

ARCHAEOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA - - Anthropology 262

Spring 2008 Goodnow 105 Tuesdays 10:00-11:50 and Thursdays 10:00-10:50

Prof. John Whittaker

Goodnow 207 Extension 3447

Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:00.

A semester cannot do justice to all of North America, so this course will focus on major regions and themes. Coverage will emphasize three general aspects: 1) Basic culture history -- what happened in ancient America, prehistoric ways of life; 2) Some knowledge of American archaeology today -- methods, goals, theoretical stances; 3) Particular topics of current or abiding interest throughout the American continent -- peopling of the Americas, reconstruction of social systems, trade and exchange and contacts between prehistoric cultures, the development and spread of agriculture and its results, the rise and decline of complex organizations, reconstruction of past environments and the relationships between people and nature, the destruction of native American cultures after European colonization, pseudoscientific and political uses of archaeology.

Fagan, Brian M.

2005 Ancient North America: The Archaeology of a Continent., 4th ed. Thames and Hudson Ltd, New York.

King, Kathleen

1983 Cricket Sings: A Novel of Pre-Columbian Cahokia. Ohio University Press, Athens.

Young, Biloine W., and Melvin Fowler

2000 Cahokia: The Great American Metropolis. University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago.

Magnusson, Magnus and H. Palsson, trans.

1965 The Vinland Sagas: The Norse Discovery of America. Penguin Books, Baltimore.

OTHER READINGS

Articles assigned will be posted electronically. You are encouraged to print articles to bring to class. Read ahead for intelligent discussion. The password for electronic reserves for this course is 4ai99 .

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

2 Exams, Final exam, Research Paper (About 15 pages on any approved topic) Participation in class discussions and activities will be considered in grading.

You will have the opportunity (optional) to participate in an atlatl contest in April.

Week 1

Tuesday 1/22 Introduction, American Archaeology - history and today.

READ: Fagan Chapters 1, 2, 3

Thursday 1/24 Clovis First? Martin's Model (Real Men and Megafauna).

READ: -- Fagan Chapter 4

-- Martin, Paul 1973 The Discovery of America. Science 179:969-974.

-- Frison, George C. 1989 Experimental Use of Clovis Weaponry and Tools on African Elephants. American Antiquity 54(4): 766-783.

--Grayson and Meltzer 2003 A Requiem for North American Overkill. Journal of Archaeological Science 30:585-593.

Week 2

Tuesday 1/29 Film: America's Stone Age Explorers

PaleoIndian Origins (Routes, Monte Verde, Pre-Clovis?)

READ: -- Schurr, T. G. 2000 Mitochondrial DNA and the Peopling of the New World. American Scientist 88:246-253.

-- Stanford, Dennis, and Bruce Bradley 2002 Ocean Trails and Prairie Paths?

Thoughts about Clovis Origins. In The First Americans: Pleistocene Colonization of the New World. N. Jablonski, ed., pp. 255-271. California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.

Thursday 1/31 Bones, Teeth, Languages and other arguments

READ: -- Fagan Chapters 5, 6

Week 3

Tuesday 2/5 Late PaleoIndian Cultures, finish PaleoIndian discussions

READ: -- Wheat, Joe Ben 1967 A Paleo-Indian Bison Kill. In New World Archaeology: Readings from Scientific American. E.B.Zubrow et al. eds. pp.213-221. San Francisco: WH Freeman and Co. (Scientific American January 1967).

Begin Archaic: Hunter-Gatherer Ways of Life – Transformation from the Pleistocene

READ: -- Fagan Chapters 16, 17

Thursday 2/7 The Archaic in N and E US -- "primary forest efficiency"

READ: -- Winters, H. D. 1968 Value Systems and Trade Cycles of the Late Archaic in the Midwest. In New Perspectives in Archaeology S.R. and L.Binford eds, pp. 175-221. Chicago:Aldine.

READ: -- Doucette, Dianna L. 2001 Decoding the Gender Bias: Inferences of Atlatls in Female Mortuary Contexts. In Gender and the Archaeology of Death, B. Arnold and N. L. Wicker eds., pp. 159-177. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, CA.

Week 4

Tuesday 2/12 The Archaic in SW and W US -- Desert Culture, setting the stage.

READ: -- Fagan Chapter 13.

READ: Largent, Floyd. 2003 Danger Cave: A Haven in the Heart of the Desert. *Mammoth Trumpet* 18(4): 15-18.

