

ANTH 303/HIST 400  
**HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**  
Fall 1999

Instructor: Michael S. Nassaney  
Office: 124 Moore Hall  
Telephone: 616-387-3981  
E-mail: nassaney@wmich.edu  
Office Hours: T, F 10-11 a.m., 1-2 p.m. and by appointment

**COURSE PROSPECTUS:** This course typically presents an overview of the field of Historical Archaeology. The field is currently experiencing extremely rapid growth and is burgeoning with numerous theoretical and methodological approaches to a wide range of case studies from all corners of the world. Rather than attempt to sample this broad diversity, this time around we will focus on how Historical Archaeology can contribute to the study of the fur trade in the western Great Lakes, particularly in future investigations of the recently rediscovered Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Michigan. The fur trade was an important aspect of European exploration and settlement in much of North America and lasted for more than four centuries. Many dimensions of this process and period are underdocumented in written records, making it an ideal subject for study through material objects. The exchange of furs and other raw materials for finished goods across cultural boundaries created opportunities for amassing wealth and led to interactions with wide-ranging economic, social, and political consequences. In this course we will examine the ways in which historians and anthropologists have studied the fur trade from the perspective of the material world. Particular emphasis will be placed on the varying functions and meanings that material objects served and how they were used to create, reinforce, and transform social relations and identities. We will also examine how different segments of fur trade society (e.g., voyageurs, habitants, military personnel, women) made, used, and discarded material objects. Finally, we will discuss the recent historical and archaeological investigations at Fort St. Joseph by WMU archaeologists and develop a research design to guide further study of that site.

The logic of the course will unfold something like this: we will begin by looking at how the field of Historical Archaeology has been defined. We will then turn our attention to a brief overview of the fur trade in American history before discussing some of the methods and resources available to the historical archaeologist. We will take a field trip to the Fort St. Joseph Museum in Niles (Oct. 1) to get a first-hand look at some of the objects recovered from the site over the past century, including materials from our 1998 excavations. By this point in the course (Oct. 4), students are expected to have chosen a research paper topic. The first half of the course ends with an examination of the ways in which archaeologists locate sites. The mid-term exam will be given on Oct. 13. The second half of the course will be devoted to excavation, analysis and interpretation of objects from historic sites. Again, all of the examples will be germane to fur trade archaeology. A brief outline of your research topic and an annotated bibliography are due on Nov. 1. We'll complete the course by examining ethnogenesis on the fur trade frontier, the future of historical archaeology, and how investigations should proceed at the Fort St. Joseph site. Research papers are due the last day of class (Dec. 3) with the final exam a week later (Dec. 10).

As this will be a fairly small class there should be ample opportunity for considerable discussion based on the readings, a couple of videos, lectures, one or two guest lectures, hands-on examination of objects, and our field trip.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** The class meets for lectures and discussion of the assigned readings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (2:00-2:50 a.m.) in Moore 0120. You are expected to read the assigned materials before class and come to class prepared for discussion. I would encourage you to make detailed notes and not merely highlight the important points in the readings,

and be prepared to present and discuss these in class. Class discussions will involve critical evaluation of the assigned readings, as well as opportunities to offer alternative perspectives or interpretations of the materials.

In addition to a mid-term and a final exam, you will be required to prepare an original research paper on a topic related to the fur trade (more detailed instructions will follow). I encourage you to consult with me on your research; students who do so typically write the best research papers. All deadlines in this document are final; **no late papers will be accepted and make-up exams will not be given** unless prior arrangements have been made.

Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

- (1) regular attendance and participation in class discussions (20%),
- (2) mid-term exam (20%),
- (3) research paper (30%),
- (4) final exam (30%)

### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS** (available in the WMU Bookstore):

Orser, Charles E. Jr., and Brian M. Fagan

1995 Historical Archaeology. HarperCollins, New York. **(O&F)**

There is also a coursepack (**CP**) of required readings for the course that includes:

Nassaney, Michael S. (editor)

1999 An Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey to Locate Remains of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23) in Niles, Michigan. Archaeological Report No. 22. Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. **(N)**

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Those of you with little background in archaeology (or in need of a review) should consult one of the following sources. Most of these books should be available in Waldo Library.

Fagan, B.

1994 *In the Beginning: An Introduction to Archaeology*. 8th edition. HarperCollins.

Renfrew, C., and P. Baugh

1991 *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. Thames and Hudson, London.

Schiffer, M., and W. Rathje

1982 *Archaeology*. Harcourt, Brace, and Jovanovich, New York.

Sharer, Robert J., and Wendy Ashmore

1993 *Archaeology: Discovering Our Past*. Mayfield Publishing Company, Mountain View, California.

Thomas, David H.

1989 *Archaeology*. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Fort Worth, Texas.

