

# CAS AR 375/GRS AR775: ORAL HISTORY & WRITTEN RECORDS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Class meets TR 3:30–5 pm, CAS 226

Instructor: Prof. Mary Beaudry <[beaudry@bu.edu](mailto:beaudry@bu.edu)> Voicemail: 8-1650 Semester II, 2009–2010  
Rm. STO 345C, 675 Comm. Ave. Office Hrs.: TR 2–3 pm, W 3–4 pm, & by appt.

## Course Objectives

This course is designed to serve as a practical introduction to the use of archival and oral sources in text-aided archaeology. It involves a survey of the use of oral and documentary sources by archaeologists, giving attention to the type and scope of documents—defined in the broadest sense—available and to their critical analysis as a step in constructing what has been variously termed anthropological history, historical ethnography, or documentary archaeology. To this end we will explore recent developments in historical anthropology, mainstream archaeology, and the “new culture history” as well as the intersection of history, anthropology, and material culture studies in historical archaeology. A portion of the course will be devoted to the topic of ethnohistory and to recent developments in the use of oral history in the study of African-American and Native American cultures. We will end the course with critical readings and discussions about ways in which historical archaeologists have constructed alternative archaeological narratives.

## Texts (available for purchase at the Boston University Bookstore):

- 📖 Beaudry, Mary C., ed., 1988, *Documentary Archaeology in the New World* (New Directions in Archaeology). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Paperback edition 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0521449991
- 📖 Joyce, Rosemary A., 2002, *The Languages of Archaeology : Dialogue, Narrative and Writing* (Social Archaeology). Blackwell, Oxford. ISBN-13: 978-0631221791.
- 📖 Schrire, Carmel, 1996, *Digging Through Darkness: Chronicles of an Archaeologist*. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville. ISBN-13: 978-0813916927
- 📖 Wilkie, Laurie A., 2010, *The Lost Boys of Zeta Psi*. University of California Press, Berkeley. ISBN-13: 978-0520260603

Readings indicated on the syllabus by an asterisk (\*) will be available on the course web site and/or on reserve in the Stone Science Library, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 675 Commonwealth Avenue.

## Course Format and Requirements

The class will be conducted in a combined lecture/seminar format; a portion of class meetings will be devoted to discussion and in-class exercises in documentary analysis.

All students enrolled in the course are expected to design and carry out an original research project, in order to develop proficiency in documentary research and analysis or in the interpretation of information conveyed in informant interviews. This project will normally culminate in a final paper of from 10–15 pages in length for undergraduates, 20–25 pages in length for graduate students. Alternative formats for the final product are subject to the approval of the instructor. *Note that all paper topics must be approved by the instructor on or before*

February 18, 2010. Each **graduate** student enrolled in AR775 will be required to give a brief (ca. 15-minute) presentation on a book or other published work (see handout). In addition to the research paper, students will complete two exercises in documentary analysis, each assignment comprising 15% of the grade. Details on the exercises will be provided in separate handouts and posted to the course web site. For **undergraduate** students enrolled in AR375, there is also a final examination, cumulative in nature.

To summarize, grades for the course will be based upon the following: Undergraduates: class attendance and participation: 20%; 2 practical exercises: 15% each or 30% total; final paper: 25%; final examination, 25%. Graduate students: class attendance and participation: 20%; in-class presentation: 10%; 2 practical exercises: 15% each or 30% total; final paper: 40%.

All students are expected to attend all classes and to participate in class discussion.

### **Add/Drop Info:**

You should also be aware of CAS policy regarding adding, dropping, and withdrawing from classes; see <http://www.bu.edu/bulletins/und/item10.html>. Please take special note of the following: A standard course dropped during the first five weeks of classes will not appear on the student's permanent record. A standard course dropped after the first five weeks of classes will appear on the student's record as W, and the student will be charged for the course. Standard courses may be dropped up to the end of the 10th week of classes. After that point, no course may be dropped.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the University's policy about what constitutes plagiarism (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/undergraduate/conductcode.html>); please note that plagiarism or cheating will most decidedly have a negative effect on your grade and perhaps even your collegiate career.

