Course Description

This course covers the archaeology of approximately the last 500 years in the Americas, by its nature covering sites for which at least some historical documentation exists. In this course, we will focus on understanding how material remains can be used as a rich source of history in and of themselves and how archaeological data works in conjunction with historical sources to produce rich interdisciplinary narrative of the past.

The period covered by historical archaeology in the Americas has been a time of upheaval, most notably from settler colonialism, the forced diaspora of enslaved Africans to work on plantations, and from the move into industrialization that changed conditions of life and labor for many. We will address all of these changes, paying particular attention to how archaeology informs our understanding of resistance and hybridity in colonial contexts, the contribution of archaeology to understanding processes of racialization, and the commitment of historical archaeologists to furthering social justice in the present through their work on the past.
Sites and topics studied will include those relating to Spanish settlement in California and the Caribbean; Native sites that intersected with periods of settler colonialism; British plantations in the Chesapeake; domestic sites of enslaved Africans and free black communities; early merchant and industrializing cities, including New York City and Lowell, Mass.; the archaeology of trash and sewerage; forensic archaeology and the African Burial Ground in NYC; sites of institutional confinement; and the heritage value of modern ruins.

A half day-trip to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and hands-on lab session in the Cross Street Archaeology Lab will provide an introduction to the practice of archaeology.

**All readings are available on Moodle: there are no assigned books for this class.**
Please check Moodle regularly for readings; if there is a change in relation to the syllabus, the Moodle version will be the correct version.

**Assessment:**

- Four pop quizzes (worth 10% of final grade)
- Short fieldtrip assignment or 3 page paper, due Monday October 1 (worth 10% of grade)
- Class presentation, Thursday October 11 (10-15 minutes, in small groups) and short paper, due Friday October 12 (worth 10% of grade)
- One 3 page short paper, due Sunday November 18 (worth 20% of grade)
- Lab project, due Monday December 3 (worth 20% of grade)
- Final paper, due Friday December 14 (worth 30% of final grade)

Assessment is based on several small assignments with a mixture of papers, presentations, and lab/fieldtrip based work. This is intended to provide regular assessment which draws on reading and on active participation with material culture. Pop quizzes will be unannounced. The questions will be straightforward if you have done the readings and paid attention to class material. They will be multiple choice or short (phrase or single sentence) answer format. Class attendance will be taken; along with active participation this will be taken into account for borderline grades.

I am sympathetic towards those who may require extensions on written work. However, all extensions **must** be authorized and arrangements should be agreed well in advance of the deadline.
Missing in-class assessed work (presentations and pop quizzes) will require an email (prior to the class) from your dean to let me know that you cannot attend because of illness or for other reasons. I will expect some form of equivalent written work to make up any missed in-class assessment.

**Please read Moodle for my full policy on laptop computers.** I encourage their use as an aid for class work. However, I request that they are not used in the back three rows of the classroom, and that you do not use your computer for email, Facebook, or similar applications during class. I find that following these guidelines helps those who use laptops in class to stay more focused.

**Disability Policy**
It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as us soon as possible (by preference during the first two weeks of the semester), so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at [http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/studentguide.html](http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/studentguide.html).

**Fieldtrip to Mashantucket Pequot Museum:**
This will be held on Friday September 28. We will depart Wesleyan at noon and return at approximately 5.45pm. Advance sign up and payment for the trip is required by Tuesday September 18. Please talk to me if you have issues with covering the costs, or missing other classes.

We will be visiting the labs in the museum and the main exhibit of Pequot life. Dr Kevin McBride, director of archaeological research at the museum, will be talking to us about the latest findings of their ongoing archaeology of the seventeenth-century Pequot War. Weather permitting, we will also have a short visit to the archaeological field research currently in-progress. Further details can be found here: [http://www.pequotmuseum.org/Home/ResearchCollections/ARCHAEOLOGY/ArchaeologyatMashantucket.htm](http://www.pequotmuseum.org/Home/ResearchCollections/ARCHAEOLOGY/ArchaeologyatMashantucket.htm)

Please make sure that you wear shoes that you can walk outside in, bring a waterproof jacket, and any food or refreshments that you will require.
Class Schedule and Readings

Tuesday September 4
Introduction, no assigned reading

Spanish Colonialism

Thursday September 6

Tuesday September 11

Thursday September 13
Colonial California

Tuesday September 18

Thursday September 20

Native New England

Tuesday September 25

Thursday September 27

Optional:
McBride,K. Monhantic Fort & Fort Island reports.

Friday September 28 – noon to 5.30pm fieldtrip to Mashantucket Pequot Museum Meet 11.50am outside Usdan on Wyllys Ave.

**Fieldtrip Assignment due Monday October 1, 5pm**
Plantations

**Tuesday October 2**
King, J. A. 2006. Household Archaeology, Identities and Biographies. In D. Hicks and M.C. Beaudry (Eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Historical Archaeology*.


**Thursday October 4**

**Tuesday October 9**


**Thursday October 11**
Class presentations (See Moodle for specific readings)

**Short paper due Friday October 12, 5pm**

**Tuesday October 16**
FALL BREAK
Class and Industrialization

Thursday October 18
Shackel, P.A. 1993. Personal Discipline and Material Culture: An Archaeology of Annapolis, Maryland, 1695-1870. Chapter 1 (‘Individual Time: Archaeology of the House Lot) & Chapter 5 (The Historical Meanings of Consumption) [focus on broader points; don’t worry about the intricacies of data]

Tuesday October 23
Mrozowski, S.A. 2000. The Growth of Managerial Capitalism and the Subtleties of Class Analysis in Historical Archaeology. In Delle et al. (Eds.), Lines That Divide: Historical Archaeologies of Race, Class, and Gender.

Shackel, P.A. 2009. The Archaeology of American Working-Class Life. Chapter 3 (Worker’s Housing in the Late Nineteenth Century)

Thursday October 25


The Archaeology of Institutions

Tuesday October 30

Thursday November 1
Intersections: Ethnicity, Gender, Race, and Class in Urban America

Tuesday November 6


Thursday November 8

Tuesday November 13


Thursday November 15
NO CLASS: American Anthropological Association meeting

**Short paper due Sunday November 18, 5pm**

Tuesday November 20

Thursday November 22
THANKSGIVING BREAK
Archaeology of free African Americans; New Philadelphia & Middletown

**Tuesday November 27**


**Thursday November 29**
Lab Sessions, split into two sessions (sign up before class)
1:00 – 2.40pm
2:40 – 4pm

Recommended (see Moodle for further useful readings and links):


**Lab Assignment, due Monday December 3, 5pm**

The African Burial Ground, NYC

**Tuesday December 4**

Recommended:
Lab project and paper, due Monday December 3
Contemporary Archaeology

Thursday December 6

Recommended:

**Final Paper Due: Friday December 14 5pm**