ARCL0057. History and Archaeology of the African Diaspora
Year 2/3, 15 credit

Thursdays, 4-6pm, Room 209

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ARCL0057. Archaeology and History of the African Diaspora  
*Thursdays, 4-6pm, room 209*

**SYLLABUS:**

16/1 Introduction to the Course

*Prelude to the Diaspora, Slavery in Africa:
16/1 Anthropology and History of Slavery in Africa
23/1 Archaeologies of Slavery in Africa
23/1 Case Study: Segou, 1700 - 1861
30/1 The Trans-Atlantic Trade
30/1 *Film: 'The Slave Kingdoms’* Henry Lewis Gates Jr.

*Social History and the Origins of Diaspora Archaeology:
6/2 Background to African-American Cultural Studies
6/2 First Steps Towards the Archaeology of Enslavement in the Americas
13/2 Colonoware and the Question of New World African Material Culture
13/2 *Seminar & Essay Preparation*

***Reading Week***

*Archaeological Case Studies:*
27/2 Chesapeake Pipes & Jamaican Yabbas: Virginia and the Caribbean
27/2 Behind the Big House: The Spatial Study of Plantations
5/3 Resistance: Maroon Societies
5/3 Diaspora Mortuary Archaeology
12/3 Ethnicity and Creolization
12/3 The Cane River Project (Louisiana)
19/3 Presenting the African Diaspora as Heritage
19/3 Case Study: Interpreting African Residents at UK Heritage Sites  
(Guest Lecturer: Hannah McLean)
26/3 Hidden Diasporas: Africans in the Indian Ocean World and Europe
26/3 *Seminar & Essay Preparation*
Course Notices:

**Aim of the Module:** To provide an historical and archaeological encounter with issues of slavery and African cultural survival in the New World for second and third year undergraduates.

**Module Co-Ordinator:** Prof. Kevin MacDonald (contact details on page 1)

**Seminars:** The two seminars are intended to provide a forum for discussion of issues generated in the preceding groups of lectures. Questions regarding upcoming essay topics will also be addressed in these seminars.

**Core Text:** Students may wish to purchase the core text for the course:

*Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800 (2nd Edition)*

by John Thornton. Cambridge University Press (available in paperback for £25.99 [or less])

**Readings & Library Resources:** Readings for this course should occupy on average four hours of the students time each week. Reading lists and essay titles will be given out on the first day of class. Readings are held at the Institute Library, the Science Library (DMS Watson) and the Main UCL Library. A few sources are at the University of London Senate House Library or SOAS.

**Assessment:** Students are to write two essays of their choice, each counting for 50% of the final mark (between 2375 to 2625 words, approximately 10 typewritten double-spaced A4 pages excluding references). Due dates are 28th February for Essay 1 and 27th April for Essay 2.

**Retaining Copies of Essays:** Remember that all marked essays must be returned to the lecturer within one week of receipt so that they may be available to the external examiner. Please note that it is an Institute requirement that you retain a copy (this can be electronic) of all coursework submitted.

**Submission of Coursework:**
- All coursework must be submitted both as hard copy and electronically.
- You should staple the appropriate colour-coded IoA coversheet (available in the IoA library and outside room 411a) to the front of each piece of work and submit it to the red box at the Reception Desk (or room 411a in the case of Year 1 undergraduate work)
- All coursework should be uploaded to Turnitin via Moodle by midnight on the day of the deadline. This will date-stamp your work. It is essential to upload all parts of your work as this is sometimes the version that will be marked.
- Instructions are given below:
  1. Ensure that your essay or other item of coursework has been saved as a Word doc., docx. or PDF document, Please include the module code and your candidate number on every page as a header.
  2. Go into the Moodle page for the module to which you wish to submit your work.
  3. Click on the correct assignment (e.g. Essay 1),
  4. Fill in the “Submission title” field with the right details: It is essential that the first word in the title is your examination candidate number (e.g. YGBR8 Essay 1). Note that this changes each year.
  5. Click “Upload”.
  6. Click on “Submit”
  7. You should receive a receipt – please save this.
  8. If you have problems, please email the IoA Turnitin Advisers on ioa-turnitin@ucl.ac.uk, explaining the nature of the problem and the exact module and assignment involved.

One of the Turnitin Advisers will normally respond within 24 hours, Monday-Friday during term. Please be sure to email the Turnitin Advisers if technical problems prevent you from uploading work in time to meet a submission deadline - even if you do not obtain an immediate response from one of the Advisers they will be able to notify the relevant Module Coordinator that you had attempted to submit the work before the deadline.

See further IoA Policy Guidance at the end of this document.
READING LIST
for
Archaeology and History of the African Diaspora

Readings correspond to individual lectures. It is not intended that you read everything on this list, BUT it is expected that you will read at least one *starred reading from each list, and all relevant readings for your essay choices.

