HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY I

PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the basic concepts, field techniques, laboratory methods, and research skills used in historical archaeology. This course emphasizes studies from the American Southwest, with limited case studies from outside the region. The goal of the course is to define what historical archaeology entails, prepare the student to recognize various historic sites and artifacts, and to understand how to conduct initial documentation of historic resources.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course consists of 30 classroom hours that include lecture, discussion, and analyses of documents and historic artifact types. At least 10 hours of field/laboratory work include a WWW online exercise, archival retrieval, and an archival project described below.

TEXT

Historical Archaeology (1995), by Charles E. Orser, Jr. and Brian M. Fagan, plus supplemental readings as assigned.

OBJECTIVES

At the completion of the course, the student should be able to;

1. Understand the relationships between historical archaeology, prehistoric archaeology, history, and anthropology, and between historical data and archaeological data.

2. Explain the development of historical archaeology in North America.

3. List some of the methodological and theoretical differences between historical and prehistoric archaeology, especially in the use of historic documentation and records.

4. Display the ability to conduct initial historical archaeological research, with emphasis on documenting sites from extant literature and original records.

5. Understand the use of photography, mapping, and architectural profiling in historical archaeology, and their importance in data collection and documentation.

6. Understand approaches to the major historic artifact groups, and where to find source information about each artifact type.
OBJECTIVES (continued)

7. Display the ability to integrate various sources of historical data (including architecture, artifacts, historic photographs, papers, and records) to interpret a historic site.

8. Demonstrate the ability to undertake basic background and documentary research, including records research, title search, background literature search, and government documents.

ARCHIVAL PROJECT

Requires research in a local or state archive, using documents and/or photographs to gather information about a collection of at least five different historical artifacts (they may be the same artifact type). The paper should demonstrate how the documentary information is relevant to describing and interpreting the artifacts. The results must be reported in a written paper between 10 and 20 pages in length and include endnotes referencing the source materials. Other projects combining historical records, properties and/or artifacts will be considered.

COURSE OUTLINE

A. Introduction
   1. What is Historical Archaeology?
      a. Definition, why do it?
      b. What is history?
      c. History and Prehistory
      d. Careers in Historical Archaeology
   2. A Brief History of Historical Archaeology
      a. In North America
      b. In the Southwest
      c. A world perspective

Readings: Orser and Fagan(1995), Chapters 1, 2, pp. 1-44; Society for Historical Archaeology Brochure; Ayres(1991).

B. Theory and Research
   1. Theory in Historical Archaeology
      a. Historical supplementation, reconstruction of past lifeways, processual studies, archaeological science, cognitive studies.
      b. Historical challenge, historical ethnography, testing ground for prehistoric principals, questions of method, archaeology of capitalism, cross-cultural research, production/consumption/industrialism, ideology and power.
   2. General Research Issues in Historical Archaeology
      a. Need for a regional approach with the example of historical archaeology in the Intermountain West.
      b. Interconnectedness of gender, race, class, ethnicity: "those of little note"

C. Archaeological Sites and the National Register

1. Historic properties
   a. Region, district, neighborhood, block, lot, structure, objects
   b. Site types: habitation, industrial, commercial, military, agricultural, religious, transportation, underwater, special purpose, multipurpose, burial.
   c. Mining landscapes and feature systems: extraction, beneficiation, refining.

2. National Register of Historic Places
   a. Evaluate property to determine category, historic context, and significance.
   b. Four criteria with examples: events, persons, architecture, information.
   c. SHPO Historic context studies for Arizona


D. Research Techniques: Background Research and Historical Documents

1. Published documents: Books and articles, memoirs, genealogies, travel accounts, biographies, edited letters, speeches, theses and dissertations, newspapers, government documents, ephemera, commercial histories, directories, maps.
2. Unpublished documents: Archives and manuscript collections, census records, Federal records, local records, interviews.
3. Primary and secondary sources
4. Architectural Field Works
   a. Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)
   b. Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)
5. Evaluation of source: When was it created, is it a primary source, was the person neutral, what was the intended use, was it to inform or persuade, is it a replica of an earlier document?


E. Research Techniques: Survey, Mapping, Architectural Inventories

1. Finding historic sites
   b. Archaeological survey and sampling
2. Subsurface surveying and remote sensing: Use of aerial photography, metal detectors, proton magnetometers, soil resistivity surveys, ground penetrating radar, sonar, soil phosphate analysis, dowsing.

E. Research Techniques: Survey, Mapping, Architectural Inventories

(continued)

WWW online exercise: View a website with historical records or one about an historical archaeology project, present a 5 minute summary of your online experience in class.

F. Research Techniques: Excavation and Laboratory Processing

1. Process: Research design, implementation, fieldwork, analysis, interpretation, publication

2. Excavation
   a. Record data in the context of time and space
   b. Methods
   c. Tools
   d. Field recording
   e. Excavating privies: construction, use, maintenance, abandonment processes, and methods for separating individual deposits

3. Conservation

4. Laboratory processing
   a. Organize data into manageable units
   b. Describe types
   c. Create a hierarchy that orders the relationships between artifacts
   d. Study artifact variability


G. Artifact Analysis: Bottles, glass and ceramics

1. Artifacts as:
   a. Historical documents
   b. Commodities
   c. Ideas

2. Sources of information: Trade catalogues, patent records, company histories, others

3. Bottles, Glass
   a. Nomenclature
   b. Technological attributes
   c. Dating

4. Ceramics
   a. Earthen ware and porcelain types
   b. Decoration

H. Artifact Analyses Continued
1. Buttons
   a. Types
   b. Sizes
2. Cans
   a. Terminology
   b. Chronology
   c. History of beer cans
3. Nails
   a. Types
   b. Dating
4. Faunal materials
   a. Butchering techniques
   b. Meat consumption habits
5. Artifacts from an historical archaeology project: the Phoenix Chinatown Excavation.
   Readings: Rock(1984); Maxwell(1993); Szuter(1991); AAC Handouts on glass, ceramics, cans, buttons, milk cans, nails, cartridge case and shotshell base headstamps.

I. Interpreting Historic Sites
1. Archaeology of groups: class, race, gender, ethnicity revisited
2. Example of a study attempting to associate artifacts with class (consumer behavior)
3. Local historical archaeology: The excavation for the Phoenix Federal Courthouse
   a. Excavation methods
   b. Sanitation in Turn-of-the-Century Phoenix
   c. Health Care in Territorial Phoenix

J. Project Presentations and Discussion: Each student presents a 10 minute oral summary of their project in class. Hand in 10-20 page paper focused on five historic objects which have been analyzed and interpreted through historic documents and/or archival materials.
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