INSTRUCTOR: Kelly J. Dixon  
Office: Social Sciences Building, Room 232  
Email: kelly.dixon@mso.umt.edu  
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 pm and by appointment  
Course Website: http://www.cas.umt.edu/anthro/courses/anth456

Historical Archaeology is the study of “post-prehistoric” cultures that uses physical remains, oral and historical sources, and a range of multidisciplinary techniques to study the human condition. Historical archaeologists are trained in the fields of anthropology and history and tend to focus on the migrations, contacts, and changes of various cultures throughout the world over the past 500 years. A text-aided field of archaeology, this discipline has been referred to as “Historic Sites Archaeology” and “Archaeology of the Modern World.”

The purpose of this course is to demonstrate how archaeological remains, methods, and theories can be integrated with oral and historical sources to understand and interpret the past. After attending and participating in class—and after doing “A” work on all of their assignments—students will depart with a toolkit of information and experiences to make them competitive for careers, research opportunities, and advanced degree programs, and capable of serving as responsible, educated stewards of the world’s cultural heritage.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:  

**OPTIONAL TEXTBOOKS (REQUIRED FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS):**


**ADDITIONAL READINGS:**
Additional readings will be assigned and discussed throughout the semester; see course bibliography for this material. Also, check the course website for hotlinks to pdfs of various articles.

**COURSE STRUCTURE:**
This course meets for 80 minutes, two days a week, throughout the semester. Class meetings will include lectures, in-class exercises, documentaries, and visits to lab, archive, and library facilities. Students may be asked to participate in class by sharing their ideas with the rest of the class in informal discussions and/or in brief written assignments. We will examine various archaeological investigations and related data analyses. We will also survey the historical archaeological literature at the worldwide level to understand the RELEVANT contributions of recent historical archaeological research, and then place that within a regional context, using the American West as a case study of a historical archaeology of a region. As our class evolves throughout the semester, I may assign different or additional readings not listed in this syllabus; such items will provide you with the opportunity to examine more specific subjects that we address in class.

**GRADING POLICY:**
Course grades will be based upon student performance on assignments, or examinations, and a series of in-class exercises. Graduate students will be responsible for all of these tasks *as well as* selected book reviews (e.g., can choose from optional readings).

**POINTS PER ASSIGNMENT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class exercises*</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Book Reviews (Graduate Students Only)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography (Graduate Students Only)</td>
<td>100</td>
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*Grading Policy:*
Course grades will be based upon student performance on assignments, or examinations, and a series of in-class exercises. Graduate students will be responsible for all of these tasks *as well as* selected book reviews (e.g., can choose from optional readings).

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Course grades will be based upon student performance on assignments, or examinations, and a series of in-class exercises. Graduate students will be responsible for all of these tasks *as well as* selected book reviews (e.g., can choose from optional readings).
I will assign +/- grades for this course and final grades will be based upon the following average scores for the exams, in-class exercises, and graduate student book reviews: A (100-95), A- (94-90), B+ (89-88), B (87-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-63), D- (62-60), F (59 or less).

* You must be present to get full points for the in-class exercises.

ATTENDANCE:
I pay attention to student attendance, and, you should know that, if I see you in class all the time, dedicated and eager, this will be considered when I make decisions about your final grade in borderline cases. Similarly, if you rarely come to class, that, too will be considered.

p.s. Carpe diem: any random in-class exercises require attendance to get full points. There will be no way to make these up; the point: please just come to class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
The Department of Anthropology is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documented learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) (http://life.umt.edu/dss/) to formulate a plan for accommodations. Please contact DSS directly for more information: 243.2243 (voice/text); dss@umontana.edu (email).

COURSE SCHEDULE:

**Week 1: January 29, 31**  
**Intro to Historical Archaeology**

* Intro to Historical Archaeology
  - Orser 2004, *Historical Archy* (browse Chapters 1-3)

* What is Historical Archaeology?
  - Optional, Dixon 2005, *Boomtown Saloons* (pp. 1-22)

* Types of Historical Archaeological Sites (Underwater, Industrial, etc.)

**ANNOUNCEMENT: Project 1** (choose a historical topic that would benefit from archaeology, due week 4)

Journal of the Week: *Historical Archaeology*

Skim: Dixon 2013, Historical Archaeologies of the West

**Week 2: February 5, 7**  
**Consequences of Colonization**

* Colonization and Colonialism
  - Silliman 2005, “Contact or Colonialism?”

* Human-Environment Interactions; Missions
  - Allen 2010, “Rethinking Mission Land Use”
  - Allen 2010, “Alta CA Missions, Transformation”
Historical Archaeology Syllabus

Gale and Haworth 2002, “Beyond the Limits”
Pavao-Zuckerman and LaMotta 2007, “Missionization and Economic Change”

Journal of the Week: *Journal of Social Archaeology*

**Week 3: February 12, 14  Battlefields, Homelands, Indigenous Perspectives  Assigned Readings**

**Project 1** (choose a historical topic that would benefit from archaeology) **DUE via email**

Battlefields, Massacres in the West  
Fox and Scott 1991, “Post-Civil War Pattern”  
Wilcox 2010, “Marketing Conquest”

Case study: Little Bighorn  
**Guest lecture, Richard Fox**  
Readings to be announced

Journal of the Week: *Journal of Archaeological Research*

**Week 4: February 19, 21  Research Methods in Historical Archaeology  Assigned Readings**

Field and Laboratory Work  
Orser 2004 (browse Chapters 6 and 8)

How to Get a Date  
Orser 2004 (browse Chapter 5)

