**ANTHROPOLOGY 554D**

**MARXIST APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGY**

Spring 2016

Thurs 11:40 AM – 2:40 PM Instructor ‑ Randy McGuire

Sci 1 143 office Sci 1 228, x7-2100

hours: T 1:15-2:15 PM, W 10:30-11:30 AM or by appointment  rmcguire@binghamton.edu

This graduate seminar introduces the student to the application and promise of Marxist theory for the study of archaeology and conversely considers if archaeology has anything to offer to Marxist theory. Marxist theory has influenced archaeology at least since the 1920's but it is only in the last two decades that archaeologists have explicitly discussed Marxist approaches. The course will focus on those aspects of Marxist theory which have had the greatest salience in the recent discussions.

The course is intended primarily for graduate students in the department of Anthropology but is not limited to these students. The course provides archaeology students with an in- depth introduction to an approach that has had a significant impact on theoretical debate in US archaeology and is a major presence in European and Latin American archaeology. For cultural, physical, and linguistics graduate students, the course counts as an archaeology course towards their sub-disciplinary distribution requirements. Many cultural students have found the course doubly useful both to fulfill this requirement and as an introduction to Marxism. Anthropology 554D provides Marxist oriented graduate students in other departments with an introduction to archaeology which will help them assess the relevance of archaeology to their own fields and interests.

The course is structured on the assumption that the student knows very little about Marxism but has a basic understanding of what is going on in modern archaeology. I realize that some students may be in the opposite position. If this is the case, please talk to me and we can work out alternative readings to compensate. Please do not hesitate to bring up things that you do not understand about either Marxism or archaeology in class. Not only is that one of the main goals of the class but also it is one of the best ways to spark interesting discussion.

I have organized the course around a series of key concepts or issues in Marxist theory that have been most relevant to current debates in archaeology. The topics that will be covered include the opposition between history and evolution, the dialectic, class and class struggle, ideology, critical theory, and praxis. In each of these, we will first consider the topic from a theoretical stand point, and then discuss relevant archaeological case studies.

I strongly believe that to study Marxist theory you must read Marx. To this end you will find Marx's writings frequently assigned in the class. Marx is very tough reading for most American students. Marx was not simply a bad writer, and understanding why he is difficult to read is an important step to understanding what he had to say. Marx wrote in a style which is now archaic; he did not follow the journalistic conventions of today’s writing. Marx often incorporated puns and references to events and personages of his day. These are often lost on the modern reader. Many of Marx's writings are unfinished fragments and we would assume not fully polished. Finally, Marx's reasoning was dialectical. He did not deal in cause and effect or construct the type of simple linear arguments we have been trained to expect in modern discourse. Keeping these things in mind will help you understand Marx better, although I fear he will remain difficult to read.

My experience has always been that the students make or break a seminar. We will be meeting 3 hours a week to engage in a dialogue on the issues raised for that week. To this end it is absolutely imperative that you come to class prepared. This means that you must do the readings, but more importantly, you must **THINK** about the readings before you come to class. I will try to give you a list of issues and questions before each session to help you when you do the readings. We will start each class session with a time for questions on the reading. This is a very effective way to start class if you come prepared with questions.

Your grade in the course will be based on 1) your participation in class, 2) a presentation given at the end of the class and 3) a term paper. The topic of the term paper is very open but it must relate both to Marxism and archaeology and must require you to do some type of creative analysis. A few possible topics would include:

1. The reanalysis of a major site or regional study in terms of a Marxist perspective.

2. The reconsideration of a major issue in archaeology such as the origin of the state or agriculture from a Marxist perspective.

3. A critical analysis which examines archaeology's role in the present. This should have a specific topic, such as CRM or case such as a museum or archaeological park as a focal point.

4. A discussion of Marx and Engels' concepts of the ancient and prehistoric pasts in terms of current archaeological knowledge. This discussion would need to consider how current interpretations might have altered the writings of Marx and Engels.

5. A consideration of the implications of a Marxist archaeology for the conduct of field work.

Your final paper will be due on May 12, 2016. You will be required to hand in a one-or two-page prospectus for the paper on February 25, 2016. You will also be required to hand in an out-line of your paper April 28, 2016. On May 5, 2016 we will hear 20 minute presentations by each person on their paper. These presentations should be modeled after symposium papers given at meetings. The research paper will count for 65% of your grade and the presentation will count for 15%, leaving 20% to be determined by class participation and effort.

There are four required texts for Anthropology 554D:

Marx, Karl

1994 *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*. International Publishers, NY.

Engels, Friedreich

1972 *The Origin of the Family, Private Property & the State.* International Publishers, NY. (do

get this edition, I want you to read Leacock’s introduction)

Ollman, Bertell

2003 *The Dance of the Dialectic.* University of Illinois Press, Champaign, IL.

