Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to Cultural Resource Management (CRM) as an important aspect of modern archaeological research, which is realistically Applied Anthropology. A primary objective is to familiarize the student with the theory, strategies and processes for undertaking research within the legal and practical setting of Cultural Resource Management-driven archaeology. As part of that approach, an important component of the course is an understanding of heritage preservation and management as an element of political reality and its effect on our interpretations of the past. The course will explore the broad range of laws that govern archaeological research in the public sector. Practical elements of doing CRM archaeology incorporated into the course include the importance of anthropological theory in CRM, development of regulation-driven research designs, production and evaluation of CRM reports, applying National Register criteria, evaluating significance, assessing effect, management of archaeological projects, phasing of archaeological research, curation of collections and ethical issues. Also included are discussions of issues related to Native American concerns such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, concepts of traditional cultural properties and ownership of information about the past.

The course will be taught using a seminar structure. Students are expected to attend lectures and participate in class discussions. Problem sets will be assigned during the course as foci for discussions. Students will write a short paper evaluating the positive and negative effects of recent proposed changes to CRM legislation and make an oral presentation of the paper during class. The research paper for the course consists of a National Register nomination of an archaeological site(s). Careful selection of a site(s) is important to assure enough information exists to make National Register eligibility and boundary determinations. There will be a take-home midterm and final exam. Both textbooks need to be read by the midterm exam.

Grading structure

Evaluation of historic preservation legislation 20%
National Register Nomination 30% (course research paper)
Midterm 20%
Final 30%

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Aug 29)
Course Introduction—
Course structure—Course requirements—Participation—Grading—Handouts
History of CRM—CRM Overview
Week 2 (Sept 5)
No Class – Labor Day

Week 3 (Sept 12) ASS Chpt 1; CRLP Chpt 1
Theory, philosophy, and ethical issues in CRM

Weeks 4 & 5 (Sept 19, 26) CRLP Chpt 2-6
Cultural Resource Laws, Regulations and Guidelines:
International Laws—UNESCO Conventions
NHPA (Section 106) (National Historic Preservation Act), 36CFR800
NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)
NHA Section 4(f) (National Highway Act)
ARPA (Archaeological Resources Protection Act)
SHPO and THPO
State/local historic preservation laws

Week 6 (Oct 3) ASS Chpt 2-4; CRLP Chpt 7
The role of historic contexts in CRM
Site significance and NRHP eligibility
Problem sets on significance and effect
Developing regulation-driven research designs
Assessing effect

Week 7 (Oct 10)
Student paper presentations of effect of legislative changes on CRM

Week 8 (Oct 17)
Midterm Exam - Takehome

Week 9 (Oct 24)
Native American issues in CRM: Sovereignty, Indigenous Rights, and Tribal Consultation
NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act)
AIRFA (American Indian Religious Freedom Act)
Applying the laws – processes and phasing of research
Standards of research

Week 10 (Oct 31)
Documentation: Field and Laboratory Research
Management of archaeological projects and resource preservation/protection
CRM report preparation

Week 11 (Nov 7) CRLP Chpt 7-8
Curation, conservation and preservation
36 CFR 79

Week 12 (Nov 14)
Who Owns the Past: Politics of the Past
Interpretations of the past
Public Archaeology
Working with the public and the media

Week 13 (Nov 21)
Evaluation of CRM reporting
CRM: the good, the bad, and the ugly
CRM variability in the process: what works and what doesn’t

Week 14 (Nov 28) CRLP Chpt 9
Variability in CRM Archaeology: compliance-related, preservation/protection assessment, stabilization projects, educational and interpretive programs, heritage tourism

Week 15 (Dec 5) ASS Chpt 5-8; CRLP Chpt 8
Student presentations of and submittal of National Register Nominations.

Week 16 (Dec 12)
Final Exam – Take home Exam due by Dec. 16 4:30 PM

Textbooks

Hardesty, Donald L. and Barbara J. Little
2009    Assessing Site Significance, Second Edition (ASS)

King, Thomas F.

Federal Historic Preservation Laws (to be distributed in class)

Statement on Disability: If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss and course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 354-5175 or visit Osband Hall to register for services.

Statement on Academic Fraud: All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting of any of the above. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event that academic misconduct occurs. Students should refer to the Student Affairs Handbook, which can be obtained in the Office of Student Life and Services in the Ferguson Center.