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OFFICE HOURS:  
1 - 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday  
Washington 117 and by appointment

**ANTH470-01: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE COLONIAL ENCOUNTER**  
Tuesday, Thursday 11:00 - 12:20, Washington 304

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Due to its capacity to span prehistory and history, archaeology is poised to play an important role in the development of historical anthropology. The study of the colonial encounter serves a point of departure for this effort as it offers a context for bridging historical events and the *longue durée*, everyday practices and cultural structures, social evolution and colonial discourse. This seminar considers early contact between Native Americans and European colonists in eastern North America from 1493 - 1700. We focus our gaze on the archaeology of native societies, their pre-colonial culture history, and the local / global repercussions of colonial interaction. We begin by surveying an epistemological landscape shaped by anthropology, history, archaeology, and ethnohistory as well as the fluid boundaries of these fields in the face of the colonial encounter. Next we read six monographs covering distinct regions of the Eastern Woodlands undergoing colonial contact, each of which applies different methods and interpretive frameworks. Finally, we consider four themes related to the colonial encounter – acculturation, depopulation, ethnogenesis, and resistance.

EXPECTATIONS:

This advanced, four-credit seminar explores issues of central importance in anthropology. Students are expected to come to class prepared to evaluate the readings, to offer opinions, and to make arguments regarding the topics raised in class discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Three review essays covering each of parts I - III of the course (roughly 6-8 pages each, quality being more essential than quantity here and throughout the semester). The review essays will summarize key themes running through the readings and class discussion and will offer an argument about them. Additional reading beyond those assigned in class may be used to broaden or bolster your central argument.
- A research paper proposal with an annotated bibliography.
- A final research paper (roughly 20 pages). Students are encouraged to choose topics that expand upon discussion of part I (theoretical and methodological issue), part II (regional studies of the colonial encounter), or part III (themes raised by the archaeology of culture contact). The assigned readings should serve as a foundation for this effort, though additional research is also required. Students should note that I have chosen several of the assigned readings in part because they have excellent bibliographies that may aid in further research. Students may also choose to develop a regional study outside of the six covered during class.
- Each student will lead class discussion three times over the course of the semester (dates will be assigned during the first class). This will require preparation prior to class to arrive at an understanding of 1) major arguments in the readings, 2) significant strengths and shortcomings of these arguments, and 3) the significance of any seminal studies or publications referenced in the readings.

READING:

We will read six monographs and a selection of articles. All of the articles may be downloaded from the class' Courseinfo web site ([http://courseinfo.wm.edu/bin/common/course.pl?course\\_id=\\_3742\\_1&frame=top](http://courseinfo.wm.edu/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=_3742_1&frame=top)). The monographs offer studies of contact period archaeology and ethnohistory in the Caribbean, the Southeast (2 studies), the Chesapeake, the Middle Atlantic, and New England.

Deagan, Kathleen and José María Cruxent. *Columbus's Outpost among the Taínos: Spain and America at La Isabela, 1493-1498*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2002.

Hudson, Charles. *Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun: Hernando De Soto and the South's Ancient Chiefdoms*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1997.

Galloway, Patricia. *Choctaw genesis, 1500-1700*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

Rountree, Helen C. and E. Randolph Turner. *Before and after Jamestown: The Powhatans and Algonquians of Virginia*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2002.

Snow, Dean R. *The Iroquois*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1994.

Bragdon, Kathleen. *Native People of Southern New England, 1500-1650*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996.

GRADING:

Class discussion: 20 %

Review essays: 15 % (x 3)

Research Proposal: 5 %

Research paper: 30 %

Note: Number in parentheses reports approximate number of pages assigned.

**Part I: Laying the Groundwork for a Study of Culture Contact in the Americas**

- Aug 29 Course introduction
- Sept 3 **Anthropology and history**  
Cohn, Bernard S. "Anthropology and History in the 1980s: Toward a Rapprochement". In *An Anthropologist Among Historians and Other Essays*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987. (25)  
  
Sahlins, Marshall. "Introduction" and "Captain James Cook; or the Dying God". In *Islands of History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985. (30)  
  
Krech, Shepard. "The State of Ethnohistory". *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 20: 345-375, 1991. (20)
- Sept 5 **Theorizing the Colonial Encounter**  
Wolf, Eric R. "Introduction" and "Modes of Production" in *Europe and the People Without History*. Berkeley : University of California Press, 1997. (45)  
  
Thomas, Nicholas. "Introduction" and "From Present to Past". In *Colonialism's Culture: Anthropology, Travel, and Government*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. (30)  
  
Pels, Peter. "The Anthropology of Colonialism: Culture, History, and the Emergence of Western Governmentality," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26:163-83, 1997. (15)
- Sept 10 **Archaeological Perspectives on the Colonial Encounter**  
Lightfoot, Kent. Culture Contact Studies: Redefining the Relationships between Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology. Kent Lightfoot. *American Antiquity* 60: 199-217, 1995. (10)  
  
Nassaney, Michael S. and Eric S. Johnson. "The Contribution of Material Objects to Ethnohistory in Native North America". In *Interpretations of Native North American Life*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2000. (20)  
  
Rice, Prudence. "Contexts of Contact and Change: Peripheries, Frontiers, and Boundaries". In *Studies in Culture Contact: Interaction, Culture Change, and Archaeology*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University, 1998. (15)
- Sept 12 **The Precontact Setting**  
Wolf, Eric R. Europe, Prelude to Expansion. In *Europe and the People without History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997. (25)  
  
Brose, David S. "Introduction to Eastern North America at the Dawn of European Colonization". In *Societies in Eclipse: Archaeology of the Eastern Woodlands Indians, 1400 - 1700*. Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 2001. (10)  
  
Milner, George R., David G. Anderson, and Marvin T. Smith. "The Distribution of Eastern Woodlands Peoples at the Prehistoric and Historic Interface". In *Societies in Eclipse*. (10)  
  
Nassaney, Michael S. "The Historical-Processual Development of Late Woodland Societies" In *The Archaeology of Traditions: Agency and History Before and After Columbus*. Gainesville: Univ. Press of Florida, 2001. (15)  
  
*Recommended (but not required):*  
Wolf, Eric R. "The World in 1400". In *Europe and the People without History*. Berkeley: Univ. of Cal. Press, 1997.

