Module AR2034 From Monks to Modernity

Academic Year: 2009-2010
Semester: 2
Time and location: Monday, 14:00-15:00 – Att LT3
Tuesday, 13:00-14:00 – GP LRC

First meeting: 25 January 2010

Module coordinator: Chris King

e-mail: cnk4@le.ac.uk
Room: Att 1614 (Attenborough Tower 16th floor)
Office hours: 10.00-12.00 Wednesday

Your individual appointments (e.g. tutorials, seminars):

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AR 2034  From Monks to Modernity

Weighting: 20 credits
Coordinator: Chris King (CNK)

Other tutors: Deirdre O’Sullivan (DOS) Audrey Horning (AJH)

Module outline: This course, spanning the period from c.1000 to the present day, investigates the transformation of medieval Christendom into the modern world, and the ways in which the material, world develops, changes and is ultimately transformed. We will examine a wide range of evidence, including landscapes, buildings, excavated material culture and documentary sources, highlighting the need for interdisciplinary research. Themes explored include regional coherence and diversity, the development of communities and the dynamics of population, changes in belief systems, the economic significance of trade and urbanism, changes in attitudes to property, personal possessions and wealth, the rise of consumption, and European colonialism and the development of global interconnections.

Aims:
- To build on topics introduced in AR1005
- To examine the range of archaeological sources from early medieval to modern times
- To examine key themes within the time frame (including urbanism, material culture, economies, religion, colonialism)
- To enable students to develop independent learning skills
- To develop critical and analytical skills through integrated seminar discussions

Intended Learning outcomes: On completion of the module students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate a broad knowledge of archaeology and historical development from AD 1000 to the present
2. Demonstrate in both written and oral work a grasp of the interplay between archaeological and other sources
3. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the archaeological sources for this period
4. Demonstrate sound understanding of the major concepts assessed in the course

Method of Teaching: Two one-hour lecture sessions per week. Two of these sessions will take the form of seminars led by course tutors based on assigned readings and group discussion/presentations.

Method of assessment:
(i) 1 essay of 2,500 words (40%) – deadline: 22 March 2010
(ii) 1 two-hour exam (60%) held in the Semester Two examination period
Teaching schedule: Monks to Modernity

Week 14  
25 Jan.  1. Introduction: from medieval to modern (CNK)  
26 Jan.  2. Approaching medieval society: issues and frameworks (CNK)

Week 15  
1 Feb.  3. The medieval rural landscape (CNK)  
2 Feb.  4. Parishes and monasteries (DOS)

Week 16  
5 Feb.  5. The medieval aristocracy: castles and manors (CNK)  
6 Feb.  6. Towns, trade and medieval consumption (CNK)

Week 17  
9 Feb.  7. Medieval mortalities (DOS)  
10 Feb.  8. Seminar A: Medieval bodies, health and disease (CNK/DOS)

Week 18  
13 Feb.  9. The archaeology of the Reformation (DOS)  
14 Feb.  10. Into the modern – feudalism to capitalism? (CNK)

Week 19  
Reading Week – No lectures

Week 20  
8 Mar.  11. Reshaping land and society: estates, enclosures and Improvement (CNK)  
9 Mar.  12. Consumption and the world of goods (CNK)

Week 21  
15 Mar.  13. Re-making the world: colonial encounters (AJH)  

Week 22  
22 Mar.  15. Living in modern cities (CNK)  
23 Mar.  16. The archaeology of diaspora; race, ethnicity and identity (AJH)

Week 23  
3 May  17. Archaeologies of the contemporary world (AJH)  
4 May  Bank Holiday – no lecture

Week 24  
10 May  18. Revision overview (CNK)
Seminars: There are two required seminars integrated into the 9-week lecture course. Students will be assigned to one of three seminar groups by the module co-ordinator. Each seminar will be based on set readings within these groups, which will be distributed or made available through Blackboard two weeks before the seminar.

Essays: Select a title from the list below. Your essay should be a maximum of 2,500 words in length and should demonstrate sound understanding of the learning outcomes of the course. Your essay MUST conform to the format for referencing set out in your Student Handbook. You MUST select your essay topic by 15 February and you MUST discuss your topic with the relevant member of the teaching team as below.