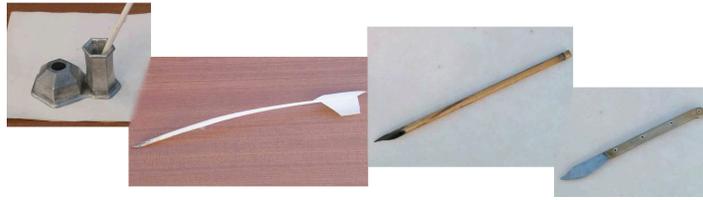
### **Course Web Site**

All class participants have access to the course materials through the course web site on Blackboard; here you will find course documents such as the syllabus, announcements about the course, copies of or access to course readings, links to WWW sites you will visit as part of your course assignments, and a communications center from which you can communicate with other members of the class. Here is where you will find copies of any reading assignments that are not in your textbooks for the course. I'll also be posting course announcements to the Web site. Please plan to visit the site regularly.

You can access the CAS AR375/GRS AR775 web site by clicking on the class number/name as posted in your schedule on the Student Link portion of the Boston University web pages, or you can point your browser to <http://blackboard.bu.edu>, then click on the link to the College of Arts and Sciences (there is one web site for both undergrads and graduate student sections of the course). You will be prompted to login; to do so, enter your BU login name (the portion of your email address that comes before the @). When prompted to enter a password, type in your regular password. Once you are "in" you can change your password and other details of your account, arrange to have your course email forwarded to another address, and so on. (If you've used the system before, it will have stored any changes you made to your personal details.) Follow the on-line instructions.

# Meeting Topics and Reading Assignments

## Part I: Documents and the Archaeologist



### Jan 14 Introduction to the course

Course mechanics, &c.

### Jan 19 Types of documents: primary & secondary sources

*Documentary Archaeology*, Introduction

- \*Beaudry, Mary C., 1995. Introduction: Ethnography in Retrospect. In *The Written and the Wrought: Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 1–16. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.
- \*Little, Barbara J. Text-Aided Archaeology. In *Text-Aided Archaeology*, ed. by Barbara J. Little, pp. 1–6. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.
- \*Schuyler, Robert L. 1978. The Spoken Word, the Written Word, Observed Behavior, and Preserved Behavior: The Contexts Available to the Archaeologist. In *Historical Archaeology: A Guide to Substantive and Theoretical Contributions*, ed. by Robert L. Schuyler, 267–277. Baywood Press, Farmingdale, NY.
- \*Hunt, Lynn. 1989. Introduction: History, Culture, Text. In *The New Cultural History*, ed. by Lynn Hunt, pp. 1–24. University of California Press, Berkeley.

### Jan 21 Blurred genres, open frontiers: historical anthropology & archaeology

- \*Comaroff, John, and Jean Comaroff. 1992. *Ethnography and the Historical Imagination*, Chapter 1. Westview Press, Boulder, CO.
- \*Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko. 1990. Introduction: The Historicization of Anthropology. In *Culture Through Time: Anthropological Approaches*, ed. by Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, pp. 1–25. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.

### Jan 26 Writing historical archaeology

- \*Joyce, Rosemary, 2006. Writing Historical Archaeology. In *The Cambridge Companion to Historical Archaeology*, ed. by D. Hicks and M. C. Beaudry. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- \*Wilkie, Laurie, 2006. Documentary Archaeology. . In *The Cambridge Companion to Historical Archaeology*, ed. by D. Hicks and M. C. Beaudry. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.



## Jan 28 Paleography & terminology

- \*Handouts (will be posted on course web site in advance of class meeting)
- \*Goody, Jack, *The Interface Between the Written and the Oral*, Chapters 1–2. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1987.

## Feb 2 Understanding the impact of literacy

- \*Goody, Jack. Chapters 5 and 6 in *The Domestication of the Savage Mind*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- \*Lockridge, Kenneth. 1974. *Literacy in Colonial New England*, pp. 3–27.
- \*St. George, Robert B. 1984. "Heated Speech" and Literacy in Seventeenth-Century New England. In *Seventeenth-Century New England*, ed. by David D. Hall and David G. Allen, pp. 275–309.

