Urban Archaeology: New York City – Spring 2019

Instructor: Megan Hicks
Meeting Time: Tuesdays and Fridays 11:10-12:25
Course Number: ANTHC 32060
Room: 710 Hunter North

Course Description and Goals

This course introduces students to New York’s past through the study of material remains including artifacts, ecofacts, architecture, and landscapes. Students will learn about the processes that transformed this part of Lenapehoking into New York City - one of the largest urban centers in the world. Readings, field trips, and guest lectures will draw us into NYC’s historical neighborhoods, industrial spaces, households, and waterfronts and toward a deeper understanding of the experiences of diverse groups of people. From these local-scale, materially-focused case studies, students will develop a deeper understanding of processes and conditions like settler colonialism, migration, industrialization, and the forces of large-scale political and economic projects. We will also learn how the environment and natural resources play a part in urban formations. Students will complete the course with an understanding of how the long-term perspectives of archaeological research contribute to urgent contemporary debates around issues such as social inequality, climate change, the anthropocene and capitalocene.