

Syllabus

Anthropology 308: North American Archaeology

Spring Semester 2007, University of Wisconsin-Washington County

Class Room: 148

Class Time: 10-1050 am MWF

Instructor: Chris Hays

Office Hours: 830am-10am, MW, or by appointment

Office: 219; office phone number: 262-335-5225

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Course Description

This course is a survey of the archaeology of North America, ranging in time from the earliest occupations of the continent to the time of European contact and afterwards. The course will consist of a series of lectures and in-class discussions on the major culture areas (e.g., Southeast, Arctic) and themes in the archaeology of North America, such as the nature and variation of hunter-gatherer societies; the origins and consequences of agriculture and village life; the emergence of complex societies; and the impact of European settlement on the Americas. We will also be critically evaluating the methods and theories used by archaeologists to gain knowledge about past societies. There will also be occasional films. In addition to the lectures, there will be some structured class debates and projects that will provide an opportunity for in-depth discussions of topics raised in the lectures and readings. There will also be at least one optional field trip to an archaeological site in Wisconsin.

Goals

The principal goal of the course is to provide you with a general overview of the rich and varied cultures of Native Americans prior to European contact and then to examine how this contact affected the native peoples. This course will provide a solid background for any further study of Native American peoples in a wide variety of disciplines including history, geography, sociology or any other anthropology courses.

Requirements

You will be expected to attend all classes and to participate actively in the class discussions (this is 10% of your grade). You can expect a total (the combination of the two textbooks and reserve readings) average of **about** 40-50 pages of reading per week.

There will be three non-cumulative tests and a final exam that will cover material from the latter half of the course. The tests/exam consist of short answer and essay questions. Students will be responsible for material in the readings and for material covered in class, most of which will not be found in the readings.

The readings on D2L provide case studies, examples, and personal accounts of important issues related to North American archaeology. They are on average 10-20 pages in length. Approximately every other week I will expect you to hand-in answers to questions that I will pose at the beginning of the week related to the D2L readings. For example, by the end of week two you are expected to have read the articles on Old America and Flannery and I will assign questions to answer about those articles. These will be due the last class of the week. Your answers to the questions

should be at least about a paragraph long. If the assignment is either absent or the answers are completely unsatisfactory (e.g., you have clearly not read the articles) it will be assigned a zero. Satisfactory answers will be assigned a check. Note that these assignments, plus class discussion, plus attendance constitute 15 % of your grade.

There is an option for writing an 8-10 research paper instead of taking the final. It is due at the end of the semester. The topics can be selected from a list to be distributed later or you can choose your own topic, provided it has the instructor's approval. Feel free to ask for help during the process of researching, outlining & writing your term paper. You must have an approved topic for your term paper by Feb 23. An outline is due Mar 26. The completed paper is due May 2. Together, the paper and outline are worth 25% of your grade.

Grading

First Test	20%	
Second Test	20%	
Third Test	20%	
Final Exam	25%	
Participation including writing assignments	15%	
Paper Option (instead of final)	25%	
		Outline 5%
		Paper 20%

Assigned Readings

Textbooks:

Fagan, Brian

2005 Ancient North America. (Third Edition). Thames and Hudson, New York.

D2L readings.

Class Schedule (subject to revision)

Assigned Reading

Chapters in Fagan (F) and Articles on D2L (D)

Week of Jan 22-26: Introduction to archaeology and North America **F:** 1, 2;

Week of Jan 29-Feb 2: How do we know what we know in archaeology- **F:** 3; **D:** Flannery; Old America Method and Theory in Archaeology; Discussion: Method and Theory in Archaeology.

Week of Feb 5-9: The First Americans and the Paleoindians;

Paleoindians and Early Holocene Hunters and Gatherers;

F: 4, 5; **D:** Wheat

Discussion: Coming into America-who, when, and how do we know

Week of Feb 12-16: Arctic Cultures

F: 8, 9; **D:** Dekin

Week of Feb 19-23: Hunter-Gatherers on the West Coast; Discussion: F: 11; D: Ultramarine Complex Hunter-Gatherers; First Test on Feb 23; **Paper topic due Feb 23**

Week of Feb 26-Mar 2: Plains Hunters and Farmers F: 6, 7; D: Killing Fields

Week of Feb 5-9: Southwest Archaic and Origins of Village Life & Agriculture in the Southwest; Discussion: Origins and Consequences of Agriculture F: 13, 14; D: Desert Prophets

Week of Mar 12-16: Hohokam, Anasazi, and Mesa Verde Midterm on Mar 16; F: 15

Week of Mar 19-23: Spring Break Catch up, work on your paper, read ahead or do absolutely nothing

Week of Mar 26-30: Early, Middle and Late Archaic/Early Woodland **Paper outline due Mar 26** F: 16, 17; D: Hall

Week of Apr 2-6: Adena, Hopewell: Early to Middle Woodland Discussion: Religion and Symbols in Archaeology F: 18, 19; D: True Believers

Week of Apr 9-13: Late Woodland, Mississippian Cultures F: 20; D: Optional class trip to Lizard Mounds April 14th *Lords of the Black Drink

Week of Apr 16-20: Mississippian Cultures; Algonquians and Iroquois F: 21 Test 3 on April 18.

Week Apr 23-27: Iroquois; The Archaeology of European Contact and Afterwards; F: 22; D: Vale of Tears

Week Apr 30-May 4: The Archaeology of European Contact and Afterwards; Discussion: Consequences of European Content; Paper due May 2 D: On the Tunica Trail; Beyond the Great House

Week May 7-9: Review of the course, particularly the latter half.

Final Exam May 14 1030AM to 1230PM