MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY---- TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT 2
Value: 5 points (5% of your final grade)

SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION IN AN EARLY FORMATIVE PERIOD VILLAGE

The Early Formative period villagers represented in the Tlatilco burial population exhibit a variety of burial offerings, positions and directions. In my lectures in introductory archaeology classes I often state that every artifact or archaeological feature represents a variety of decisions made in the past. The same obviously is true for burials and burial offerings. Differences in types of burial goods and specific burial treatments (skeletal position, depth, etc.) do reflect purposeful decisions and actions that took place during the mortuary process. They may, for instance, relate to a person's lineage, social rank, or gender. Archaeologists try to interpret those "decisions" in order to understand that past society.

ASSIGNMENT:

This assignment is based upon Muriel Porter's actual Tlatilco field notes for burials #82 - 102, and #116-130, excavated in the 1940s. I have also included a map of burial locations and orientations. ***No age or gender data are available.***

For this assignment assume that the two burial groups represent the subfloor burials of the deceased of two separate houses at Tlatilco, and assume that the houses are contemporaneous in time.

USING THE DATA PROVIDED:

1). Study the burials (offerings and burial treatment) within each house to see what differences and similarities you can find among the grave contents of members of each individual household. Explore possibilities such as:
  - A. Quantity of offerings, and/or
  - B. Quality/elaborateness of offerings, and/or
  - C. Skeletal position, and/or
  - D. Burial orientation, and/or
  - E. Burial depth, and/or
  - F. "Gender objects" (e.g., metates/"female", arrow points/"male")

2). Do any patterns emerge? Is everyone being treated the same or do you see differences within an individual household unit? In your opinion, is there "ranking"?

3). Compare and contrast the two households. Are there any significant similarities or differences in the quantity, quality, and types of burial offerings? If so, do you think those differences are due to social rank, or perhaps due to differences in the occupations of the members of the two houses?

REQUIREMENT:

Write up your analysis, observations, and reasoning (two or four pages).

**** REMEMBER, THERE IS NO "CORRECT" ANSWER.

**** Please feel free to consult with Prof. Grove, or with other students in the class, or the deparment (e.g., Mesoamerican grad students Ivan Batun, Uli Crisman, David Haskell, or Chikaomi Takahashi) to help you work on the analysis.

***DUE TUESDAY, FEB. 24 IN CLASS (or by e-mail to Prof. Grove by Sunday, Feb. 22). Because we'll talk about your results on that Tuesday night, no late papers will be accepted.***
Burial 82 [NOTE: Burials 82, 83, 84 and 85 found together]

French José León, 5th enlargement

Only leg bones found.

Depth: 1.00 meter

Offering:

1. Black

2. Fragment of a metate

3. Obsidian blade

4. Fragment of stone, probably mano.

5. Brown neck broken

6. Traces of red and yellow

Burial 83

French José León, 5th enlargement.

Skeleton on left side, legs flexed.

Depth: 1.23 meters

Offering:

1. Rim treatment

2. Plain bowl (no sketch)

3. [diagram]

Burial 84

French José León, 5th enlargement

Incomplete skeleton, only pelvis, girdle and lower limbs, flexed.

Depth: 1.40 meters

No offerings.
Burial 85
French José León, 3rd enlargement
Skeleton extended on right side
Depth 1.80 meters
Offerings:
1. obsidian point
2. fragmented jar
3. yellowish slip with red traces
4. potsherd

Burial 86
French José León, 3 and 4th enlargements
Skeleton extended on abdomen
Depth 0.75 meters
Offerings:
1. black ware
2. black ware, red traces

[NOTE: Burials 86-87 found as a group.]

Burial 87
French José León
Skeleton extended on back. Located directly beneath Burial 86 in opposite direction.
Depth: 0.97 meters
Offerings:
1. plain olla
2. Di figurine head
3. Di figurine
4. Di figurine body
5. potsherd
Burial 88
French Jose Leon
Skeleton extended on abdomen
Depth: 1.47 meters
Offering:
1. [Diagram of a jar]
2. [Diagram of a bowl]

Burial 89
French Jose Leon, 34 yrs, enlargement
Skeleton extended on abdomen
Depth: 1.36 meters
Offering:
1. [Diagram of a small jar]
2. [Diagram of a large bowl with red interior]
3. [Diagram of a small jar in red]
4. [Diagram of a small jar with geometric decoration]
5. mano
6. Brown
7. Stamp, clay cylindrical
8. [Diagram of a rectangular object]
9. [Diagram of a rectangular outline]
10. red on buff outlined by incising

