Anthropology 8: Introduction to Archaeology
Winter Quarter 2005
Dr. P. Jeffrey Brantingham

Guided Research Paper due on February 2, 2005

ASSIGNMENT: For this paper, you will read one assigned article and then write a short paper comparing the assigned article with a different article that you find using ISI Web of Science.

Choose one of the five topics below. Read the assigned article (available as a link on the class web page at http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/05W/anthro8-1), and then find an article on a related topic using ISI Web of Science (http://isi3.isiknowledge.com/portal.cgi/wos). Write a paper that compares the information in the provided article with the information from the article that you found. You MUST also answer the additional questions for each topic. You need only use the article that is provided and the article that you found; we do not expect you to include information from other sources, though such information may help you to further understand the issues discussed in each paper. Remember also that the article that you find MUST be about archaeology. You MUST also attach to the back of your paper a printout of the screen from ISI Web of Science containing the paper that you are using for comparison.

FINDING AN ARTICLE FOR COMPARISON: There are several ways in which you might find an article for comparison with the paper you choose. It is important that you find a paper that has been formally published in a scientifically accepted venue. To assist you in finding an appropriate article we require that you use the electronic resource ISI Web of Science (http://isi3.isiknowledge.com/portal.cgi/wos), which allows you to search for different articles that cite the article you have been assigned, or to use keyword searches on topics similar to the article that you have been assigned. Discussion sections during WEEK 3 will be held in the College Library, where you will receive training on how to use ISI Web of Science.

GROUND RULES: The paper that you write must be typed/word-processed, 4-5 pages in length and double spaced. The margins should be 1” on top, bottom and along both sides. You should use a standard font such as Courier, Times Roman, Ariel of Helvetica and the font must be 10-12 point size. Please do not use a fancy folder. A staple in the upper left corner is sufficient. References in the text must be in the form of parentheses with the author, year and page number and should be placed at the end of the sentence (see examples below).

GRADING PROCEDURES: Papers will be grading on the quality of the research and the quality of the presentation. Papers must be exclusively your own work, must not contain any copied information without credit to the original author, and must not be done in collaboration with another person. Words that are not your own must be enclosed in quotation marks and the author must be identified (both in the text and in the bibliography). If you unsure about how attribute quotations, please ask. You are always welcome to turn in a rough draft to your TA or instructor for comments.
References should be in the following format (see additional examples in Feder [2004:577-601]).

**For an article from an academic journal:**


**For a chapter in a book:**


**EXAMPLES:** The following are examples of the types of statements you might make in your paper and how they should be credited:

1. Many excavations of Bronze-Age sites in Europe have produced cemeteries that show people of different rank demonstrated by different types of grave goods. [Here there is no citation needed since this is information that you would find in a number of places and is not an opinion or conclusion of one author].

2. Sites of the Neolithic period in China also include those of the Yang Shao culture, as seen at sites such as Banpo where the inhabitants planted and harvested, rice, millet and cabbage (Feder 2004:360). [Here the citation lets the reader know that the information has been complied by a specific person in a specific way; the citation gives credit to the author for his hard work and also points the reader towards the location of additional information if it is needed. The page number is used even though this is not a direct quote because the reader locate the information in a particular place within a large work].

3. The Great Wall, just like other monuments such as Stonehenge and the ancient pyramids of Egypt, may be “merely the incidental effects of the evolution of complex social, political and economic structures” (Feder 2004:397). [Here you make use of the author’s eloquence and credit his words directly with quotation marks and a page number with the reference].
TOPICS: There are five (5) topics to choose from. You only need to choose one topic to work with. All of the papers are available as links on the class web page.

**Topic 1: Geology and Archaeological Site Formation.**


Assignment: Read this article and then find another article in which the archaeologists are attempting to figure out how geological processes contributed to the formation of an archaeological site. Compare and contrast the two cases and answer the following questions: Why is it important to document the depositional context of an archaeological site? How many variables does it take to document depositional disturbance (e.g., rounding, winnowing of artifacts, etc.)? Why might different areas within a single site display different degrees of natural disturbance?

**Topic 2: Chemical Analysis in Archaeology.**


Assignment: Read this article and then find another article in which the archaeologists are attempting to use chemical analyses (hint: $^{13}$C/$^{12}$C or other elemental isotopes, food residues) to understand the diet of prehistoric human groups. Compare and contrast the two cases and answer the following questions: What were the chemical methods used? Can you predict some future applications of the chemical methods presented in both papers? What other archaeological evidence could be used to support the arguments based on chemical analyses?

**Topic 3: Dating Techniques.**


Assignment: Read this article and then find another article in which the archaeologists are attempting to use a dating technique to indirectly date an artifact or feature. Compare and contrast the two cases and answer the following questions: How accurate are the dating techniques used? What is the expected precision of the dating techniques? How would you attempt to directly date the artifacts of features in question?
**Topic 4: Modern Human Behavior.**


Assignment: Read this article and then find another article in which archaeologists are studying either ritual or symbolic behavior in modern humans. What methods were the researchers using to show that these prehistoric humans did (or did not) practice ritual behaviors? Are there alternative interpretations for the archaeological evidence? What can we learn about human social organization from the types of behaviors represented in the two papers?

**Topic 5: Experimental Archaeology.**


Assignment: Read this article and then find another article in which the archaeologists are attempting to use controlled experiments to understand the function of a prehistoric technology. Compare and contrast the two cases and answer the following questions: Why is it important to try and understand the function of the technologies? What variables did the archaeologists identify as important for understanding the (1) form (i.e., morphology) of the technologies and (2) the mode of use (i.e., function)? What experimental methods did the archaeologists use to control for these variables?