

ANTH 7030-3 Seminar: Archaeology
Topic: Social Theory in Archaeology

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This seminar explores the application of social theory to archaeology including poststructuralist theories of practice, agency, identity (esp. gender and ethnicity), power, resistance, materiality, ideology, memory, space, and political economy. We will begin the course by tracing the roots of contemporary debates in social theory to the works of several key 19th and early 20th century theorists, especially Marx, Weber and Durkheim. We will then address contemporary approaches and debates in social archaeology by considering both primary works of social theorists who have become important in archaeological approaches to the past (e.g., Bourdieu, Giddens, Foucault, Scott, Butler, Latour, Connerton, Appadurai) as well as by examining the ways in which contemporary archaeologists apply and adapt the ideas of these theorists. Archaeological case studies will be taken from both the New and Old World as well as from small scale, intermediate, and complex societies. A major theme in the course will be to examine how archaeologists are moving away from structuralist social theories and towards a more dynamic view of social process that recognizes social difference and the lives of people -- rich and poor, men and women, urban and rural...the archaeology of social life.

The course meets Thursday from 5:00-7:30pm in Hale 455. I will hold office hours in Hale 156 on Tuesday from 3:15-5:00 pm and Wednesday from 12:00-1:00 pm, or by appointment. My office phone number is 303-735-3055.

There are four required texts for the course, which have been ordered through the CU bookstore:

Hodder, I. and S. Hutson. 2003. *Reading the Past*, 3rd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Foucault, M. 1977. *Discipline and Punish*. New York: Vintage.

Sahlins, M. 1981. *Historical Metaphors and Mythical Realities*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Latour, B. 2005. *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings (listed below) are available on e-reserve.

Course Requirements: Each student will be evaluated based on two criteria: participation in class discussions and completion of a term project. Term projects will focus on a key concept or problem in social archaeology; for example: agency, archaeology of everyday life, structures of the long term, memory, materiality, object agency, ideology, embodiment, identity, gender, resistance, space/place, biography of objects/places, etc. Topics for term projects must be submitted to me by 9/17; please feel free to discuss your topic with me. The project will consist of four parts: (1) Review the history of theoretical treatments of the concept in archaeology. (2) Summarize the concept as used in contemporary social theory. Be sure to explain the concept as part of a more general body of theory (e.g., practice theory, theories of power). (3) Discuss recent approaches to the concept in archaeological theory and how they are informed by broader social theories. (4) As a case study, discuss how

contemporary theoretical perspectives could be used to address a problem in the archaeological record of your region of interest. You will make two 15 minute presentations of your project to the class (each 10% of the final grade). The first will discuss the history of the treatment of the concept in archaeology and social theory (parts 1-3, above) and the second will present the case study (part 4, above). Each presentation should be accompanied by a brief (2-3 page) summary of your findings for distribution to the class. You will also write a term paper based on the project (40% of final grade). Since this is a seminar, it is crucial to be prepared for discussing the readings each week. Ongoing class participation will account for 40% of the final grade.

The following is the schedule of topics and readings for class discussion (the course texts are abbreviated as follows: H&H=Hodder & Hutson, L=Latour, F=Foucault, S=Sahlins):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
8/27	Introduction
9/3	The foundations of social theory: Marx, Weber, Durkheim (Layton 1997:1-26; Mcgee and Warms 2008:69-72; Erickson 1998:108-112; Weber 1978:926-948; Farganis 2004:55-64, 73-81; Tucker 1978:136-145, 172-175, 594-617)
9/10	Poststructuralism, practice, and agency I (Ortner 1984; Giddens 1979:49-95; Bourdieu 1977:72-95; S:1-84)
9/17	Poststructuralism, practice, and agency II (Ortner 1996; 2006:1-18; 129-153; Sewell 1992; Joyce 2010:17-34; H&H:1-44); term paper topics due
9/24	Agency in archaeology (H&H:90-105; Dobres and Robb 2000; Gero 2000; Gillespie 2001; Houston and McAnany 2003; Hodder 2000; Joyce and Lopiparo 2005; F:3-69)
10/1	The archaeology of everyday life (F:73-131; Yaeger 2003; Sinclair 2000; Joyce and Henderson 2007; Atalay and Hastorf 2006)
10/8	Identity and Subjectivity (Brumfiel 1992; H&H:45-74; Bruck 2004; Voss 2005; Lele 2006; Lopiparo 2006; F:135-169)
10/15	Gender and Embodiment (H&H:106-124; Stockett and Geller 2006; Fisher and Lauren 2003; Joyce 2006; Geller 2008; Bachand et al. 2003; Nakamura and Meskell 2009; Knapp 1988; Robin 2006; F:170-194)
10/22	Ideology and Power (H&H:75-89; Giddens 1979:182-197; Bourdieu 1977:159-171; Munch 1994:17-34; Brumfiel 1998; F:195-228)
10/29	Negotiation and Resistance (Scott 1990:45-107; Joyce and Weller 2007; Spielmann et al. 2006; Thomas 1998; Stockett 2007; Barber and Joyce 2007)
11/5	Ritual and Political Economy (L:1-86; Wells 2006; Watanabe 2007; Mills 2004)
11/12	Actor-Network-Theory (L:87-262)
11/19	Materiality and Memory (H&H:156-205; Connerton 1989:72-105; Martin 2005; Zedeño 2008; Mills and Ferguson 2008; Kuijt 2008; Van Dyke 2009)
12/3	The Life History of Objects and Places (Appadurai 1986; Ashmore 2002; Joyce et al. 2009; Barrett 1999; Magnoni et al. 2008; Lillios 1999)
12/10	History, transformation, and the <i>longue dureé</i> (H&H:125-155, 206-247; Sewell 2005:197-224; Beck et al. 2007; Hamann 2002)