Burial 90
French Jose Leon
Skeleton extended on back; skull deformed
Depth: 1.47 meters
Offering:
1. [Diagram of a small jar]
2. [Diagram of a small jar in red]
3. obsidian point
4. red
5. flat figurine body
6. red on brown
7. black
8. red paint
9. reddish brown
10. [Diagram of a small jar in red]
11. [Diagram of a simple bottle]
(Estimated fragment of bone needle nearby)
Burial 91
French Jos León
Skeletal extended on back.
Depth: 1.49 meters
Offering:
1. Red
2. Red
3. Long neck of tall bottle (fragment)

Burial 92
French Jos León, 3rd enlargement
Skeletal extended on abdomen.
Depth: 1.84 meters
Offering:
1. Figure with pendant
2. Fragment of basinet
3. Red
4. Groove
5.

Burial 93
French Jos León
Skeletal extended on back; no lower limbs.
Depth: 1.85 meters
Offering:
1. Bone bead
2. Traces red paint

Burial 94
French Jos León
Skeletal extended on left side.
Depth: 1.97 meters
Offering:
1. and 2. Bone beads
3. Black
4. Flat rectangular stone
5. Obsidian?
Burial 95
French José León
Secondary burial
Depth: 1.83 meters
Offering:
1. red on yellow
2. red on yellow
3. obsidian point

Burial 96
French José León
Skeletal extended on back
Depth: 2.01 meters
Offering:
1. red-on-brown
2. stone fragment
3. traces of yellow paint
4. red

Burial 97
French José León
Found beneath Burials 88 and 90
Skeletal extended on back
Depth: 1.93 meters
Offering:
1. necklace of 13 bone beads
2. small, irregular vessel with 2 suspension holes
3. traces of red paint

Burial 98
French José León, 6th enlargement
Skeletal extended on abdomen
Depth: 0.87 meters
No offering
Burial 99
French Jose Leon, 5th enlargement
Skeleton on left side, legs flexed.
Depth: 1.23 meters
No offerings.

Burial 100
French Jose Leon, 6th enlargement
Skeleton extended on abdomen.
Depth: 0.85 meters
No offerings.

Burial 101
French Jose Leon, 6th enlargement
Skeleton extended on back, legs flexed.
Depth: 1.45 meters
No offerings.

Burial 102
French A
Skeleton extended on abdomen.
Depth: 0.65 meters
Offerings:
1. Fragmented red paint in grooves.
2. Good polish.

Large hollow cylindrical real, said to be associated with graves 100-101.
Burial 116
French Francisco Vasquez, 6th enlargement
Depth 0.90 meters
Offerings:
1. stone tool for pounding
2. red

Burial 117
Found between enlargements 5 and 6 of French Francisco Vasquez.
Depth 1.00 meter
Offerings:
1. red
2. reddish
3. red
4. 2 fragments 2 boxes

Burial 118
First extension, west wall, 5th and 6th enlargement of French Francisco Vasquez.
Depth 0.80 meters
Offerings:
1. oboloe
2. small miniature vessel, red rim

NOTE:
Isolated fragments nearby:
1. fragment of clay whistle
2. fragment of cylindrical stamp
3. figureine headdress
4. Di figureine head
Burial 119
Trenell Francisco Vasquez, 6th enlargement
Depth 1.43 meters
Offering:

1. white slip
2. red
3. white
4. clay rattle
5. ball?
6. hollow figurine
7. clay whistle
8. 2 shell fragments
9. 6 fragments of deer antler
10. D3 hollow figurine
11. xipe clay mask
12. 13.
14.
15.
16. whistle

(Top view)

Burial 120
Trenell Francisco Vasquez, 6th enlargement (12th trench, west wall)
Depth 1.50 meters
Offering:

1. clay rattle
2. shell with perforations

Burial 121
Trenell Moyano
Depth 0.75 meters
Offering:

1. stone pendant (green) in form of tusk
2. fragment of flat-bottom vessel
3. hollow figurine (complete)
4. plain semi-spherical bowl
5. figurine head (unclassified)
6. small olla

2. fragmented

Toned red on brown
Burial 122

Trunc Moyan

Burial found at 1.90 meter depth.

Cubo II-E4 offering found above feet - 1.29 meter depth
Cubo II-E5 offering above head at 1.02 meter depth.