### Discussion/Group Exercise: Reading 17<sup>th</sup>-century handwriting

## Feb 4 Probate inventories

- Documentary Archaeology*, Chapters 4–8, 13.
- \*Main, Gloria. 1975. Probate Records as a Source for Early American History. *The William and Mary Quarterly* 32: 89–99.
- \*Carr, Lois Green, and Lorena S. Walsh. 1980. Inventories and the Analysis of Wealth and Consumption Patterns in St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1658–1777. *Historical Methods* 13(2): 81–104.
- \*Smith, Daniel Scott. 1975. Underregistration and Bias in Probate Records. *The William and Mary Quarterly* 32: 100–110.

## Feb 9 Discussion/Group Exercise: deconstructing a probate inventory

- \*Shackel, Paul A. Probate Inventories in Historical Archaeology: A Review and Alternatives. In *Text-Aided Archaeology*, ed. by Barbara J. Little, pp. 205–215. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.
- \*Deetz, James, and Patricia Scott Deetz, "A Few Things Needful": Houses and Furnishings. Chapter 5 (pp. 171–210) in *The Days of Their Lives: Life, Love, and Death in Plymouth Colony*. W. H. Freeman, New York, 2000.
- \*Bedell, John. 2000. Archaeology and Probate Inventories in the Study of 18th-Century Life. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 31(2): 223–245.

## Feb 11 Who owned this land? Deeds, plats, surveys, maps

Guest lecturer: Prof. Claire Dempsey, Director, Preservation Studies

*Documentary Archaeology*, Chapter 12

\*Candee, Richard M. Land Surveys of William and John Godsoe of Kittery, Maine: 1689–1769. In *New England Prospect: Maps, Place Names, and the Historical Landscape*, ed. by Peter Benes, pp. 9–46. Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife Annual Proceedings 1980. Boston University Scholarly Publications, Boston.

## **Feb 18 Representing land & landscape: atlases, paintings, maps, &c.**

*Documentary Archaeology*, Chapter 9

\*Winer, Margo, 1995. The Painted, Poetic Landscape: Reading Power in Nineteenth-Century Textual and Visual Representations of the Eastern Cape Frontier. In *The Written and the Wrought: Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, , E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 74–109. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

\*Bragdon, Kathleen, 1995. The Shamanistic “Text” in Southern New England. In *The Written and the Wrought: Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, , E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 165–176. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

## **Feb. 23 Personal papers, diaries, letters, and account books**

*Documentary Archaeology*, Chapters 3, 14.

\*Baxter, W. T. Accounting in Colonial America.

\*Beaudry, Mary C., 1998, Farm Journal: First Person, Four Voices. *Historical Archaeology* 32(1): 20–33.

\*Scott, Elizabeth M.. "A Little Gravy in the Dish and Onions in a Tea Cup": What Cookbooks Reveal About Material Culture. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 1(2): 131–156, 1997.

\*Ditz, Toby L. Secret Selves, Credible Personas: The Problematics of Trust and Public Display in the Writing of Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia Merchants. In *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America*, ed. by Robert B. St. George, pp. 219–242. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2000.

## **Feb 25 Court records**

\*Deetz, James, and Patricia Scott Deetz, "In an Uncivil Manner": Sex-Related Crimes, Violence, and Death. Chapter 4 (pp. 131–170) in *The Days of Their Lives: Life, Love, and Death in Plymouth Colony*. W. H. Freeman, New York, 2000.

\*St. George, Robert B., Massacred Language; Courtroom Performance in Eighteenth-Century Boston. In *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America*, ed. by Robert B. St. George, pp. 327–356. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2000.

## **Mar 2 Business, institutional, and military records**

*Documentary Archaeology*, Chapters 10, 15.

