The class webpage is [http://nautarch.tamu.edu/class/313](http://nautarch.tamu.edu/class/313)

Textbooks:


Historical Archaeology by Charles Orser 2nd ed (2004).

Both of these are intentionally older books and therefore should be readily available used and fairly cheap. There will be a few additional readings, but I will provide PDFs via the webpage for those. In addition, both of the text books are available on reserve at the library.

Course Objective

This course is designed to introduce students to the archaeological study of the recent past, with an emphasis on the 16th-17th century spread of European cultures to the New World. We will use a number of case studies to demonstrate the techniques and methods utilized in Historical Archaeology.

Grading

There will be 2 exams and a final, each worth 25% of your grade. The final will be non-cumulative. There will be one paper in the form of a genealogy report, worth 15% of the total. Additionally, every Tuesday at the start of class there will be a one paragraph review of the readings, worth a total of 10% of the final grade. Each individual exam will be curved as necessary.

There will be 2 extra credit opportunities available, worth up to 5% each.

Late papers will lose a letter grade a day. No credit will be given for late reading reviews, but you can miss two and still get full credit.

Make-up exams will be made available with an approved excuse per the University rules ([http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07)), but not otherwise.
Exams

The exams will be worth 25% of your grade each. Each exam will consist of 25 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each, and 15 short answer questions worth 5 points each. I will provide the exams, you do not need to buy a blue book. Exams are non-cumulative.

Exam 1: February 14th
Midterm: March 26th
Final Exam: May 3rd 12:30-2:30

Genealogy Report (Due March 8th)

Each student is to produce a report on their own ancestry, going back at least 5 generations. If absolutely necessary, you can choose to do this research on someone else with my authorization. The purpose of this report is to introduce you to a type of research methodology that is unique to historical archaeology. There are blank pedigree charts available on the course web page, and when you go back as far as you can, choose one of the oldest ancestors and write a short report about them, 1 full page minimum. (12pt double spaced Times New Roman). Further instructions will be given on a separate assignment sheet. Late reports will lose a letter grade per day.

Reading Reviews

Every Tuesday at the start of class I will give you five to ten minutes to write a one paragraph review of the readings. You are more than welcome to write these before class, but it is not necessary. This is not to be a summary, but instead I want to know what you thought about the reading and why. We will then discuss the reading and you will have the opportunity to share what you thought. These reviews will be collected, and will be worth a total of 10% of your grade.

Extra Credit (Extra Credit will be applied to the total points after the curve) If done well, completing both extra credit assignments can significantly improve your grade.

Extra Credit #1
Transcription exercise: Locate an inventory or a probate record from the 16th-17th century, and transcribe it. The record should be a minimum of 1 page. Once transcribed, write an additional 2 pages describing what the document can tell us about the period it is from, and who it was about. I can select a document from 17th century Port Royal Jamaica for you if you cannot find documents from this time period. This assignment is worth up to 5% bonus of the total grade, and is due by April 12th.

Extra Credit #2
Write a 3 page review of a course-relevant article of your choosing from the journal Historical Archaeology. The review should include a summary of the article and your thoughts about what its merits. From this review, prepare a 5 minute power point presentation to be given during the last week class. This assignment is worth up to 5% bonus of the total grade. The paper is due by April 16th, and the presentation will be given April 30th. Both parts of the assignment must be completed to receive credit for either.

Last day to drop classes on Howdy is Friday January 18th at 5pm. The last day to Q-drop is April 2nd.

Academic Honor:
“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”
Find the Student Honor Council rules and procedures at this web address:
http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B118 in Cain Hall, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu/.

**Schedule (Subject to change)**

Week 1 (Jan 15th and 17th):
- **Introduction, course overview, definitions**
  - Video: Other People Garbage
  - Read Orser p. 3-27
  - Read Deetz p. 5-11

Week 2 (Jan 22nd and 24th):
- **History of Historical Archeology and theoretical foundations**
  - Read Orser pp.28-53
  - Read Deetz pp. 38-42; 64
  - Supplemental Reading: Wilson (1990) *We’ve Got Thousands of These!*

Week 3 (Jan 29th and 31st):
- **Artifact analysis and interpretation**
  - Read South (1977) *Method & Theory in Historical Archaeology* (p.31-43)
  - Read Orser p.89-95, 103 - 110
  - Supplemental: Deetz p. 93-124

Week 4 (Feb 5th and 7th):
- **English ceramic types and tobacco pipes: using style and technology to date archaeological sites**
  - Read Deetz p. 68-77
  - Read Orser p. 96-103

Week 5 (Feb 12th and 14th):
- **Other methods of dating archaeological sites & Exam Review**
  - Read Orser p. 127-134
  - Thursday: **Exam 1**

Week 6 (Feb 19th and 21st):
- **Site Discovery: survey techniques and historical resources**
  - Read McCann & Ewing (2002) *Recovering Information Worth Knowing*
  - Read Miller & Klein (2002) *A System for Ranking the Research Potential for 19th and 20th Century Farmstead Sites*

Week 7 (Feb 26th and 28th):
- **Field Techniques: excavation & documentation**

Week 8 (March 5th and 7th): **Utilizing Historical Records & Genealogy**
Read Seasholes (1993) *On the Use of Historical Maps*
Genealogy Report due Friday

Week 9 (March 12th and 14th): **Spring Break, no classes**

Week 10 (March 19th and 21st): **Case Study:** Simon Benning: A Pewterer in Port Royal
Video on Port Royal (tentative)
Read Hamilton pp.1-8
**Guest Lecture:** Dr. Donny Hamilton on his Port Royal excavations

Week 11 (March 26th and 28th): **Tuesday:** Exam Review
   **Thursday:** Midterm (Exam 2)

Week 12 (April 2nd and 4th): **Tuesday:** Avoiding Plagiarism &
   **Case Study:** Brunswick Pattern Distribution, Carolina Artifact Pattern, and the Frontier Artifact Pattern
   **If there is time on Thursday:** Rum-Running during prohibition

Week 12 (April 9th and 11th): **Case Study:** Shipwreck excavations and *La Belle*
Read: [http://www.texasbeyonddhistory.net/belle/excavations.html](http://www.texasbeyonddhistory.net/belle/excavations.html)
Read: [http://nautarch.tamu.edu/CRL/Report2/polearm1.htm](http://nautarch.tamu.edu/CRL/Report2/polearm1.htm)
**Video:** *Voyage of Doom*

Week 13 (April 16th and 18th): **Guest Lecture:** Chad Gulseth on his work on the pirate ship *Ranger*
**Tour of the Conservation Research Lab on Riverside Campus**

Week 14 (April 23rd and 25th): **Guest Lecture:** Megan Lickliter-Mundon on her work with WWII aircraft
**Future Trends in Historical Archaeology**
Read Orser p. 300-316

Week 15 (April 30th): Last day of classes. Extra credit presentations, wrap up, and review.

May 3rd: Final Exam