

COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABUS

ANTH 312-01, North American Prehistory

Fall Semester 2009

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:40 AM-12:30 PM

Chris A. Willson

Department of Anthropology
Boise State University

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Fall 2008 ILC 301

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Introduction

This course is survey of the history and basic techniques and theories in anthropological archaeology of North America. The course will focus on the methods and theory used by prehistorians to reconstruct archaeological cultures, their environments, life ways and histories in North America, including the surrounding regions. This course consists primarily of lectures though we will engage in discussion often. I will ask you questions regarding readings and lectures so stay current. We will have demonstrations and in-class exercises. Feel free to ask questions at any time.

Objectives/Outcomes

- Develop an understanding of the nature of archaeological discovery, epistemologies, paradigms, and methods used by archaeologists to understand human cultural evolution in North American archaeology through material culture analyses.
- Develop an appreciation of the ways in which prehistoric peoples have adapted to a variety of environmental and social changes over the past several thousands of years
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between prehistoric and modern material culture as it reflects the by-products of human activities

Examinations

There will be two (2) hourly examinations and a final exam. These hourly exams are each worth 100 points toward your course grade. These exams will consist of four or five essay questions from which you will choose two. A “blue book” will be required for these exams. The final format will be announced (**Note: exams may be varied and any changes to the format will be discussed in class prior to the exams**).

Class Exercises

During some class periods you will participate in exercises designed to further enhance your understanding of archaeological concepts and methods. The exercises are intended to facilitate your thinking about archaeological problems while increasing interaction among members of the class.

Quizzes

Over the course of the semester I will give short, unannounced quizzes. These quizzes are intended to serve as study guides for the exams. No points will be given for these quizzes. However, each missed quiz will result in a 3 point deduction from your total course grade. (See attendance policy for more information) You must be in class to take the quiz...**No exceptions!**

Research paper

Each student will prepare a research paper which should be five pages in length, and provide a discussion of some relevant topic to our class. A one paragraph abstract of your paper is due by **October 9th, 2009**. This should include the title of your paper, your name, and a brief summary of the content. This assignment is worth 50 pts. (10 points for the abstract and 40 points for the paper) **Paper is due Nov 20th. No Exceptions!**

Attendance: Attendance is encouraged and will enhance your performance in this course. More than 2 unexcused late arrivals could result in your grade being lowered by a letter grade. **I will occasionally take attendance by giving short unannounced quizzes--if you are absent on the day the quiz is given—I will subtract 3 points from the total number of points you earn for the course. This could be the difference between a grade of C and a grade of B at the end of the course.**

Class Protocol:

- No late arrivals
- Each student is expected to show respect for student colleagues by not talking in class
- You must be present at scheduled exam times—no make up exams—don't ask!
- Assignments are due by dates in this syllabus—no exceptions!
- Turn off your cell phone! No “texting” during class

Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the number of points acquired from a total of 350. This will be converted into a percentage and then a grade will be assigned as follows:

100-94%	A
90-93 %	A-
89-88 %	B+
87-82%	B
81-80%	B-
79-78%	C+
77-72%	C
71-70 %	C-
69-68%	D+
67-62%	D
61-62%	D-
Below 60 %	F

Office Hours

Room 54, Hemingway Western Studies Center (Building 1819), Tuesdays 12:00-2:00 PM and by appointment. Please understand that faculty has a variety of responsibilities so that I may not always be in my office when you come to visit. If I am not in my office during a scheduled period please come by again or make an appointment. Do not hesitate to call if you have any problems. My contact information is as follows: Office: 426-3896; E-mail: rkologist@yahoo.com; and Cell: 340-5426. **While I encourage you to contact me by email—NO assignments should be sent electronically!**

Required Text Book

Seeking our Past:

An Introduction to North American Archaeology

Sarah W. Neusius

G. Timothy Gross

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments—though lectures may be a bit ahead or behind, please stay current with the weekly reading assignments

<u>Week Beginning</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>General Topic</u>
Week 1	Chapter 1	the History of American Archaeology and Scholarly Anthropology
Week 2	Discussion	Theory of Culture History, Normative, Processual and Post Processual Approaches
	Discussion: Why the Change?	
Week 3	Chapter 2	Environmental studies, climate, issues and debates
	Chapter 3	The Peopling of the New World North American Expansions
	Discussion: Kennewick Man	
Week 4	Chapter 4	Arctic cultures, foraging groups in the North
Week 5	Chapter 9	Southwestern Culture
	Discussion: Interpreting the Chaco Phenomenon	
Week 6	Chapter 14	Hunter Gatherers in North America Shift in Archaeological studies, Academia, and CRM
Week 7	EXAM REVIEW Catch up EXAM 1 Friday October 16	
Week 8	Chapter 11	Mississippian Cultures
	Discussion: What are the Mounds anyway?	
Week 9	Chapter 12, 13	Eastern Woodlands, Ohio Valley
	Discussion: Iroquois Nations and Advanced Political Systems	
Week 10	Chapter 10	the Great Plains

Week 11	Chapter 7, 8	Desert Cultures, Great Basin Archaeology
Week 12	Chapter 5, 6	Plateau Peoples, Coastal Groups
Week 13	Catch up, Exam review, EXAM 2 November 20th	
Papers Due		
Week 14	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Week 15	Guest Speaker, Current issues in Archaeology, Film	
Week 16	No readings	Final Discussions, Final Review

Final to be announced