

ANTH 400 Hunter-Gatherers
Dr. Mark Plew
E 110, 12:15-1:30, TTH
Fall Semester, 2009

Introduction

This course will explore variation in foraging life ways of prehistoric and contemporary hunter-gatherers. Its focus relates to how hunter-gatherers affect behavioral solutions to subsistence within varied environments. We will examine ways in which hunting and gathering strategies use differing patterns of social interaction, mobility and technologies to successfully exploit their environments. The course will emphasize the ways in which hunter-gatherer diversity is explained through the use of various models, theories and insights drawn from behavioral ecology. This course will consist of lectures, discussions and student presentations of written papers. The first nine weeks of this course will include an intensive review of hunter-gatherer diversity. The last nine weeks will be devoted to presentations that elaborate discussions of student research projects/papers.

Objectives

Completion of this course will enable the student to:

- Discuss the history of hunter-gatherer research
- Discuss models of behavioral/evolutionary ecology that are used to explain food choices and settlement patterns
- Describe and discuss examples of hunter-gatherer mobility and settlement, resource acquisition and social organization
- Discuss and critique models and theories used to explain hunter-gatherer behaviors
- Discuss analogical applications of hunter-gatherer behavior to contexts of early hominid/human evolution and later prehistoric periods

Required Texts

The Foraging Spectrum by Robert L. Kelly

Recommended:

Limited Wants, Unlimited Means: A Reader on Hunter-Gatherer Economics and Environment, Edited by John Gowdy

Books you may wish to review that you may wish to look at:

Hunter-Gatherer Foraging Strategies: Ethnographic and Archaeological Analyses by B. Winterhalder and E.A. Smith

Evolutionary Ecology and Human Behavior by E.A. Smith and B. Winterhalder

Hunter-Gatherers in History, Archaeology and Anthropology, Edited by Alan Barnard

Hunter-Gatherers: Archaeological and Evolutionary Theory by Robert L. Bettinger

Ethnoarchaeology and Hunter-Gatherers, Edited by K. Fewster and M. Zvelebil

Hunter-Gatherer Landscapes by Michael Jochim

Cultural Diversity Among Twentieth Century Foragers, Edited by Susan Kent

Hunters and Gatherers in the Modern World, Edited by P. Schweitzer, M. Biesele, and R. Hitchcock*

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Hunters and Gatherers by Lee and Daly

Course Requirements and Evaluation

You will be evaluated in terms of your participation in class and by the quality of your written and presented work. There will be no exams in this course. You will sit for four quizzes worth 25 points each. I will give you a week's notice of each. The major assignments in the course will be the preparation of a 15-25 page research paper relating to some aspect of hunter-gatherer anthropology/archaeology and a twenty (20) to thirty (30) minute oral presentation based on the research paper. Research topics must be cleared with the instructor and the papers prepared by 20th October. A formal abstract of the paper is due by September 29th. The research paper and presentation will each count 100 points toward a total of 300 points for the course. Though most required reading assignments are from Kelly I encourage you to read some if not all the suggested readings that are listed for each week. Students who maintain a post-1995 bibliography of hunter-gatherer citations may submit them for a maximum of 10 additional points to added to the total number received in the course. These must be submitted on diskette before November 1.

Grading

Grades will be assigned per the following scale:

A=300-270

B=296-266

C=265-235

D=234-204

F=203 or fewer points

Office Hours

TTH 10:30-12:00 or by Appointment. Phone: 426-3444. Email: mplew@boisestate.edu

Course Syllabus

Week 1. The History of Hunter-Gatherer Research-Anthropological Approaches to Hunters and Gatherers

Kelly, *The Foraging Spectrum*, Chapters 1-2.

Salhins in Gowdy

Yengoyan, "Anthropological History and the Study of Hunters and Gatherers: Cultural and Non-cultural" (suggested—in Barnard)

Week 2. Subsistence, Mobility and Exchange

Kelly, *The Foraging Spectrum*, Chapters 3-5

Lee, "What Hunters do for a Living" in Gowdy

Hill, , Hawkes and Hurtado, Kaplan , "Seasonal Variance in the Diet of the Ache" in *Human Ecology* (suggested)

Alvord, "Intraspecific Prey Choice by Amazonian Hunters" in *Current Anthropology* 36—(suggested).

Winterhalder, "Optimal Foraging: Simulation Studies of Diet Choice in a Stochastic Environment" in *Journal of Ethnobiology* 6—(suggested)

Weeks 3 and 4. Foraging Behavior, Group Size and Reproduction

Kelly, *The Foraging Spectrum*, Chapters 6-7

Optimization and Risk in Human Foraging Strategies by Yellen in *Journal of Human Evolution* (suggested)

Marlowe, F., “Marital Residence Among Foragers” in *Current Anthropology* 44 (suggested)

Week 5. Hunter-Gatherer Social Structure

Kelly, *The Foraging Spectrum*, Chapter 8

Woodburn in Gowdy

Leacock in Gowdy

Week 6. Hunting and Gathering Behaviors and Paleoanthropology

Kelly, *The Foraging Spectrum*, Chapter 9

Sept, J.M., Beyond Bones: “Archaeological Sites, Early Hominid Subsistence and the Costs and Benefits of Exploiting Wild Plant Foods in East African Riverine Landscapes” In *Journal of Human Evolution* (required)

Shipman, “Scavenging or Hunting in Early Hominids: Theoretical Frameworks and Tests” in *American Anthropologist* (required—on reserve in department)

Quiatt and Huffman, “On Home Bases, Nesting Sites, Activity Centers and New Analytic Perspectives” in *Current Anthropology* (suggested)

O’Connell, Hawkes and Jones, “Hadze Scavenging: Implications for Plio/Pleistocene Hominid Subsistence”, *Current Anthropology* (suggested)

Week 7 and 8. Archaeological Perspectives on Hunter-Gatherer Mobility, Subsistence and Settlement

Organizational Variability

Binford, “Dimensional Analysis of Behavior and Site Structure: Learning From an Eskimo Hunting Stand” and Willow Smoke and Dog’s Tails: Hunter-Gatherer Settlement Systems and Archaeological Site Formation” in *American Antiquity* (required—on reserve in department)

Kent, “Relationship Between Mobility Strategies and Site Structure” (required—on reserve in department)

Kelly, “Mobility/Sedentism: Concepts, Archaeological Measures and Effects”, *Annual Review of Anthropology* (required-on reserve in department)

Resource Intensification and Use

Simms, “Acquisition and Nutritional Data on Great Basin Resources” in *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* (required—on reserve in department)

Broughton, “Late Holocene Resource Intensification in the Sacramento Valley, California” The Vertebrate Evidence” (required)

Archaeological Evidence of Complex Hunter-Gatherers

Kelly, *The Foraging Spectrum*, Chapter 8 for review

Testart, “The Significance of Food Storage Among Hunters and Gatherers: Residence Patterns and Population Densities” in *Current Anthropology* (suggested)

Hayden, “Competition, Labor and Complex Hunter-Gatherers” in *Key Issues in Hunter-Gatherer Research* (suggested)

Week 9. The Future of Hunter-Gatherer Research

Bettinger, “Hunter-Gatherers: Problems in Theory” in *Hunter-Gatherers in Anthropological and Evolutionary Theory*

Weeks 10-18. Student Presentations