A. DESCRIPTION

This class will examine historical archaeology. Students will learn the theory and the practice of the excavation and interpretation of historical archaeological field sites. Students will learn to conduct documentary and oral history research, to plan and conduct an archaeological field excavation, and to integrate the tools of history, archaeology, and sociocultural anthropology in the interpretation of research data.

Students will be required to read and discuss the assigned readings, to design and conduct a field survey, and to write a final report on their research.

B. OBJECTIVES

To familiarize students with historical archaeology, and its theory, methods and practice. To encourage students to think about the implications of an applied or public archaeology for development in Guyana and the region.

C. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

1. Research Plan: Students will develop clear and cogent research questions, and methodologies aimed at answering these questions. 20 MARKS.
2. **Descriptive Report**: A paper of approximately 1,500 words describing the finds of the student’s supervised archaeological investigation. **20 MARKS.**

3. **Final Report**: A full length research paper, of approximately 5,000 words, based on supervised archival, ethnographic and/or archaeological research conducted throughout the semester. **60 MARKS.**

D. **GRADING SCHEME**

A= 75% to 100%  
B= 65% to less than 75%  
C= 55% to less than 65%  
D= 45% to less than 55%  
F= less than 45%

E. **REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Orser, Charles Jr.  

2. Barber, Russell J.  

3. Delle, James A.  

F. **SCHEDULE OF TOPICS**

**Week One: What is Historical Archaeology? A Brief History of Historical Archaeology.**  
Assigned reading: Chapters 1 and 2 of Orser.

**Week Two: Historical Culture, Sites and Artifacts.**  
Assigned reading: Chapters 3 and 4 of Orser. Barber Appendix A: Planning your Research
Week Three: Time and Space, Historical Site Survey and Location
Assigned reading: Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Orser. RESEARCH PLAN DUE

Week Four: Written and Oral Sources
Assigned reading: Part One of Barber

Week Five: Spatial analysis and Stratigraphy
Assigned reading: Barber Appendix B: Sampling. Part Two of Barber

Week Six: Archaeological Fieldwork, Field and Laboratory
Assigned reading: Chapter 8 of Orser. Part Four of Barber
FIELD SAMPLING EXERCISE

Week Seven: Interpreting the Past
Assigned reading: Chapter 9 & 10 of Orser

Week Eight: Historical Archaeology around the World. The Past in the Present

Week Nine: The Historical Archaeology of Capitalism
Assigned reading: selections from African Sites: Archaeology in the Caribbean by Jay Haviser
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT DUE

Week Ten: The Political Economy and Geography of New World Plantation Slavery
Assigned reading: selections from Plantation Slavery in Barbados: An Archaeological and Historical Investigation by Jerome S. Handler, Robert V. Riordan, and Fredrick W. Lange

Week Eleven: The Archaeology of Plantation Slavery in Barbados
Assigned reading: Chapters 1 – 4 of Delle. Barber Appendix D: Writing Your Reports.

Week Twelve: The Archaeology of Plantation Slavery in Jamaica
Assigned reading: Chapters 5 – 8 of Delle.
Week Thirteen: Engaged Public Archaeology

Week Fourteen: Consultations

Week Fifteen: Final Examinations.