## **Part II: Regional Studies**

- Sept 17     **REVIEW ESSAY #1 DUE**  
Discussion of review essays
- Sept 19     **Columbus and the Tainos**  
Deagan and Cruxent Chs 1 - 5 (95)
- Sept 24     **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (A)**  
Deagan and Cruxent Chs 6 - 11 (125)
- Sept 26     **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (B)**  
**DeSoto and Southeastern Chiefdoms**  
Hudson     Chs 1 - 4 (125)
- Oct 1       **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (C)**  
Hudson     Chs 5 - 7 (100)
- Oct 3       **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (D)**  
**Ethnogenesis and the Choctaw**  
Galloway   Chs 1 - 3 (125)
- Oct 8       **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (E)**  
Galloway   Chs 4 - 6 (125)
- Oct 10      Galloway   Chs 7 - 9 (100)
- Oct 15      *Fall break*
- Oct 17      **RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**  
Discussion of research proposals
- Oct 22      **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (A)**  
**Algonquins and English in the Middle Atlantic**  
Rountree and Turner Chs 1 - 3 (125)
- Oct 24      **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (B)**  
Rountree and Turner Chs 4 - 7 (100)
- Oct 29      **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (C)**  
**Native Peoples of Southern New England**  
Bragdon     Introduction and Chs 1 - 2 (100)
- Oct 31      **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (D)**  
Bragdon     Chs 3 - 8 (100)
- Nov 5       **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (E)**  
**Iroquoia**  
Snow        Chs 1 - 5 (90)
- Nov 7       **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (A)**  
Snow        Chs 6 - 10 (80)

### **Part III: Themes in the Study of the Colonial Encounter**

- Nov 12      **REVIEW ESSAY #2 DUE**      Discussion of review essays
- Nov 14      **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (B)**  
**“Acculturation” and Material Culture Change**  
Rubertone, Patricia E. “The Historical Archaeology of Native Americans” *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 29: 425-446, 2000. (15)
- Hammell, George R. “The Iroquois and the World’s Rim: Speculations on Color, Culture, and Contact” *American Indian Quarterly* 16(4): 451-469, 1992. (10)
- Deagan, Kathleen. “Transcultural and Spanish American Ethnogenesis: The Archaeological Legacy of the Quincentenary”. In *Studies in Culture Contact: Interaction, Culture Change, and Archaeology*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University, 1998. (10)
- Cusick, James G. “Historiography of Acculturation: An Evaluation of Concepts and Their Application in Archaeology”. In *Studies in Culture Contact*. (15)
- Nov 19      **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (C)**  
**Depopulation**  
Dobyns, Henry F. “Estimating Aboriginal American Population: An Appraisal of Techniques with a New Hemispheric Estimate a New Hemispheric Estimate”. *Current Anthropology*, 7(4)395\_416, 1966. (20)
- Ramenofsky, Ann F. *Vectors of Death: The Archaeology of European Contact*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, pps. 1 - 41, 1987. (40)
- Dunnell, R. C. Methodological Impacts of Catastrophic Depopulation on American Archaeology and Ethnology. In *The Spanish Borderlands in Pan-American Perspective*, edited by D. H. Thomas, pp. 561-580. Columbian Consequences, vol. 3. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1991. (20)
- Nov 21      **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (D)**  
**Ethnogenesis**  
Saunders, Rebecca. “Negotiated Tradition? Native American Pottery in the Mission Period in La Florida” in *The Archaeology of Traditions: Agency and History Before and After Columbus*. Gainesville: Univ. Press of Fla., 2001. (15)
- Cande, Kathleen. “Ritual and Material Culture as Keys to Cultural Continuity: Native American Interaction with Europeans in Eastern Arkansas, 1541-1682.” In *Interpretations of Native North American Life*. (15)
- Johnson, Eric S. “The Politics of Pottery: Material Culture and Political Process among Algonquins of Seventeenth-Century Southern New England”. *Interpretations of Native North American Life*. (25)
- Nov 26      **STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (E)**  
**Resistance and Political Transformation**  
Brown, M. “On resisting resistance,” *American Anthropologist* 98: 729-735, 1996. (5)
- Scarry, John F. “Resistance and Accommodation in Apalachee Province”. In *The Archaeology of Traditions: Agency and History Before and After Columbus*. Gainesville: Univ. Press of Florida, 2001. (25)
- Potter, Stephen R. “Early English Effects on Virginia Algonquin Exchange and Tribute”. In *Powhatan’s Mantle*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989. (20)
- Wesson, Cameron B. “Creek and Pre-Creek Revisited: In *The Archaeology of Traditions: Agency and History Before and After Columbus*. Gainesville: Univ. Press of Florida, 2001. (15)
- Nov 27      THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- Dec 3      **Course Review and Synthesis**
- Dec 5      **REVIEW ESSAY #3 DUE**
- Dec 17      **FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE**      4:00 Washington 117