Spring 2007
ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY

ANT 4110 (9214)

Lecturer: Dr. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo
Lecture sessions: M 4-6 (10:40 AM-1:40 PM)
Location: Turlington B 2305
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DESCRIPTION:

The objective to this course is to create a solid foundation for the development of anthropological archaeological research. The course gives the basis for the understanding of where theories come from, how they are developed and how they succeed. The course looks at the epistemological basis of the major trends in the field indicating the critical issues that each raises and what are their problems. This course will help in developing critical thinking on theory formulation and evaluation. This goal will be accomplished by evaluating the different trends that have driven American archaeology in the last 100 years. The class will focus on the different epistemological approaches that exist. We will look at the kinds of questions asked and the methodologies employed to answer them. In this process we will examine the epistemology of archaeology, as well as its relationship to other disciplines. We will look at where the theories come from and critically examine their power of explanation. We will look at how the theories are evaluated and what factors favor their success or failure. The second part of the course will be developed around current theories utilized in the last years. This will be accomplished with a review of topics that are under discussion in archaeology.

REQUIRED READINGS:


EVALUATION: Two exams (each 25%), a final paper (20%), class presentation of the paper (10%), and class participation (20%)

The topic of the final paper should be discussed with the professor in advance. REMEMBER IT IS A RESEARCH PAPER, NOT A REVIEW PAPER. The paper should be 8 pages in length, double-spaced including bibliography.
Disclaimer: Some adjustments may be made in the schedule and course requirements during the course of the semester. All changes will be announced.

ATTENDANCE is required.

GRADE SYSTEM:
A= 90-100 %
B= 80-89
C= 70-79
D= 60-69
F= Below 59

PART I : GENERAL APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Week 1, January 8: Introduction.

Week 2, January 15: Martin L. King, Jr., Birthday.


Week 4, January 29: Cultural particularism in the past and today. Read 2 of Archaeology as a Process, Processualism and its Progeny.


Week 6, February 12: Processual archaeology. Read chapter 5, 7 and 8 of Archaeology as a Process, Processualism and its Progeny.

Week 7, February 19: Theory in archaeology today

Week 8, February 26: Theory in archaeology today, invited speaker

PART II: ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORIES OF THE BIG QUESTION: WHY

Week 9, March 5: First Exam.

Week 10, March 10-17: Spring Break
Week 11, March 19: Theories in social inequality.

Week 12, March 26: Theory in the Archaeology of Gender, invited speaker

Week 13, April 2: Theoretical approaches in historical archaeology, invited speaker.

Week 14, April 9: Presentation of papers.

Week 15, April 16: Presentation of papers.

Week 16, April 23: **Second Exam.**

**Week 17, FINAL EXAM WEEK.**

**Recommended readings part I**

**Historical Particularism**


**Cultural - Historical Particularism**


Willey and Sabloff. A history of American Archaeology. Freeman.

**Functionalist or New Archaeology**


**Processual Archaeology**

Clarke, David (1968) *Analytical Archaeology*. Methuen and Co.


**Processual Archaeology: Explanation of Why**


**Post-processual archaeology**

