

Topics in Archaeology: Native American Indians
(116.316, 116.558)
Syllabus—Fall 2011

Room 14-301
Mondays 10:00-1:00

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10-12
Appointments welcome

This course will offer an introduction to the prehistoric cultures of North America with a particular focus on Canadian and American Native Americans. We will explore the continuity from past to present while examining how archaeological data has become part of the modern political landscape. Our survey will divide North America into ecological/cultural zones and each week's readings and class discussions will focus on a different region or time period.

There will be facts and places for you to memorize for this class, but I am primarily interested in your ability to critically evaluate the mechanisms of syncretic change in human societies. I want you gain familiarity with Native American cultures so that as your studies progress, you can use a comparative approach toward understanding social complexity.

There is one textbook for the class, which is available in the SNU library:

Fagan, Brian
2011 *The First Americans*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Graduate students are required to do extra reading. I will assist you in getting the reading material you need for this class. I reserve the option to assign supplemental readings for each week as necessary.

There will be a weekly quiz covering the reading material, a midterm and a cumulative final examination. The examinations will primarily cover topics discussed in class, which will be different than what is in your textbook. Therefore, you must come to class and be prepared to take notes. The essay and short answer portions of the midterm and final examinations will be "open note," so you will have a strong incentive to take notes on what you are reading and during class discussions.

Graduate students will be required to submit a 350-word essay each week for the supplemental reading assignments and a 12-15 page final paper.

Grading (undergraduate): Weekly quizzes (50%); Midterm exam (20%); Final exam (30%)

Grading (graduate): Weekly quizzes (25%); Weekly essays (25%) Midterm exam (10%); Final exam (15%); Final paper (25%)

Weekly quizzes: Each week, I will hand out a quiz, which will have 4 or 5 questions totaling 5 points. I will grade the quizzes and return them by the following week. There will be a total of 11 quizzes (you will not have a quiz on days of exams) and I will drop your lowest score. If you miss a class period due to illness you can drop that quiz. There will be no make up quizzes.

Week 2 (September 12): Chuseok Holiday (NO CLASS)

Week 3 (September 19): The Earliest Americans

- DISCUSSION: Peopling of the New World: Issues and Controversies
- Read for next week: Fagan Chapters 3 and 4
- *Grad reading*: Binford (1980) Willow Smoke and Dogs' Tails: Hunter-Gatherer Settlement Systems and Archaeological Site Formation. *American Antiquity* 45(1):4-20.

Week 4 (September 26): Arctic, Subarctic and the Pacific West Coast

- DISCUSSION: Adapting to the Cold and Coasts: First Settlements
- Read for next week Fagan Chapter 5
- *Grad reading*: Doolittle (2006) Agricultural manipulation of floodplains in the southern Basin and Range Province. *CATENA* 65(2):179-199.

Week 5 (October 3): National Foundation Day (NO CLASS)

Week 6 (October 10): Desert Southwest

- DISCUSSION: Transitions to farming
- Read for next week Fagan Chapter 6
- *Grad reading*: Zedeño (2008) Bundled worlds: The roles and interactions of complex objects from the North American Plains. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 15(4):362-378.

Week 7 (October 17): Great Plains

- DISCUSSION: Bison hunting and early horticulture in the grasslands
- Read for next week Fagan Chapter 7
- *Grad reading*: Odell (1998) Investigating correlates of sedentism and domestication in prehistoric North America. *American Antiquity* 63(4):553-571.

Week 8 (October 24): Eastern Woodlands, Part I

- DISCUSSION: Advanced storage and subsistence diversification
- NO READING—study for Midterm exam!

Week 9 (October 31): MIDTERM EXAM

- Read for next week Fagan Chapter 8
- *Grad reading*: Ellis (2008) The Fluted Point Tradition and the Arctic Small Tool Tradition: What's the connection? *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 27(3):298-314.

Week 10 (November 7): The Far North

- DISCUSSION: Norton, Thule and Dorset Traditions
- Read for next week Fagan Chapter 9
- *Grad reading*: Braje and Erlandson (2009) Mollusks and mass harvesting in the Middle Holocene. *California Archaeology* 1(2):269-289.
- **Graduate students' abstracts and bibliographies due.**

Week 11 (November 14): Coastal Northwest and California

- DISCUSSION: Regionalization, language diversification and shifting subsistence
- Read for next week Fagan Chapter 10

- *Grad reading:* Nelson and Schachner (2002) Understanding abandonments in the North American Southwest. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 10(2):167-206.

Week 12 (November 21): Farmers of the American Southwest

- DISCUSSION: Village life in the desert
- Read for next week Fagan Chapters 11 and 12
- *Grad reading:* Pauketat (2002) A fourth-generation synthesis of Cahokia and Mississippianization. *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 27(2):149-170. **I will email you a copy of the PDF of this paper, but you must ask for it.**
- **Graduate students' paper outlines due.**

Week 13 (November 28): Eastern Woodlands, Part II

- DISCUSSION: Tribes and chiefdoms east of the Mississippi
- Read for next week Fagan Chapters 13 and 14
- *Grad reading:* Jones (2010) An analysis of factors influencing sixteenth and seventeenth century Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) settlement locations. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 29(1):1-14.
- **Graduate students' rough drafts due.**

Week 14 (December 5): Northeast

- DISCUSSION: Confederacies and the coming of Europeans
- NO READING—Study for final exam!

Week 15 (December 12): FINAL EXAM

- **Graduate students' final papers due by December 9 at 5:00 pm.**