Anthropology 110P
Principles of Archaeology

An Introduction to Archaeological Method and Theory

UCLA Winter Quarter 2008

Instructor

- Dr. Jeff Brantingham
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Required Readings

   - NOTE: earlier editions of this textbook must not be substituted!
2. Readings posted on class website

Electronic Resources

- Course URL
  - http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/08W/anthro110p-1/

- Please email me any specific questions you have about the course or course material

- BUT IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO COME AND SEE ME IN PERSON
Two Midterm Exams

- First Midterm Exam
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2008 (in class)
  - 100 points; 50% of final grade
  - multiple choice questions

- Second Midterm Exam
  - Thursday, March 13, 2008 (in class)
  - 100 points; 50% of final grade
  - multiple choice questions

Optional Final Exam

- 3-6PM, March 19, 2008
- Format is multiple choice questions and is CUMULATIVE.
- If you take the final exam, your total grade will be calculated based on your two best scores

Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 - 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89.9-80</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>79.9 - 70</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69.9 - 60</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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I do not apply grading curves

Important Policies

- LECTURES AND READINGS ARE COMPLIMENTARY!
- THIS IS A READING-INTENSIVE COURSE!
- INCOMPLETES WILL NOT BE GRANTED!
- NO MAKEUP EXAMS!
- CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!
definition of archaeology
The Twelve Questions
- What is left?
  - physical remains, formation processes
- Where?
  - survey, excavation
- When?
  - absolute and relative time, chronology, dating methods
- What was the environment?
  - environmental archaeology
- What did they eat?
  - subsistence, diet
- How did they make and use tools?
  - technology, typology
- How were societies organized?
  - social archaeology
- What contacts did they have?
  - trade, exchange, warfare
- What did they think?
  - cognitive archaeology
- Who were they and what were they like?
  - individual in prehistory
- Why did things change?
  - explanation in archaeology
- Who’s past?
  - archaeology and the public

group organization & schlepp effect
Tiwanaku: elites vs. commoners

600-800 AD—40,000 people

attached craft specialists

archaeology

- explanation of (past) human behavior using physical remains
the process of archaeology

1. discovery/recovery
2. analysis
3. reconstruction
4. explanation

middle-range theory Schiffer 1988

- What is left?
- How do we define the archaeological record?
- What are the basic units of data that comprise information about the past?
- Is the archaeological record a perfect reflection of the past?

Where? When?
- placing physical remains within a SPATIAL (Where?) and TEMPORAL (When?) framework

Where: spatial concerns addressed through
- SURVEY =
- EXCAVATION =

Chronology = the study of time
- Dating methods = the chemical, physical and geological techniques used to assign time to the archaeological record
- What was the environment?
  - specialized fields dedicated to studying physical remains of the environments in which humans lived and interacted
    - zooarchaeology... archaeobotany... bioarchaeology... sedimentology...geochemistry
  coleopterology palynology

- What did they eat?
  - diet = the specific foods that are consumed to acquire energy and nutrients
  - subsistence = the behaviors used to acquire, process and consume foods in the diet

- How did they make and use tools?
  - Technology = the “interface” between humans and the environment

- How were societies organized?
  - With whom did people interact?
  - How did they interact?
  - reconstruction of trade, exchange, warfare...
What did they think?
- prior to the development of writing technologies (99.9% of human evolutionary history) there is no DIRECT evidence of what people thought
- “cognitive archaeology” provides a way of focusing archaeological attention on the human mind

Who Owns the Past?
- Archaeologists used to think that they held exclusive rights to the past…
- Many countries have legislation to settle issues about who “owns” the past
  - e.g., Elgin Marbles, Egyptian Antiquities…
- The past belongs to everyone…
- But, just because there are many claims on the past does not mean that all claims/interpretations are true…
  - claims backed up by evidence carry greater weight

Readings for Weeks 1 & 2
- TODAY:
  - A&S Chapter 1
  - R1: Schiffer 1988 (on class website)
- Thursday:
  - A&S Chapter 2, 3
  - R2: Reid et al. (on class website)
- NEXT Tuesday:
  - A&S Chapter 4