This course critically examines the development of thought in archaeology that goes beyond a materialist interpretation of culture. An underlying premise of this course is that the normative characterizations of New Archaeology about idealist interpretations were both naive and infused with positive orthodoxy. Rather than label theoretical postures, this course will question how we can develop a more synthetic archaeological science that incorporates concern for culture, or the influence of ideas on material culture patterning and on culture change.

Over the last two decades attempts to incorporate the affect of ideas have often been portrayed in reactionary terms and considered outmoded. Ironically, such responses are contrary to the conventional notion that archaeology is anthropology. Post-processual approaches in archaeology continued to be passed off as extreme relativism. If we are to develop an anthropological and humanistic science, however, then we must sponsor inquiry that seeks to establish parameters for germane and important idealist explanations, explanations that need not and should not exclude compatible and systematically related materialist explanations. Our foremost task is to see how and in what context we can affirm a connection between the ideological superstructure and material culture, patiently working through methodologies that clearly demonstrate the ties between archaeological evidence and the domain of symbolic thought and expression.

In this course we will explore the question of causality from the material base of infrastructure to ideology or the superstructure. Recent thinking by anthropologists and Marxists scholars help us to understand the role of mind and culture as a mediator between environment /modes of production and political, economic, and social structures.

It is undeniable that spatial arrangements of material culture are sometimes expressive of the symbolic concerns in culture that are linked to economic and political life. We seek to develop new ways in which we can link patterned symbolic meaning, patterned environmental attributes and material culture to arrive at a methodology in archaeology that creates a synthetic and scientific history.

Requirements and Grading

At each seminar meeting there will be several (5-8 pp.) papers presented by seminar participaants. These papers will reflect the participants' personal reaction and evaluation of the readings, as well as an assessment of the theoretical and methodological perspectives of the work in light of the issues to be highlighted in the seminar. These papers must be distributed to seminar participants by noon of the Tuesday before the seminar meeting. Grades on the papers and accompanying presentations will take into account the timeliness of paper delivery.

Grading will be based on:
40% class discussion; 30% class papers /presentations; 30% final paper. You will be expected to have your paper topic selected by February 1. A meeting will be scheduled with the instructor to discuss possible topics.

Each presenter of a weekly topic paper is expected to make an appointment with the instructor 2 weeks in advance of a presentation.
The following books are on reserve:


**Course Reader: Orange of Blue formerly Custom Copies, 13th St. Bookstore.**

**Books for purchase:**


January 4: Introduction to Syllabus and Selection of Topics

January 11: Ideology–Praxis and Representation; Overview of Symbolic Perspectives


January 18: Transformation in Archaeological Reasoning. The Role of Metaphor and Metonymy


Levi Strauss, C. 1966. The Savage Mind. See Chapter 2 (The logic of Totemic Classification), pp 35-74, Chapter 7 (The Individual as a Species), pp. 191-216, and Chapter 8 (Time Regained), pp. 217-244. For the play of metonymy read pp. 204-208 and 224-228. Reading at 415 GRI.

January 25: Towards Structure and Subjects: The First Movements


February 1: The First Experiments: Symbols in Action, or Symbols Projected?

Hodder, I. 1982. Symbols in Action: Ethnoarchaeological Studies of Material Culture. Cambridge Univ. Press. On Reserve. Chapters 2, 4, 5, 7, 8.4, 8.6, 9, 10 Two questions on Kenya, 1 on Loize, 1 question on Nuba.
February 8: Borrowing Theory


February 15: Ideology, Symbolism, and Space


March 2: *Spring Vacation*

March 9: *Paper Research*

March 16: *Solid Metaphor—Artifacts, Objects, Places*


March 23: *Landscapes and Space—Symbolic Perspectives; Grid and Group*


March 30: *Different Perspectives: Structuration in Practice? The Viability of the Dominance Paradigm?*


**April 6: Ideology, Technology, and Symbolism**


**April 13: Ideology and the Practice of History.**


**April 20: Reactions, Reflections, and New Directions?**


**April 21: Paper Presentations**

**April 27: Paper Presentations**