Essay Titles

1. How can archaeological evidence contribute to our understanding of medieval peasants? (CNK)

2. How has a shift away from ‘military’ towards ‘social’ interpretations affected the archaeological study of medieval castles? (CNK)

3. Consider the material evidence regarding the representation of death and the dead between c. 1350 and c. 1600. Using case studies, discuss how might we explain changes in practice? (DOS)

4. The period between 1400 and 1600 has been characterised as ‘an Age of Transition’ (Gaimster & Stamper 1997). To what extent is this an appropriate term for European material culture and society in this period? (CNK)

5. What was the impact of the Reformation on the British landscape? (DOS)

6. With reference to case studies, discuss how archaeology has contributed to our understanding of the emergence of plural identities in the colonial British Atlantic World? (AJH)

7. What can archaeological evidence tell us about living conditions and social identities within 19th-century urban ‘slum’ communities? (CNK)

8. How have historical archaeologists approached the concerns of descendant populations in their research and its presentation? Please base your discussion around specific case studies (AJH)
Key readings by lecture topic (extended reading list available on Blackboard)

NOTE: The following journals are essential for this module. Be prepared to spend quality time consulting these volumes (several of which are available on line).

Medieval Archaeology; Post-Medieval Archaeology; Historical Archaeology; The International Journal of Historical Archaeology; Industrial Archaeology Review; Landscapes

1. Introduction: From Medieval to Modern (25 January)

2. Approaching medieval society: history and archaeology (26 January)
   D. Austin 1990. The “proper” study of medieval archaeology, in D. Austin and L. Alcock (eds.) From the Baltic to the Black Sea: Studies in Medieval Archaeology. Unwin Hyman

3. The medieval rural landscape (1 February)
   J. Grenville 1997. Medieval Houses. Leicester University Press (chapt. 5)

4. Parishes and monasteries (2 February)
   M. Aston 1999. Monasteries in the Landscape Stroud: Tempus
J.J. Bond 2003. Monastic Landscapes Stroud: Tempus 

5. The medieval aristocracy: castles and manors (8 February) 
J. Grenville 1997. Medieval Houses. Leicester University Press (chaps. 3 & 4)

6. Towns, trade, and medieval consumption (9 February) 
J. Grenville 1997. Medieval Houses. Leicester University Press (chapt. 6)

7. Medieval mortalities (15 February) 
C. Dyer 1988. “Change in Diet in the Late Middle Ages: the case of harvest workers”, Agricultural History Review, 36: 21-38. (available online)

9. The Archaeology of Reformation (22 February)
D. O’Sullivan 2006. The ‘Little Dissolution’ of the 1520s, Post-Medieval Archaeology 40(2), 227-258 (available online)

10. Into the Modern – feudalism to capitalism? (23 February)
R. Leech 2000. The symbolic hall: historical context and merchant culture in the early modern city, Vernacular Architecture 31: 1-10 (available online)

11. Reshaping land and society: estates, enclosures and Improvement (8 March)


12. Consumption and the world of goods (9 March)

13. Re-making the world: colonial encounters (15 March)

15. Living in modern cities (22 March)


16. **The archaeology of diaspora: race, ethnicity and identity** (23 March)

M. Blakey 2001 ‘Bioarchaeology of the African Diaspora.’ *Annual Review of Anthropology* 30, 387-422 (available online)


A. Ogundiran and T. Falola (eds.) 2007 *Archaeology of Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington

See also the website of the African Diaspora Archaeology Network for a wide range of resources [http://www.diaspora.uiuc.edu/](http://www.diaspora.uiuc.edu/)

17. **Archaeologies of the contemporary world** (4 May)


D. Hicks 2005. ‘Places for thinking’ from Annapolis to Bristol: situations and symmetries in “world historical archaeologies”’, *World Archaeology* 7(3), 373-391 (available online)

A. Horning 2006. ‘Archaeology, conflict, and contemporary identity in the north of Ireland: implications for theory and practice in Irish historical archaeology’ *Archaeological Dialogues* 13(2), 183-199 (available online)