

**UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

***ANT 2201: HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY  
COURSE OUTLINE – ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018  
SEMESTER II***

**4 CREDITS/60 HOURS – 3 lectures and 1 tutorial per week for one semester**

**A. DESCRIPTION**

This class will examine historical archaeology. Students will learn the theory and the practice of the excavation and interpretation of historical archaeological field sites. Students will learn to conduct documentary and oral history research, to plan and conduct an archaeological field excavation, and to integrate the tools of history, archaeology, and sociocultural anthropology in the interpretation of research data.

Students will be required to read and discuss the assigned readings, to design and conduct a field survey, and to write a final report on their research.

**B. OBJECTIVES**

To familiarize students with historical archaeology, and its theory, methods and practice. To encourage students to think about the implications of an applied or public archaeology for development in Guyana and the region.

**C. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT**

- 1. Research Plan;** Students will develop clear and cogent research questions, and methodologies aimed at answering these questions.  
20 MARKS.

**2. Descriptive Report:** A paper of approximately 1,500 words describing the finds of the student's supervised archaeological investigation. 20 MARKS.

**3. Final Report:** A full length research paper, of approximately 5,000 words, based on supervised archival, ethnographic and/or archaeological research conducted throughout the semester. 60 MARKS.

#### **D. GRADING SCHEME**

A= 75% to 100%      B= 65% to less than 75%      C= 55% to less than 65%  
D= 45% to less than 55%      F= less than 45%

#### **E. REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Orser, Charles Jr.  
2004 *Historical Archaeology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Prentice Hall.
2. Barber, Russell J.  
1994 *Doing Historical Archaeology: Exercises using Documentary, Oral, and Material Evidence*. Prentice Hall.
3. Delle, James A.  
1998 *An Archaeology of Social Space: Analyzing Coffee Plantations in Jamaica's Blue Mountains*. Springer.

#### **F. SCHEDULE OF TOPICS**

**Week One: What is Historical Archaeology? A Brief History of Historical Archaeology.**

Assigned reading: Chapters 1 and 2 of Orser.

**Week Two: Historical Culture, Sites and Artifacts.**

Assigned reading: Chapters 3 and 4 of Orser. Barber Appendix A: Planning your Research

**Week Three: Time and Space, Historical Site Survey and Location**

Assigned reading: Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Orser. RESEARCH PLAN DUE

**Week Four: Written and Oral Sources**

Assigned reading: Part One of Barber

**Week Five: Spatial analysis and Stratigraphy**

Assigned reading: Barber Appendix B: Sampling. Part Two of Barber

**Week Six: Archaeological Fieldwork, Field and Laboratory**

Assigned reading: Chapter 8 of Orser. Part Four of Barber

FIELD SAMPLING EXERCISE

**Week Seven: Interpreting the Past**

Assigned reading: Chapter 9 & 10 of Orser

**Week Eight: Historical Archaeology around the World. The Past in the Present**

Assigned reading: Appendix C of Barber: Descriptive Statistics. Orser Chapters 11-12.

**Week Nine: The Historical Archaeology of Capitalism**

Assigned reading: selections from *African Sites: Archaeology in the Caribbean* by Jay Haviser

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT DUE

**Week Ten: The Political Economy and Geography of New World Plantation Slavery**

Assigned reading: selections from *Plantation Slavery in Barbados: An Archaeological and Historical Investigation* by Jerome S. Handler, Robert V. Riordan, and Fredrick W. Lange

**Week Eleven: The Archaeology of Plantation Slavery in Barbados**

Assigned reading: Chapters 1 – 4 of Delle. Barber Appendix D: Writing Your Reports.

**Week Twelve: The Archaeology of Plantation Slavery in Jamaica**

Assigned reading: Chapters 5 – 8 of Delle.

**Week Thirteen: Engaged Public Archaeology**

Assigned reading: Woods, Margaret C. (2002) “Moving Towards Transformative Democratic Action through Archaeology” *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 6(3): 187-198.

**Week Fourteen: Consultations**

**Week Fifteen: Final Examinations.**