

## ANT-309 Wednesday February 24, 2010 Lecture Outline

### XIV History of Archaeological Thought

#### A Theories in the Social Sciences

#### B Paradigms

- 1 Definition: The philosophical and theoretical framework of a scientific discipline within which theories, laws, and generalizations and the experiments performed in support of them are formulated
- 2 Precursors to an Archaeological Paradigm: Influences from Anthropology
  - a Unilinear Social Evolution
    - i E. B. Tylor (British) --- religion
    - ii L. H. Morgan (Am) --- subsistence arts, technology, family types, etc.
  - b Historical Particularism (Franz Boas)
    - i Diffusion
    - ii Migration
  - c Cyrus Thomas: Bridge to the First Paradigm
- 3 The Cultural Historical Paradigm in Archaeology (1905-1965)The emergence of the first paradigm in archaeology was fueled by innovations that allowed archaeological materials to be placed in temporal order:
  - a stratigraphy- and stratigraphic excavation
  - b Law of Superposition"-
  - c typology and seriation- placing artifacts in a types and temporal series based on similarities- allows us to look for patterns and order cultural material
  - d archaeological cultures: " an assemblage of artifacts that recur repeatedly associated together in dwellings of the same kind and with burials of the same rite. The arbitrary peculiarities of implements, weapons, ornaments, houses, burial rites, and ritual objects are assumed to be concrete expressions of the common social traditions that bind together a people."