READ: -- Heizer, Robert F. 1970 The Anthropology of Prehistoric Great Basin Human Coprolites. In Science in Archaeology, 3rd edition. D.Brothwell and E.Higgs eds. pp. 244-250. New York: Praeger Publishers.

READ: -- Madsen, David 1989 A Grasshopper in Every Pot. Natural History 7():22-24.

READ: Emslie, Steven D., Robert C. Euler, and Jim I. Mead 1987 A Desert Shrine in Grand Canyon, Arizona, and the Role of Split-twig Figurines. National Geographic Research 3(4):511-516.

Split Twig Figurines

Thursday 2/14 "Digger Indians" vs Computer Jocks -- archaeology in the Great Basin.

READ: -- Fagan Chapter 12

READ: -- Steward, Julian H. 1955 The Great Basin Shoshonean Indians: An Example of a Family Level of Sociocultural Integration. Chapter 6, pp 101-121 in Theory of Culture Change.

READ: -- Thomas, David H. 1973 An Empirical Test for Steward's Model of Great Basin Settlement Patterns. American Antiquity 38(2):155-176.

READ: -- Bettinger, Robert L. 1977 Aboriginal Human Ecology in Owens Valley: Prehistoric Change in the Great Basin. American Antiquity 42(1):3-17.

NOTE: Do not be intimidated by the statistics in Thomas and Bettinger. Everything is also explained in words. Read to see how the tests were set up, and the resulting pictures of Great Basin life

Week 5

Tuesday 2/19 West Coast life: Acorn Porridge and Fish

READ: -- Fagan Chapter 10, 11

READ: -- Gifford, E.W. 1951 Californian Balanophagy. In The California Indians. R.F.Heizer and M.A.Whipple eds.pp.237-242. Berkeley: U. of California Press.

READ: -- Heizer, R. and A. Elsasser 1980 The Natural World of the California Indians. Berkeley, Univ. of California Press. Read pp. 91-101, in Chapter 4.

READ: -- Ames, Kenneth 1992 Household Archaeology of a Northwest Coast Plank House. Journal of Field Archaeology 19(3):275-290.

READ: -- Daugherty, Richard 1988 Problems and Responsibilities in the Excavation of Wet Sites [Ozette Site], in Wet Site Archaeology, B. Purdy ed., pp. 15-29.

Thursday 2/21 **EXAM I**

Week 6

Tuesday 2/26 Bone Knives, Skin Boats, Snow Houses – Eskimos, others -- archaic life in the cold.

READ: -- Hansen, J.P.H., J.Meldgaard, and J.Nordqvist. 1985 The Mummies of Qilakitsoq. National Geographic 167(2): 190-207.

READ: -- Fagan Chapters 8, 9

Film

Thursday 2/28 Arctic - discuss film + readings

Week 7

Tuesday 3/4 Hunters and farmers of the Plains

READ: -- Bozell, John 1995 Culture, Environment, and Bison Populations on the Late Prehistoric and Early Historic Central Plains. Plains Anthropologist 40(152): 145-163.

READ: -- Banks, K.M. and J.S. Snortland 1995 Every Picture Tells a Story: Historic Images, Tipi Camps, and Archaeology. Plains Anthropologist 40(152):125-144.

(Remember Fagan Chapter 6)

Thursday 3/6 The Southwest: Beginnings, environment, pit house dwellers, Introduction of agriculture, diversification of cultures.

READ: Carpenter, John , Guadalupe Sanchez, and Maria Elisa Villalpando 2002 Of Maize and Migration: Mode and Tempo in the Diffusion of *Zea mays* in Northwest Mexico and the American Southwest. In Traditions, Transitions, and Technologies: Themes in Southwestern Archaeology. Sarah Schlanger, ed. Pp. 245-256. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.

READ: -- Fagan Chapters (13), 14

Week 8

Tuesday 3/11 The Anasazi: Cliff dwellers and marginal farmers.

READ: -- Fagan Chapter 15

READ: -- Dean, Jeffrey S. 1970 Aspects of Tsegi Phase Social Organization. In Reconstructing Prehistoric Pueblo Societies. W.A.Longacre ed. pp. 140-174. Albuquerque: Univ.of New Mexico Press.

Thursday 3/13 Analogy and inference -- interpreting social systems in the Southwest.

READ: -- Anderson, Kieth M. 1969 Ethnographic Analogy and Archaeological Interpretation. Science 163:133-138.