Childe, V. Gordon

2003 *Man Makes Himself*. Spokesman Books, London. (Nice hardback copy and the only

edition currently in press, check used paperback market for cheaper price)

*The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* is the classic substantive study by Karl Marx. We will be reading it as a model of Marx's analysis and method. Engels *The Origin of the Family, Private Property & the State* is the classic Marxist work on non-capitalist societies.

We will also be reading various chapters from my books *A Marxist Archaeology* and *Archaeology as Political Action*. I have not ordered copies of these books through the book store. You will find complete PDFs of both books on the class blackboard site. I have put copies of the books in the reserve room of the Bartle Library.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

January 28 **Introduction** - McGuire 2002, preface, ch 1; Shanks & McGuire 1996

February 4 **Marx's method** - Marx 1978; Childe 2003, chs 1, 2, 7, & 9.

February 11 **History of Marxism** - McGuire 2002, ch 2; Engels 1972 chs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 9

February 18 **Archaeology and Marxism** - McGuire 2002, ch 3; Childe 1989; Leacock 1972; Patterson 2003, Chs 4 & 5, Patterson 2009 ch. 2

February 25 **The Dialectic** - Ollman 2003; Lull 2000a

**Paper Prospectus Due**

March 3  **Labor, Surplus, & Exploitation** - Marx 1906 ch1 & 7; Ensor 2000; Cobb 2000, Ch 1-4 & 8; Lull 2000b; Wurst 2015

March 10 **The Making of History** - McGuire 2002 ch5; Childe 1947, ch 1; Marx 1970; Wolf 1982 Chs 1, 3, and 10; Godelier 1986, pp.1-70; Brumfiel 1996.

March 17 **The Making of History** - Kus & Raharijaona 2000; Sayer et al. 2007; Estevez 2009; Saitta 2007 ch 1-3, 6; Rosenswig 2012

March 24 **History and Evolution** - McGuire 2002 ch 6; Vargas 1995; Trigger 2003; Kardulias and Hall 2009; Lull and Mico 2011 chs 10 & 11.

March 31 **SPRING BREAK**

April 7 **Class and Class Struggle** - McGuire 2002, ch 7; McGuire 2008 ch. 3; Saitta 2005; Chidester and Gadsby 2009;

April 14 **Ideology and Critical Archaeology** - McGuire 2002, ch 8; McGuire and Bernbeck 2011;Swenson 2013; Van Dyke 2011; Leone 2010, Part 2

April 21 **The Praxis of Archaeology** - McGuire 2002, ch 9; McGuire 2008 ch. 2, 4 & 5; Schakel and Roller 2012; Bernbeck and Pollock 2007; Morehart 2012

April 28 **Marxism and Fast Capitalism** - Patterson 2009 Chs 5 & 6, Agger 2004 Chs 1 & 6, Piketty 2015; Gnecco and Schmidt 2015; Zorzin 2015

**Paper Outline Due**

May 5 **Anarchism and Marxism** – Springer 2011, 2014; Harvey 2015: Earl and Spriggs 2015; Angelbeck and Grier 2012

May 12 **Presentations**

May 16 **Paper Due**

**ANTHROPOLOGY 554D**

**MARXIST APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGY**

Bibliography - Spring 2016

**Agger, Ben**

2004 *Speeding Up Fast Capitalism: Cultures, Jobs, Families, Schools, Bodies.* Paradigm Publishers, Boulder.

**Angelbeck, Bill and Colin Gier**

2012 Anarchism and the Archaeology of Archaic Societies: Resistance to Centralization

in the Coast Salish Region of the Pacific Northwest Coast. *Current Anthropology* 53(5):547-587..

**Bernbeck, Reinhard, andSusan Polock**

2007 ‘Grabe, Wo Du Stehst!’ An Archaeology of Perpetrators. In Archaeology and Capitalism. Yannis Hamilakis and Philip Duke, eds. Pp. 217–233. Walnut , Creek , CA : Left Coast Press.

**Brumfiel, Elizabeth M.**

1996 The Quality of Tribute Cloth: The Place of Evidence in Archaeological Argument. *American Antiquity* 61(3):453-462.

**Chidester, Robert C. and David A. Gadsby**

2009 One Neighborhood, Two Communities: The Public Archaeology of Class in a Gentrifying Urban Neighborhood. *International Labor and Working-Class History* 76:127–146

**Childe, V. Gordon**

1947 *History.* Cobbett, London.

1951 *Man Makes Himself*. New American Library, New York.

1989 Retrospect. in *The Pastmasters: Eleven Modern Pioneers of Archaeology*. ed. by G. Daniel and C. Chippendale, pp. 10-19, Thames and Hudson, London.

**Cobb, Charles**

2000 *From Quarry to Cornfield: The Political Economy of Mississippian Hoe Production.* University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

**Earl, Timothy and Matthew Spriggs**

2015Political Economy in Prehistory: A Marxist Approach to Pacific Sequences. *Current Anthropology* 56(4):515-44.

**Engels, Frederick**

1972 *The Origins of the family, Private Property, and the State*. New World Paperbacks, New York.