**Anthropology and History of Slavery in Africa**


**Archaeologies of Slavery in Africa**


Case Study: Segou, 1700-1861


The Trans-Atlantic Trade

*History*


*Archaeology*


Institute Periodical Section
Background to African-American Cultural Studies


First Steps towards the Archaeology of Enslavement in the Americas

*Ascher, Robert and Charles W. Fairbanks 1971. *Excavation of a Slave Cabin: Georgia, USA*. Historical Archaeology 5: 3-17. [will be distributed as a hand-out]


Colonoware Pottery and the Question of New World African Material Culture

*Colonoware: the basics


ANTH TH95 LEO


•Colonoware: critical analysis


Chesapeake Pipes and Jamaican Yabbas: Virginia and the Caribbean

Virginia


The Caribbean


Island Lives: Historical Archaeologies of the Caribbean, pp.143-64. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press. DGE FAR


**Behind the Big House: The Spatial Study of Plantations**


Samford, P.M. 2007, Subfloor Pits and the Archaeology of Slavery in Colonial Virginia, Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press. DED 16 SAM


**Resistance: Maroon Societies**


**Diaspora Mortuary Archaeology**

African Burial Ground Project Office, Final Archaeological Reports. Full access online at: [http://www.africanburialground.gov/ABG_FinalReports.htm](http://www.africanburialground.gov/ABG_FinalReports.htm)


**Ethnicity and Creolization**


**The Cane River Project (Louisiana)**


Presenting the African Diaspora as Heritage


See also, regarding Slavery related sites in Africa:


Other Diasporas: Africans in the Indian Ocean World and Europe
**Essay I Options**
Choose one of the three topics below for your first essay. Deadline is 28th February.

(2375 to 2625 words, excluding references).

1) Discuss how archaeologists might document the presence and nature of enslavement in pre-colonial Sub-Saharan Africa. Justify your response using at least three case studies from the literature.
2) Evaluate the impacts of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on the polities and peoples of West Africa c. AD 1600-1800. How were these impacts different from those of the Trans-Saharan Slave Trade which had existed since at least the first millennium AD?
3) Based upon evidence presented in the readings, evaluate who made North American Colonowares and whether or not it really matters.

**Essay II Options**
Choose one of the three topics below for your 2nd essay. Deadline is 27th April.

(2375 to 2625 words, excluding references).

1) Elements of African Ethnicity endured in the New World: are there regional differences in such continuities, and if so why? Use archaeological examples in your answer.
2) Consider the pitfalls of presenting the history of enslavement at heritage sites in Africa and the Americas. How might this issue be more effectively presented to a diverse visitor groups?
3) Write a prospectus for future African Diaspora work in the country and/or region of your choice, considering relevant historical and anthropological literature.
APPENDIX A: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2019-2020 (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY COURSEWORK PROCEDURES

General policies and procedures concerning modules and coursework, including submission procedures, assessment criteria, and general resources, are available on the IoA Student Administration section of Moodle: https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/

It is essential that you read and comply with these. Note that some of the policies and procedures will be different depending on your status (e.g. undergraduate, postgraduate taught, affiliate, graduate diploma, intercollegiate, interdepartmental). If in doubt, please consult your module co-ordinator.

GRANTING OF EXTENSIONS: Note that there are strict UCL-wide regulations with regard to the granting of extensions for coursework. Note that Module Coordinators are not permitted to grant extensions. All requests for extensions must be submitted on the appropriate UCL form, together with supporting documentation, via Judy Medrington’s office and will then be referred on for consideration. Please be aware that the grounds that are acceptable are limited. Those with long-term difficulties should contact UCL Student Support and Wellbeing to make special arrangements. Please see the IoA Student Administration section of Moodle https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/ for further information. Additional information is given here http://www.ucl.ac.uk/srs/academic-manual/c4/extenuating-circumstances/

CITING OF SOURCES and AVOIDING PLAGIARISM: Coursework must be expressed in your own words, citing the exact source (author, date and page number; website address if applicable) of any ideas, information, diagrams, etc., that are taken from the work of others. This applies to all media (books, articles, websites, images, figures, etc.). Any direct quotations from the work of others must be indicated as such by being placed between quotation marks.

Plagiarism is a very serious irregularity, which can carry heavy penalties. It is your responsibility to abide by requirements for presentation, referencing and avoidance of plagiarism. Make sure you understand definitions of plagiarism and the procedures and penalties as detailed in UCL regulations: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/guidelines/plagiarism

RESOURCES

MOODLE: Please ensure you are signed up to the course on Moodle. For help with Moodle, please contact Nicola Cockerton, Room 411a (nicola.cockerton@ucl.ac.uk).