The course examines the goals, forms, theory and methods of archaeological history. It considers parallels, contrasts and complementarities in historical and archaeological perspectives, and identifies the specific limitations and possibilities of archaeology. Readings and discussion highlight the roles of structure, agency, contingency and causality in archaeological narratives, and the implications of time perspectivism, materiality, and relational understandings of historical phenomena. Beyond its theoretical foundations, the course looks at examples of historically oriented archaeology and encourages students to examine and develop applications that match their specific areas of research interest.

Readings and discussions consider the basis and practice of archaeology-based history. The course begins with a brief overview of historical perspectives and foundational theoretical perspectives. The second half will focus on elaborations on particular topics and applications of historically oriented approaches in archaeological research.

Weekly topics and readings:

September 13

September 20
What is Archaeological History?

September 27
What is Archaeological History?

October 4
What is History?

October 11
Mid-term Recess.

October 18
Historical Perspectives: Scale, Narrative and Performance.

October 25
Some Theoretical Foundations: Structure, Agency and Practice.
Assignments and value:

10% - Seminar presence, preparation, and participation
35% - Midterm paper: review a monograph-length archaeological analysis and interpretation that adopts a more explicitly historical perspective.
55% - Final paper: evaluate the implications of adopting an explicitly defined historical approach to the archaeological study and interpretation of a particular region or area of study.

Reading list:

Bailey, Geoff

Bourdieu, Pierre

Carr, E.H.

Clark, Stuart

Dening, Greg

Fowler, Chris

Giddens, Anthony

Hodder Ian
Ingold, Timothy

Jordan, Peter

Lekson, Stephen H.

Mithen, Steven

Pauketat, Timothy R.

Robb, John

Robb, John, and Timothy R. Pauketat

Sahlins, Marshall

Sassaman, Kenneth E.

Sewell, William H.

White, Hayden

1987 *The Content of the Form: Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.