\*Bell, Alison, 1995. Widows, “Free Sisters,” and “Independent Girls”: Historic Models and an Archaeology of Post-Medieval English Gender Systems. In *The Written and the Wrought: Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, , E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 17–32. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

\*Casella, Eleanor Conlin, 1995. “A Woman Doesn’t Represent Business Here”: Negotiating Femininity in Nineteenth-Century Colonial Australia. In *The Written and the Wrought*:

*Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 33–43. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

\*Potter, Parker B., Jr. Middle-Range Theory, Ceramics, and Capitalism in 19th-Century Rockbridge County, Virginia. In *Text-Aided Archaeology*, ed. by Barbara J. Little, pp. 9–23. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.

\*Mullins, Paul R. Defining the Boundaries of Change: The Records of an Industrializing Potter. In *Text-Aided Archaeology*, ed. by Barbara J. Little, pp. 179–193. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.

#### **Mar 4 Newspapers, tax & census records**

*Documentary Archaeology*, Chapters 16, 17

\*Hitchcock, Richard, 1995. Lead Type and Printer's Devils: Newspapers in Nineteenth-Century California. In *The Written and the Wrought: Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, , E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 189–194. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

\*Brooks, Allyson, 1995. The Impact of the Media on the Formation of the Cultural Landscape of the White Pine Mining District. In *The Written and the Wrought: Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, , E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 204–211. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

#### **Mar 16 Discussion/Group Exercise: records relating to the transatlantic slave trade**

\**Voyages: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database:*

<http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>

\*Hicks, Dan, 2000, Ethnicity, Race and the Archaeology of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

*Assemblage 5:* <http://www.assemblage.group.shef.ac.uk/5/hicks.html>

\*African Diaspora Archaeology Network: <http://www.diaspora.uiuc.edu/background.html>

#### **Mar 18 Artifacts as documents**

*Documentary Archaeology*, Chapter 2

\*Schlereth, Thomas J. 1992. *Culture History and Material Culture: Everyday Life, Landscapes, Museums*. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, pp. 1–13, 17–33.

\*Little, Barbara J. Text, Images, Material Culture. In *Text-Aided Archaeology*, ed. by Barbara J. Little, pp. 217–221. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.

\*Yentsch, Anne, 1995. Beads as Silent Witnesses of an African-American Past: Social Identity and the Artifacts of Slavery in Annapolis. In *The Written and the Wrought: Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, , E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 44–60. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

\*Hall, Martin, 1995. The Architecture of Patriarchy: Houses, Women and slaves in the Eighteenth-Century South African Countryside. In *The Written and the Wrought: Complementary Sources in Historical Anthropology*, ed. by M. E. D'Agostino, , E. Prine, E. Casella, and M. Winer, pp. 44–60. Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 79. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

### **Mar 23 Visual sources & Discussion/Group Exercise: reading an artifact**

- \*Noël Hume, Ivor, "Painters and Potters," Ch. 5 in *Martin's Hundred*. Knopf, New York, 1982.
- \*Goodwin, Lorinda B. R. Chapter 5 in *An Archaeology of Manners: The Polite World of the Merchant Elite of Colonial Massachusetts*. Plenum Press, New York, 1999.
- \*Parker Miller, Mark S. Obtaining Information via Defective Documents: A Search for the Mandan in George Catlin's Paintings. Chapter 11 (pp. 296–320) In Nassaney and Johnson, eds., *Interpretations of Native North American Life*.
- \*Selections tba from thematic issue of *Historical Archaeology* on artworks & historical AR

## **Part II: Ethnohistory and Oral History in Archaeological Interpretation**

### **Mar 25 Ethnohistory: definitions, methods, approaches**

- Documentary Archaeology*, Chapter 11
- Nassaney, Michael S. and Eric S. Johnson. The Contributions of Material Objects to Ethnohistory in Native North America. In Nassaney and Johnson, eds., *Interpretations of Native North American Life*, pp. 1–30.
- \*Knapp, ed., *Archaeology, Annales, and Ethnohistory*, Chapter 1
- \*Picha, Paul R., 2009, Wholes, Halves, and Vacant Quarters: Ethnohistory and the Historical Method. In *The International Handbook of Historical Archaeology*, ed. by Teresita Majewski and David Gaimster, pp. 269–283. Springer, New York.