COURSE READINGS

- Layton, R. 1997. *An Introduction to Theory in Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Erickson, P. A. 1998. *A History of Anthropological Theory*. Peterborough: Broadview Press.
- Weber, M. 1978. *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Farganis, J. 2004. *Readings in Social Theory*. Boston: McGraw Hill.
- Tucker, R. C. (editor). 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. New York: W. W. Norton.
- Ortner, S. B. 1984. Theory in anthropology since the sixties. In *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26(1):126-166.
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- Bourdieu, P. 1977. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ortner, Sherry B. 1996. Making Gender: Toward a Feminist, Minority, Postcolonial, Subaltern, etc., Theory of Practice, in *Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture*, Boston: Beacon Press.
- Ortner, S. B. 2006. *Anthropology and Social Theory: Culture, Power, and the Acting Subject*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Sewell, William. 1992. A theory of structure: Duality, agency, and transformation. *American Journal of Sociology* 98(1): 1-29.
- Joyce, A. 2010. *Mixtecs, Zapotecs, and Chatinos: Ancient Peoples of Southern Mexico*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, in press.
- Dobres, M. and J.E. Robb. 2000. Agency in archaeology: Paradigm or platitude. In *Agency in Archaeology*. Edited by M. Dobres and J.E. Robb, pp.3-17. London: Routledge.
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- Houston, S. D. and P. A. McAnany. 2003. Bodies and blood: Critiquing social construction in Maya archaeology. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 22:26-421.
- Hodder, I. 2000. Agency and individuals in long-term processes. In *Agency in Archaeology*. Edited by M. Dobres and J.E. Robb, pp.21-33. London: Routledge.
- Joyce, Rosemary and Jeanne Lopiparo. 2005. Postscript: Doing agency in archaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 12(4):365-374.
- Yaeger, J. 2003. Untangling the Ties that Bind: The City, the Countryside, and the Nature of Maya Urbanism at Xunantunich, Belize. In *The Social Construction of Ancient Cities*, edited by Monica L. Smith, pp. 121-155. Smithsonian Books, Washington and London.
- Sinclair, A. 2000. Constellations of knowledge: Human agency and material affordance in lithic technology. In *Agency in Archaeology*. Edited by M. Dobres and J. Robb, pp.196-212. London: Routledge.
- Joyce, R. A. and J. S. Henderson. 2007. From feasting to cuisine: Implications of archaeological research in an early Honduran village. *American Anthropologist*

- 109(4):642-653.
- Atalay, S. and C. A. Hastorf. 2006. Food, meals, and daily activities: Food habitus at Neolithic Catalhoyuk. *American Antiquity* 71(2):283-319.
- Brumfiel, E. M. 1992. Distinguished lecture in archaeology: Breaking and entering the Ecosystem--gender, class, and faction steal the show. *American Anthropologist* 94:551-567).
- Bruck, J. 2004. Material metaphors: The relational construction of identity in Early Bronze Age burials in Ireland and Britain. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 4(3):307-333.
- Voss, B. L. 2005. From Casta to Californio: Social identity and the archaeology of culture contact. *American Anthropologist* 107(3):461-474.
- Lele, V. P. 2006. Material habits, identity, semiotic. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 6(1): 48-70.
- Lopiparo, J. 2006. Crafting children: Materiality, social memory, and the reproduction of Terminal Classic house societies in the Ulúa Valley Honduras. In *The Social Experience of Childhood in Ancient Mesoamerica*, edited by T. Ardren and S. R. Hutson, pp. 133-168.
- Stockett, M. K. and P. L. Geller. 2006. Introduction: Feminist Anthropology: Perspectives on our past, present and future. In *Feminist Anthropology: Past, Present, and Future*, edited by P. L. Geller and M. K. Stockett, pp. 1-20. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
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- Barber, S. B. and A. A. Joyce 2007. Polity produced and community consumed: Negotiating political centralization through ritual in the lower Río Verde Valley, Oaxaca. In *Mesoamerican Ritual Economy: Archaeological and Ethnological Perspectives*, edited by E. C. Wells and K. L. Davis-Salazar, pp. 221-244. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.
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