

Archaeology of the Southeastern United States
Seminar in Anthropology (Anth 493)
Course Syllabus, Fall 2002

Instructor

Instructor: Mark A. Rees, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: 8-9:00 am WF; 10-12:00 am MWF
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Course Description

Archaeology of the Southeastern United States is an upper level seminar in the culture history and archaeology of a traditionally-defined culture area. Yet the Southeast is perhaps better defined by its remarkable geographic and cultural variation, from the Ozark Plateau and lower Mississippi River valley to the Appalachian Piedmont, Ridge and Valley provinces, and Coastal Plain. The temporal focus of this course is similarly broad but more simply stated: beginning with the earliest evidence for human habitation and concluding with the post-Civil War era (ca. 13,000 BC – 19th century). Native American cultural traditions, practices, and communities are consequently of major interest in this course, followed by the cultural transformations associated with contact, colonialism and nation-building.

The course will begin with brief historical overviews, a consideration of geography, geomorphology and environment, and a discussion of history and theory in Southeastern archaeology. Subsequent material is organized in chronological fashion, beginning with a consideration of human occupation during the Paleoindian stage (ca. 13,000 – 8000 BC). Succeeding topics are arranged under the general headings of Archaic (ca. 8000 – 1000 BC), Woodland (ca. 1000 BC – AD 1000), and Mississippian (ca. AD 1000-1700) Southeast, with greater attention to the later periods. This will be followed by issues relating to contact, colonialism, missions, colonial economies, plantations and slavery. By the end of the semester students will have gained a broad knowledge of southeastern archaeology.

Grades and Attendance

There will be no exams in this course. The final grade will be based on attendance (30 points, 15%), class participation (70 points, 35%), and a research paper (100 points, 50%). Regular attendance and participation are course requirements and comprise 50 percent of the final grade. Excused absences must be approved *within one week* with appropriate documentation. However, arrangements must be made beforehand for a substitute discussant (see Participation). Hospitalization and severe illness requiring medical assistance are legitimate excuses for an absence. Car trouble, absentmindedness, and vacations are not.

Participation

This course is a seminar organized around classroom discussion of assigned readings. Students are required to keep up with the readings and participate in each weekly seminar. The grade for participation will reflect the student's contribution to each weekly discussion. It is important to note that your contribution need not be brilliant or even particularly thought-provoking. It is only required that you *participate in some way*. By simply voicing your opinion and demonstrating that you have read the assignment you will have earned a score for participation.

In order to facilitate and structure dialogue everyone will be responsible for leading the discussion of one reading at each class meeting. Readings will be assigned during each class for presentation at the subsequent class meeting. Discussants should introduce the reading, provide a synopsis or outline, and assist the instructor in leading a critical discussion of the topic. Everyone is required to read all of the assigned readings for each week and join in the discussion. However, it is imperative that discussants come prepared to present their assigned reading. There will be *no excused absences* for discussants. If you are unable to attend class it is your responsibility to make arrangements for a substitute.

Research Paper

Each student will select a specific topic for research no later than the fifth week of the semester. The research paper should address a substantive or theoretical topic in the archaeology of the southeastern United States. It must clearly demonstrate (1) original research and composition, and (2) knowledge and understanding of the topic. The assigned readings and corresponding bibliographies provide excellent resources for selecting and investigating a topic. Research topics and any subsequent changes must be approved by the instructor. The paper should be type-written and double-spaced, relatively free of grammatical errors, between 10 and 12 pages of text, and carefully referenced

with bibliographic citations. The American Antiquity style guide is recommended, but any standardized style may be used so long as it is consistent (available online at <http://www.saa.org/Publications/StyleGuide/saaguide.pdf>).

Scheduled Class Meetings

If at all possible, the seminar will meet *once a week* instead of twice a week as indicated in the Schedule of Classes. This change is necessary due to the nature of the course, the amount of weekly assigned readings, and the time required for discussion. Any schedule change will be tailored to suit the needs and preferences of as many students as possible and will take effect during the second week of the semester. There will be no further changes once the schedule change has been agreed upon.

Required Readings

Anderson, D. G. and R. C. Mainfort, Jr. (editors)

2002 *The Woodland Southeast*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Bense, Judith

1994 *Archaeology of the Southeastern United States: Paleoindian to World War I*. Academic Press, San Diego.

Lewis, R. Barry and Charles B Stout (editors)

1998 *Mississippian Towns and Sacred Spaces: Searching for an Architectural Grammar*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Selected Readings

Seminar Schedule

Week of	Topics	Readings (see Selected Readings List)
Aug 19	Introduction & Overviews	Bense 1994:Ch1; Steponaitis 1986
Aug 26	Geography & Environment	Anderson et al. 1996; Bense 1994:Ch2; Gagliano 1984; Saucier 1981; Schuldenrein 1996
Sept 2	History & Theory	Bense 1994:Ch3; Brose 1993; Brown 1994; Dunnell 1990; Pauketat 2001
Sept 9	Paleoindian & Early Archaic	Anderson 1996; Anderson and Sassaman 1996; Bense 1994:Ch4; Driskell 1996; McGahey 1996
Sept 16	Middle Archaic & Archaic Mounds	Bense 1994:Ch5; Claassen 1996; Russo 1996; Sassaman 1995; Sassaman and Ledbetter 1996
Sept 23	Late Archaic-Woodland Transition & Poverty Point	Gibson 1996; Jackson 1989, 1991; Sassaman 1998, 2002
Sept 30	The Woodland Southeast – Overviews & Miss Valley	Anderson and Mainfort 2002; Bense 1994:Ch 6; Kidder 2002; Rolingson 2002; Rolingson and Mainfort 2002; Kelly 2002
Oct 7	The Woodland Southeast – Coastal & Interior	Jackson et al. 2002; Milanich 2002; Rafferty 2002; Schambach 2002; Stephenson et al. 2002; Wetmore 2002
Oct 14	Woodland – Subsistence, Social Organization & Coles Creek	Cobb and Nassaney 2002; Fritz and Kidder 1993; Gremillion 2002; Jackson and Scott 2002; Kidder 1992; Peacock 2002;
Oct 21	Mississippian Overview & Emergence	Anderson 1999; Bense 1994:ch 7; Blitz 1999; Griffin 1990; Scarry 1996; Smith 1990
Oct 28	Mississippian Towns & Sacred Spaces	Demel and Hall 1998; Hally and Kelly 1998; Kidder 1998; Lewis et al. 1999; Payne and Scarry 1998; Schroedl 1998; Wesson 1998
Nov 4	Mississippian Political Economy	[SEAC] Dye 1995; Muller 1995; Pauketat 1997; Pauketat and Emerson 1997; Peregrine 1995
Nov 11	Protohistoric-Early Historic	Bense 1994:ch 8; Hally 1994; Jeter 2002; Smith 1994, 2002
Nov 18	Historic Tribes & Missions	[AAA] Deagan 1993; Knight 1994; Lorenz 2000; Scarry 2001; Waselkov 1993
Nov 25	European & African Americans	Bense 1994:ch 9; Crass et al. 1999; Loren 2001; Waselkov 2002; Young 1999
Dec 2	Papers Due	