### **Mar 30 Ethnohistory and material culture studies**

- Johnson, Eric S., The Politics of Pottery. In Nassaney and Johnson, eds., *Interpretations of Native North American Life*, pp. 118–145.
- Mason, Carol I. And Margaret B. Holman, Maple Sugaring in Prehistory: Tapping the Sources. . In Nassaney and Johnson, eds., *Interpretations of Native North American Life*, pp. 261–271.
- Robinson, Paul A., One Island, Two Places. In Nassaney and Johnson, eds., *Interpretations of Native North American Life*, pp. 398–411.

### **Apr 1 Ethnohistory, revisionist history, and archaeology**

- \*Wilson, Samuel M., and J. Daniel Rogers, eds., *Ethnohistory and Archaeology: Approaches to Postcontact Change in the Americas*. Interdisciplinary Contributions to Archaeology. Plenum Press, New York, 1993; Chapter 1.
- \*Loren, Diana DiPaolo, The Intersection of Colonial Policy and Colonial Practice: Creolization on the Eighteenth-Century Louisiana/Texas Frontier. *Historical Archaeology* 34(3): 85–98, 2000.
- \*Silverblatt, Irene. The Inca's Witches: Gender and the Cultural Work of Colonization in Seventeenth-Century Peru. In *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America*, ed. by Robert B. St. George, pp. 109–130. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2000.

### **Apr 6 Oral history: background and methods, craft and meaning/archaeology**

- \*Sommer, Barbara W., & Mary Kay Quinlan, *Oral History Manual*, Chapters 1–4 (AASLH/ AltaMira, 2002).
- \*Ritchie, Donald A., *Doing Oral History*, Chapter 1, Chapter 4 (Twayne Publishers, 1995).

\*Frisch, Michael, *The Memory of History*, in *A Shared Authority: Essays on the Craft and Meaning of Oral and Public History*, pp. 15–27. State University Press of New York, Albany, 1990.

\*Purser, Margaret. 1992. *Oral History and Historical Archaeology*. In *Text-Aided Archaeology*, ed. by Barbara J. Little, pp. 25–37. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.

\*Nassaney, Michael S., *Archaeology and Oral Tradition in Tandem*. . In Nassaney and Johnson, eds., *Interpretations of Native North American Life*, pp. 412–432.

### **Apr 8 Oral history & archaeology: a case study**

Guest lecturer: Dr. Karen B. Metheny

\*Metheny, Karen B., *From the Miners' Doublehouse* (U of Tennessee Press, 2007), Chapter 5 and Appendix B.

\*Video of interview w/Dr. Metheny: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-3893453994783168512#> (optional to view)

## **Part III: Historical Archaeology as Narrative Craft**

### **Apr 13 Reading archaeological stories**

Joyce, Rosemary, *The Languages of Archaeology*, focus on Chapters 1 and 2, skim the rest

\*Wilkie, Laurie A., *Interpretive Historical Archaeology*. In *The International Handbook of Historical Archaeology*, ed. by Teresita Majewski and David Gaimster, pp. 333–345. Springer, New York.

### **Apr 15 Telling archaeological stories**

\*Beaudry, Mary C., 2008, *The Intersection of Microhistory and Historical Archaeology in Writing Archaeological Biographies of Two New England Merchants*. In *Small Worlds: Method and Meaning in Microhistory*, ed. by Christopher DeCorse, James Brooks, and John Walton. SAR Press, Santa Fe, NM.

\*Praetzellis, Mary, ed., *Archaeologists as Storytellers*. *Historical Archaeology* 32(1), 1998, articles by Dan Mouer, Lu Ann De Cunzo, Robin Ryder, Adrian Praetzellis, & Rebecca Yamin

### **Apr 20 The Intersection of narrative history, archaeology, and fiction**

Schrire, *Digging Through Darkness*

### **Apr 27 Historical archaeology as literary genre?**

Wilkie, *Lost Boys*

### **Apr 29 Overview & review**

**Papers due April 30, 2010.**

**AR375 Final Examination: Tuesday May 4, 2010, 3–5 pm**