning

Optional Reading:

Foucault, Michel

1986 Of Other Spaces. *Diacritics* 16(1):22-27.

Lefebvre, Henri

1991 *The Production of Space*. Excerpt: Part 1, Plan of the Present Work. Blackwell Publishing.

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

1997 Ethnicity in Complex Societies: An Archaeological Perspective. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 5(4):295-344.

Linn, Meredith

2010 Elixir of Emigration: Soda Water and the Making of Irish Americans in Nineteenth-Century New York. *Historical Archaeology* 44(4):69-109.

Dawdy, Shannon

2001 Ethnicity in the Urban Landscape: The Archaeology of Creole New Orleans. In *The Archaeology of Southern Urban Landscapes*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Optional Readings

Brubaker, Rogers and Frederick Cooper

2000 Beyond "Identity". *Theory and Society* 29(1):1-47.

Campanella, Richard

2006 *Geographies of New Orleans: Urban Fabrics Before the Storm*. Center for Louisiana Studies, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Gray, D. Ryan

2009 Identity and the Material Dimensions of Public and Private Practice: Archaeology of a Chinese Laundry in New Orleans. Paper presented at the meetings of the American Society for Ethnohistory, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Jones, Sian

1999 *The Archaeology of Ethnicity* [Electronic Resource available through UNO library website; page assignments TBA]

Meskell, Lynn

2002 The Intersection of Identity and Politics in Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 31:279-301.

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:

- Gray, D. Ryan
 2011 Incorrigible Vagabonds and Suspicious Spaces in 19th Century New Orleans. *Historical Archaeology*, special volume on archaeologies of poverty. Autumn 2011.
- Schafer, Judith Kelleher
 2000 The Murder of a 'Lewd and Abandoned Woman': The State of Louisiana vs. Abraham Parker. *American Journal of Legal History* 44(1):19-39.
- Yamin, Rebecca
 2005 Wealthy, Free, and Female: Prostitution in 19th Century New York. *Historical Archaeology* 39(1):4-18.

Optional Reading:

- Asbury, Herbert
 2003 *The French Quarter: An Informal History of the New Orleans Underworld*. Thunder's Mouth Press, New York, New York. SELECTIONS

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
 2000 'Doing Trade': A Sexual Economy of Nineteenth-Century Australian Female Convict Prisons. *World Archaeology* 32(2):209-221.
- Crane, Brian
 2000 Filth, Garbage, and Rubbish: Refuse Disposal, Sanitary Reform, and Nineteenth Century Yard Deposits in Washington, D.C. *Historical Archaeology* 34(1):20-38.
- Morgan, Gwenda and Peter Rushton
 2005 Visible Bodies: Power, Subordination and Identity in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World. *Journal of Social History* 39(1):39-64.

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
 2010 Chapter 17: Immigration and Urbanization in New Orleans. In *The Archaeology of Louisiana*, ed. By Mark Rees, LSU Press.
- Kelley, Robin D.G.
 1996 "We Are Not What We Seem": Rethinking Black Working-Class Opposition in the Jim Crow South. In *The New African American Urban History*, ed. by Kenneth Goings and Raymond Mohl. SAGE Publications, Thousand Oaks, California.
- Leone, Mark
 1995 A Historical Archaeology of Capitalism. *American Anthropologist* 97(2):252-265.

McCarthy, John

- 2001 Values and Identity in the 'Working-Class' Worlds of Late Nineteenth-Century Minneapolis. In *The Archaeology of Urban Landscapes: Explorations in Slumland*, ed. by Alan Mayne and Tim Murray.

Praetzellis, Adrian and Mary Praetzellis

- 1992 Faces and Facades: Victorian Ideology in Early Sacramento. In *The Art and Mystery of Historical Archaeology: Essays in Honor of James Deetz*, ed. by Anne Yentsch and Mary Beaudry. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida.

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

- 2008 Beneath the Rising Sun: 'Frenchness' and the Archaeology of Desire. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 12:370-387.

Gould, Virginia

- 2007 Afro-Creole Women, Freedom, and Property-Holding in Early New Orleans. In *Coastal Encounters: The Transformation of the Gulf South in the 18th Century*, ed. by Richmond Brown. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and London.

Long, Alecia

- 2004 *The Great Southern Babylon: Sex, Race, and Respectability in New Orleans, 1865-1920*. LSU Press, Baton Rouge. SELECTED CHAPTER

Wall, Diana diZerega

- 1999 Examining Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in Nineteenth Century New York City. *Historical Archaeology* 33(1):102-117.

Wilkie, Laurie

- 2004 Granny Midwives: Gender and Generational Mediators of the African American Community. In *Engendering African American Archaeology*, ed. by Jillian Galle and Amy Young. University of Tennessee Press.

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

- 2015 A Manger in a Sea of Mud: Material Legacies and Loss at the Temple of the Innocent Blood. *AP3A: Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association*.

Palmié, Stephan

- 2002 *Wizards and Scientists: Explorations in Afro-Cuban Modernity and Tradition*. Duke University Press, Durham and London. [EXCERPT]

Wehmeyer, Stephen

- 2000 Indian Altars of the Spiritual Church: Kongo Echoes in New Orleans. *African Arts* 33(4):62-96.

Case Study: Temple of the Innocent Blood

**WEEK 15 (11/23 & 11/25; THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY ON 11/26-11/27)
CITIES OF THE DEAD**

Readings:

Upton, Dell

1997 The Urban Cemetery and the Urban Community: The Origin of the New Orleans Cemetery. *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Vol. 7, Exploring Everyday Landscapes*, pp. 131-145

Mack, Mark E. and Michael L. Blakey

2004 The New York African Burial Ground Project: Past Biases, Current Dilemmas, and Future Research Opportunities. *Historical Archaeology* 38(1):10-17.

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

2006 The Taphonomy of Disaster and the (Re)Formation of New Orleans. *American Anthropologist* 108(4):719-730.

Jackson, Joyce Marie

2006 Declaration of Taking Twice: The Fazendeville Community of the Lower Ninth Ward. *American Anthropologist* 108(4):765-780.

Landphair, Juliette

2007 "The Forgotten People of New Orleans": Community, Vulnerability, and the Lower Ninth Ward. *Journal of American History* 94:837-845. Available at:

<http://www.journalofamericanhistory.org/projects/katrina/Landphair.html>

FINALS WEEK (12/7)

FINAL PROJECTS DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON 12/9