**Ensor, Bradley E.**

2000 Social Formations, Modo de Vida, and Conflict in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 65(1):15-42.

**Estéves, Jordi**

2009 Ethnoarchaeology in the Uttermost Part of the Earth. *Arctic Anthropology* 46:132-143.

**Gnecco, Cristóbal and Adriana Schmidt Dias**

2015 On Contract Archaeology. [*International Journal of Historical Archaeology*](http://link.springer.com.proxy.binghamton.edu/journal/10761)

19:687-698

**Godelier, Maurice**

1986 *The Mental and the Material.* Verso, London.

**Harvey, David**

2015 Listen Anarchist. <http://davidharvey.org/2015/06/listen-anarchist-by-david-harvey/>, viewed 1/3/2016

**Kardulias, P. Nick and Thomas D. Hall**

2008 Archaeology and World Systems Analysis. *World Archaeology*. 40(4):572-583.

**Kus, Susan and Victor Raharijaona**

2000 House to Palace, Village to State: Scaling Up Architecture and Ideology. *American Anthropologist* 102(1):98-113.

**Leacock, Eleanor B.**

1972 Introduction to *The Origins of the family, Private Property, and the State*. by F. Engels, New World Paperbacks, New York.

**Leone, Mark**

2010 *Critical Historical Archaeology*. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek.

**Lull, Vicente**

2000a Death and Society: A Marxist Approach. *Antiquity* 74:576-580.

2000b Agaric Society, Death at Home. *Antiquity* 74:581-590

**Lull, Vicente and Rafael Mico**

2011 *Archaeology of the Origin of the State: The Theories.* Oxford University Press, Oxford.

**Marx, Karl**

1906 *Capital.* The Modern Library, New York.

1970 1859 Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*. International Publishers, New York.

**McGuire, Randall H. and Reinhard Bernbeck**

2011 Ideology in *Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Ritual and Religion*, ed. by Timothy Insoll, pp. 166-178. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

**Morehart, C. T.**

2012 What If the Aztec Empire Never Existed? The Prerequisites of Empire and the Politics of Plausible Alternative Histories. *American Anthropologist*, 114: 267–281.

**Patterson, Thomas**

2003 *Marx’s Ghost: Conversations With Archaeologists.* Berg, Oxford.

2009 *Karl Marx, Anthropologist.* Berg, Oxford.

**Piketty, Thomas**

2015 About Capital in the Twenty-First Century. *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings*, 105(5): 48–53

**Rosenswig, Robert M.**

2012 Materialism, Mode of Production, and a Millennium of Change in Southern Mexico. *Journal of Archaeological Method Theory* 19:1-48

**Saitta, Dean J.**

2005 Tribal Society and Archaeology. *Rethinking Marxism* 17(3):385-397.

2007 *The Archaeology of Collective Action*. University of Florida Press, Gainsville.

**Sayer, Daniel O., P. Brendan Burke, and Aaron M. Henry**

2007 The Political Economy of Exile in the Great Dismal Swamp. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 11(1):60-97.

**Schakel, Paul and Michael Roller**

2012 The Gilded Age Wasn’t So Gilded in the Anthracite Region of Pennsylvania. *International Journal of* Historical Archaeology 16(4): 761-775.

**Shanks, Michael, and Randall H. McGuire**

1996 The Craft of Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 61:75-88.

**Springer, Simon**

2011 Violence Sits in Places? Cultural Practice, Neoliberal Rationalism, and Virulent Inaginative Geographies*. Political Geography* 20:90-98.

2014 Why a Radical Geography Must Be Anarchist. *Dialogues in Human Geography*. 4(3) 249-270.

**Swenson, Edward R.**

2013 Dramas of the Dialectic: Sacrifice and Power in Ancient Polities. In *Violence and Civilization*. Ed by Roderick Campbell. Joukowsky Institute Publication 4, pp. 28-60, Oxbow Press, Oxford.

**Trigger, Bruce G.**

2003 All People Are [Not] Good. *Anthropologica* 45:39–44

**Vargas, Iraida**

1995 The Perception of History and Archaeology in Latin America, A Theoretical Approach. In *Making Alternative Histories: The Practice of Archaeology and History in Non-Western Society.* Ed. By P.R. Schmidt & T.C. Patterson. pp.47-66. School of American Research Press, Santa Fe.

**Van Dyke, Ruth**

2011 Imagined Pasts Imagined: Memory and Ideology in Archaeology. In *Ideologies in Archaeology.*  Ed by R. Bernbeck and R. McGuire, pp. 233-253. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

**Wolf, Eric**

1982 *Europe and the People Without History.* University of California Press, Berkeley.

**Wurst, LouAnn**

2015 The Historical Archaeology of Capitalist Dispossession. *Capitol and Class* 39(1):33-49.

**Zorzin, Nicolas**

2015 Dystopian Archaeologies: the Implementation of the Logic of Capital in Heritage Management. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 19:791–809.