Offering with skeleton:

1. Red, outlined by grooves on brown.

2. Fragment of large olla
3. Plain black crude bowl

5. Polished black eyes were filled with red paint

Offering above head (Cubo II-E5)

1. Black bottle, deep incised design containing red paint.

Offering above feet (Cubo II-E4) (no sketch)

1. Incised flat-bottom bowl
2. Plain bowl
3. Bottle with spiral decoration
Burial 123

Jurew Moyano

Depth 0.78 - 1.94 meters

Burial had 4 objects directly associated with it (depth 1.85 meters).

In addition 4 large groups of objects were found, considered as part of Burial 123 but at different depths. These were designated as follows:

nucleus I (depth ?) objects #5 - 58
nucleus II (depth 1.21 meters) objects #59 - 60
nucleus III (depth 1.85 meters) objects #61 - 83
nucleus IV (depth 1.31 meters) objects #84 - 107

Offering with skeleton:

1. plain black
2. incised black-brown pot
3. miniature bowl
4. dish, figures
5. polished red rattle
6. polished red rattle
7. fragment of bowl (red interior)
8. black polished and engraved rattle
9. yellow figure
10. yellow figure
11. yellow figure
12. yellow figure
13. yellow figure
14. fragment of figure
15. yellow figure
16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 - 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48.
Burial 123 (cont.)

Nucleus I (cont.)

46. - D1 figurines
47. - Small red teetote, pair suspended by kns.
48-49 D1 figurines
50. [Diagram of orange-slippered vessel]
51-57 D1 figurines
58. - Figurine leg

Nucleus II

59. - [Diagram of red vessel]

Nucleus III

60-69 D1 figurines
70. - [Diagram of red vessel]
71-73 D1 figurines
74. - Black bowl, incised
75. -
76. - [Diagram of vessel with incised lines and red paint]
77. - [Diagram of red vessel]

60. - ball rattle, engraved.

78. - Figurine, female
79. - D1 figurine
80. - Male figurine (called shaman) with hat, and beard.
81-83 D1 figurines.
Burial 123 (cont.)

Nucleus IV

84-88  D1  figurines
89  D1  figurine, dancer
90-92  D1  figurines
93  D2  figurine
94-98  D1  figurines
99  D2  figurine
100-102  D1  figurines
103. buff bowl with engraved lines
104. red olla

105. bowl with beveled rim
106. clay bird whistlet
107. red olla

NOTE: Sherds recovered from earth overlying Burial 123 included the following:

- red
- brown
- sherds of stirrup-spouted vessel
- fragments of red on brown pottery
- fragments of red olla
- red, black, red
- fragments, j. zoned red outlined by incising, incised bird wing handles
Burial 124
French Francisco Vasquez, 5th enlargement
Depth 0.70 meters
Offering:

Note: isolated objects nearly at 1.37 meter depth:
(No sketches)
1. small bottle
2. bird whistle
3. olla with flat base
4. globular olla

Burial 125
French Francisco Vasquez, 5th enlargement
Depth 1.56 meters
Offering:

Burial 126
French Francisco Vasquez, 6th enlargement, 1st extension & west wall.
Depth 1.44 meters
Offering:

1. ceramic jar
   yellow paint
2. D1 figurine
3. clay object?
4. clay figurine
   male, with macebše
5. D1 figurine
6. clay figurine
7. shell
8. clay head
9. D1 figurine
10. red, crude incisions
11. red traces
12. sherds of a large vessel
13. brown clay mask
Note:
Near Burial 126 but not directly associated with it, were the following objects -
- Oval bowl
- Reddish clay figurine
- Small figurine
- Also a dog skull.

Burial 127.
Trench Francisco Vasquez, enlargement 5-6, 1st extension of west wall.
Depth 0.67 meters
Disturbed, originally extended on back.
Offering:
1. Clay stamp?

Burial 128.
Trench Francisco Vasquez, 5-6 enlargement, extension 1, west.
Depth 0.70 meters
Skeleton on right side, legs flexed.
Offering:
1. Plain brown ware.
2. Incised decorative (rot rocker-stamped)
3. Two clay rattles and small stones found inside.

Note: Two vessels found between Burials 127-128.
Burial 129.

French Francisco Vasquez, Enlargement 5-6, Extension 1, west.
Depth: 1.38 meters. - Skeleton extended on back.

Offerings:
1. potsherd of vessel - (plain brown ware)
2. figurine D1, ball player
3. fragment of stone mano
4. engraved lines
   buff colored
5. fragment of stone tool - (to pound)
6. [Image of a vessel] white slip on reddish clay.
   Traces of red and yellow paint.

Burial 130.

French Francisco Vasquez, Enlargement 5-6, Extension 1, west.
Depth 1.29 meters. - Disturbed to bury Grave 129.

Offerings:
1. [Image of a vessel]
2. figurine D1.