**COURSE OUTLINE: TOPICS AND READINGS**

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS
9/1- 9/10	Introduction: What is Historical Archaeology? Video: <u>Other Peoples' Garbage</u>	O&F 1-3, 9, 11 CP 1-2
9/13	An Overview of the Fur Trade	CP 3-5; O&F 10
9/20	Methods and Resources for the Historical Archaeologist: Written and Oral Sources Guest Lecturer (Friday, September 24)	O&F 7; CP 6-7 N pp. 1-30
9/27	Methods and Resources for the Historical Archaeologist: Material Culture	O&F 4

**Field Trip to the Fort St. Joseph Museum (Friday, Oct. 1)**

10/4	Locating Archaeological Sites	O&F 5-6; N pp. 31-42
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**Deadline for Selecting a Research Paper Topic (Monday, Oct. 4)**

10/11	Review and Discuss Research Paper Topics	
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**WED., OCT. 13 MID-TERM EXAM**

10/15	Investigating Archaeological Sites: Site Evaluation, Research Design, and Data Recovery Video: <u>Fort William Henry</u>	O&F 8; CP 8 N pp. 87-97
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**FRI., OCT. 22 SPIRIT DAY RECESS**

10/25	Artifact Analysis and Interpretation I: Personal and Household	CP 9-10 N pp. 43-60
11/1	Artifact Analysis and Interpretation II: Architectural and Occupational	CP 11-12 N pp. 60-79

**Student Outlines and Annotated Bibliographies Due (Mon., Nov. 1)**

11/8	Subsistence and Diet	CP 13; N pp. 79-86
11/15- 11/22	Ethnogenesis on the Fur Trade Frontier	O&F 10; CP 14-16
11/29	The Future of Historical Archaeology and Fort St. Joseph	O&F 12

**Final Draft of Student Research Papers Due (Fri., Dec. 3)****DEC. 10 FINAL EXAM (8-10 am)**

ANTH 303/HIST 400  
 Historical Archaeology of the Fur Trade  
 Michael S. Nassaney  
 Reading List  
 Fall 1999

1. Schuyler, Robert L.  
 1978 Emergence and Definition of a New Discipline. In Historical Archaeology: A Guide to Substantive and Theoretical Contributions, edited by R. L. Schuyler, pp. 1-2. Baywood Publishing, New York.
2. Orser, Charles E., Jr.  
 1996 A Historical Archaeology of the Modern World, pp. 1-28 Plenum Press, New York.
3. Wolf, Eric  
 1982 The Fur Trade. Chapter 6 in Europe and the People without History, pp. 158-194. University of California, Berkeley.
4. White, Richard  
 1991 The Fur Trade. Chapter 3 in The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815, pp. 94-141. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
5. Peyser, Joseph  
 1992 Introduction: Discovery, Trade, and Settlement, 1001-1685. In Letters from New France: The Upper Country 1686-1783, pp. 1-42. University of Illinois Press, Urbana.
6. Tanner, Helen Hornbeck  
 1994 The Career of Joseph La France, *Coureur de Bois* in the Upper Great Lakes. In The Fur Trade Revisited: Selected Papers of the Sixth North American Fur Trade Conference, Mackinac Island, Michigan, 1991, edited by J. S. H. Brown, W. J. Eccles, and D. P. Heldman, pp. 171-187. Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, and Mackinac State Historic Parks, Mackinac.
7. Anderson, Dean L.  
 1994 The Flow of European Trade Goods into the Western Great Lakes Region, 1715-1760. In The Fur Trade Revisited: Selected Papers of the Sixth North American Fur Trade Conference, Mackinac Island, Michigan, 1991, edited by J. S. H. Brown, W. J. Eccles, and D. P. Heldman, pp. 93-115. Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, and Mackinac State Historic Parks, Mackinac.
8. Noble, Vergil E.  
 1991 Ouatennon on the Ouabache: Archaeological Investigations at a Fur Trading Post on the Wabash River. In French Colonial Archaeology: The Illinois Country and the Western Great Lakes, edited by J. A. Walthall, pp. 65-77. University of Illinois Press, Urbana.
9. Quimby, George  
 1939 European Trade Articles as Chronological Indicators for the Archaeology of the Historic Period in Michigan. Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters 24: 25-31 + figures.

10. Hulse, Charles A.  
1981 An Archaeological Evaluation of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23), Berrien County, Michigan. The Michigan Archaeologist 27(3-4):55-76.
11. Heldman, Donald P.  
1991 The French in Michigan and Beyond: An Archaeological View from Fort Michilimackinac Toward the West. In French Colonial Archaeology: The Illinois Country and the Western Great Lakes, edited by J. A. Walthall, pp. 201-217. University of Illinois Press, Urbana.
12. Hamilton, T. M.  
1979 Guns, Gunflints, Balls, and Shot. In Tunica Treasure, by J. P. Brain, pp. 206-216. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, and Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts.
13. Martin, Terrance J.  
1991 An Archaeological Perspective on Animal Exploitation Patterns at French Colonial Sites in the Illinois Country. In French Colonial Archaeology: The Illinois Country and the Western Great Lakes, edited by J. A. Walthall, pp. 189-200. University of Illinois Press, Urbana.
14. Widder, Keith R.  
1994 Effects of the American Revolution on Fur-Trade Society at Michilimackinac. In The Fur Trade Revisited: Selected Papers of the Sixth North American Fur Trade Conference, Mackinac Island, Michigan, 1991, edited by J. S. H. Brown, W. J. Eccles, and D. P. Heldman, pp. 299-316. Michigan State University Press, East Lansing, and Mackinac State Historic Parks, Mackinac.
15. Jackson, Louise M.  
1994 Cloth, Clothing, and Related Paraphernalia: A Key to Gender Visibility in the Archaeological Record of Russian America. In Those of Little Note: Gender, Race, and Class in Historical Archaeology, edited by E. M. Scott, pp. 27-53. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
16. Branstner, Susan M.  
1992 Tionontate Huron Occupation at the Marquette Mission. In Calumet & Fleur-de-Lys: Archaeology of Indian and French Contact in the Midcontinent, edited by J. A. Walthall and T. E. Emerson, pp. 177-201. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.