Artifact Identification I

Architecture as Artifact  
Orser 2004 (pp. 184-190)  
http://www.sha.org/bottle/

Library Visit: February 21, Literature Reviews (Scholarly Databases), 11:10-12:00

**Project 2 (related to library visit):** Conduct your own academic search for a paper published in roughly the last decade that dovetails with your existing and subsequent assignments. Paraphrase that article in a précis (a summary that is very similar to an abstract) that is at least 200 words in length, but no more than 400 words. Turn in your summary with the article for full points. **Due March 12.**

**Week 5: February 26, 28, March 1  African Diaspora Archaeology  Assigned Readings**

Artifact Identification II

People Without History; “Ethnicity and Race”  
Orser 2004 (pp. 251-261)

African Diaspora Archaeology  
Fennel 2011, “Early African America”

Documentary Study: *Slave Island*  
Deetz, *In Small Things Forgotten* (optional for undergraduates)

Journal of the Week: *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*

Newsletter of the Week: *African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter*

**Week 6: March 5, 7  Colonization, Cultures in Contact, and Events  Assigned Readings**

Asian American Archaeology  
Mullins 2008, “The Strange and Unusual”

Overseas Chinese Archaeology in Montana and the West  
Readings to be announced

Journal of the Week: *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*

Newsletter of the Week: *Asian American Comparative Collection Newsletter*

**Week 7: March 12, 14  Multiple Lines of Evidence  Assigned Readings**

**PROJECT 2 Due!**

Historical Research, Oral History  
Orser 2004 (browse Chapter 7, pp. 171-184)

Case study: Boomtown Saloons  
optional, Dixon 2005 (pp. 23-166)

Library Visit: March 12 or 14, Historical Research (Archives)
**Journal of the Week: *World Archaeology***

**Week 8: March 19, 21  Theory and Explanation in Historical Archaeology**

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<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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Artifacts and Material Culture: Gravestone Art Deetz, *In Small Things* (optional, pp. 89-124)


**Journal of the Week: *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory***

**Week 9: March 26, 28  Theory Cont’d**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class, Capitalism, and Culture Change Orser 2004 (browse Chapter 10)</td>
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Feminist Theory and Engendered Archaeologies Spude 2005, “Brothels and Saloons…”

**Journal of the Week: *American Anthropologist***

**Week 10: April 2, 4**

NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

**Journal of the Week: *American Antiquity***

**Week 11: April 9, 11  Unfamiliar Landscapes**

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<tr>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colonization of Unfamiliar Landscapes Blanton, 2003 “The weather is fine, wish you were here…”</td>
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Case Study: Donner Party Excerpts from Dixon et al. *Anthropology of Desperation*

Case Study: To be announced.

**Journal of the Week: *American Antiquity***

**Discuss final projects**

**Week 12: April 17, 19  Archaeology in the West**

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<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Artifact Collections, Curation, and Databases Readings to be announced</td>
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Case study: Coloma, Montana Readings to be announced

Case study: Rosebud Battlefield Readings to be announced

Journals of the Week: *Current Anthropology, Annual Review of Anthropology*

**Week 13: April 23, 25 Archaeology in the World**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Case Studies (American West, Pacific, Western Australia) Guilfoyle et al. 2009, Guilfoyle et al. 2011 Fischer 2009; more to be announced.</td>
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Journals of the Week: *Australian Archaeology, Archaeology in Oceania*
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<tr>
<th>Week 14: April 30, May 2</th>
<th>Underwater and Global-Change Archaeology</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can archaeology do?</td>
<td>Hardesty 2007, “Global-Change Archaeology”</td>
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<td>Little 2009, “What Can Archaeology Do?”</td>
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<th>Week 15: May 7, 9</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student presentations of final projects</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 16: FINALS WEEK, May 14, 16</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam Time Slot:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday, May 14, 8:00-10:00 am</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Allen, Rebecca

2010 Alta California Missions and the Pre-1849 Transformation of Coastal Lands *Historical Archaeology* 44(3):69-80.

Burke, H. and C. Smith

Corbin, Annalies
2006 The Life and Times of the Steamboat Red Cloud, or How Merchants, Mounties, and the Missouri Transformed *the West*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press.

Dixon, Kelly J.

Dixon, Kelly J., Julie M. Schablitsky, and Shannon A. Novak (eds.)

Fennell, Christopher


Fox, Richard A., Jr. and Douglas D. Scott

Gale, S.J. and Haworth, R.J.
2002 Beyond the Limits of Location: Human Environmental disturbance prior to official European contact in Early Colonial Australia. *Archaeology in Oceania* 37:123-136.
Guilfoyle, David, Bill Bennell, Wayne Webb, Vernice Gillies, and Jennifer Strickland  


Hall, Martin and Stephen W. Silliman  

Hardesty, Donald L.  

Hegmon, Michelle  

Joyce, Rosemary A. and Jeanne Lopiparo  

Lightfoot, Kent G.  


Little, Barbara J.  

Lozny, L.  

McNiven, I. and L. Russell  

Miller, George L.  
Mrozowski, Stephen A.

Mullins, Paul R.

Orser, Charles E., Jr.


Pomeranz, Kenneth

Praetzellis, Adrian and Mary Praetzellis

Rockman, Marcy

Ross A. and K. Pickering

Silliman, Stephen W.

Spude, Catherine Holder

Trigg, Heather

Voss, Barbara L. and Rebecca Allen

Wilcox, M.V.

Wilcox, M.V.


Wood, W. Raymond