READ: -- Hill, James 1972 A Prehistoric Community in Eastern Arizona. In Contemporary Archaeology. M.P.Leone ed.pp:320-332. Carbondale: Southern Illinois U. Press.

READ: -- Longacre, William A. 1968 Some Aspects of Prehistoric Society in East Central Arizona. In New Perspectives in Archeology. S.R.Binford and L.R.Binford eds.pp.89-102. Chicago: Aldine.

SPRING BREAK 3/15-3/30**Week 9**

Tuesday 4/1 Southwestern Complexities and Controversies.

READ: War and Peace in the Southwest (Articles by Lekson, LeBlanc, Turner, Walker) Discovering Archaeology 1(3):38-54 May/June 1999

READ: Reinhard, Karl 2006 A Coprological View of Ancestral Pueblo Cannibalism. American Scientist 94:

Thursday 4/3 NO CLASS JW Madrid

READ: -- BEGIN reading King, Cricket Sings and Young and Fowler, Cahokia

Week 10

Tuesday 4/8 Rise of Woodland Cultures in the Southeast and Midlands, Hopewell

READ: -- Fagan Chapters 18, 19, 20

READ: -- Smith, Bruce D. 1995 The Origins of Agriculture in the Americas. Evolutionary Anthropology 3(5):174-184.

READ: -- Gremillion, Kristen J. Seed Processing and the Origins of Food Production in Eastern North America. American Antiquity 69(2):215-233.

READ: -- Tainter, Joseph 1980 Behavior and Status in a Middle Woodland Mortuary Population from the Illinois Valley. American Antiquity 45(2):308-312.

Thursday 4/10 **EXAM II**

Week 11

Tuesday 4/15 Cahokia - Excavating and Understanding

READ: -- Young and Fowler Cahokia (to at least p. 164)

Thursday 4/17 Cities, Colonies, and Death Cults: Life in the Mississippian

READ: -- Finish Young and Fowler Cahokia

Week 12

Tuesday 4/22 Royal Suns and Stinkards: Mississippian Social Order

READ: -- Finish King, Cricket Sings for discussion

READ: -- Dickson, D.Bruce 1981 The Yanomamo of the Mississippi Valley: Some Reflections on Larson (1972), Gibson (1974), and Mississippian Period Warfare in the Southeastern United States. American Antiquity 46(4):909-916.

READ: -- Milner, George R., Eve Anderson, and Virginia G. Smith 1991 Warfare in Late Prehistoric West-Central Illinois. American Antiquity 56(4): 581-603.

Thursday 4/24 So what do we have in Iowa?

READ: -- Benn, D.W., E.A. Bettis, and R.C. Mallam 1993 Cultural Transformations in the Keller and Bluff Top Mounds. Plains Anthropologist (Memoir 27) 38(145):53-73.

SATURDAY 4/26 RAGING COW Atlatl Meet

Week 13

Tuesday 4/29 Last of the Mohicans and first of the Europeans -- archaeology in the Northeast.

READ: -- Fagan Chapter 21

READ: -- Tuck, James A. 1971 The Iroquois Confederacy. In New World Archaeology: Readings From Scientific American. E.Zubrow, ed. Pp. 190-200. (Scientific American, February 1971)

READ: -- Magnusson, Magnus and Hermann Pálsson 1965 The Vinland Sagas: The Norse Discovery of America. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books Ltd.

<read intro and at least one of sagas>

READ: -- Ingstad, Anne Stine 1982 The Norse Settlement of L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland. In Vikings in the West. Eleonore Guralnick editor, pp 31-37. Chicago: Archaeological Institute of America.

Thursday 5/1 Delirious Archaeology -- Barry Fell and other crackpots.

READ: -- Fell, Barry 1976 America B.C. New York: Simon and Schuster. Pages 261-276.

Week 14

Tuesday 5/5 Historic sites archaeology in America.

READ: -- Fagan Chapter 22

READ: -- Otto, John S. 1980 Race and Class on Antebellum Plantations. In Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America: Afro-American and Asian American Culture History R. Schuyler ed, pp. 3-13. Farmingdale: Baywood.

READ: -- Crist, Thomas A.J. 1995 Bone Chemistry Analysis and Documentary Archaeology: Dietary Patterns of Enslaved African Americans in South Carolina. In Bodies of Evidence, A. Graner ed., pp. 197-219. New York: John Wiley and Sons Inc.

PAPER DUE

Thursday 5/7 (LAST CLASS) Current Directions in American Archaeology, final thoughts and discussions.

FINAL EXAM as scheduled Friday May 16, 2:00