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ANTY 351H.50 Archaeology of North America

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North American Archaeology

Syllabus for ANTY 351: Online Version

Professor:

John Douglas, Ph.D.; E-mail: John.Douglas@umontana.edu; Telephone: (612) 568-4827 (voice mail and text); Office: Room 233, [Social Science Building](#). Physical office hours (phone calls are fine): Monday, Friday 11:00-12:50; Wed: 1:00-2:00; or by appointment.

Course scope:

This course overviews the archaeological record of the Native Americans who lived north of central Mexico. We will consider the time-span that stretches from the peopling of the continent, beginning over 15,000 years ago, up to the contact between native populations and Europeans, largely after A.D. 1492. We will examine the similarities and differences in life ways through this immense area, and think about how subsistence pursuits, technology, settlement patterns, social organization, and political systems varied through time. There are no prerequisites.



Topics to be covered:

- ✓ How archaeologists know about the past
- ✓ The peopling of the Americas
- ✓ Paleoindians: the hunters of extinct large mammals
- ✓ People of the arctic
- ✓ Coastal adaptations
- ✓ Western hunter-gatherers
- ✓ Agricultural villages and towns in the southwestern United States
- ✓ Eastern hunter-gatherers
- ✓ Early agricultural systems and mound-building in the eastern United States
- ✓ Corn agriculture and political developments in the late eastern United States
- ✓ European contact and the beginning of historic records

Learning Objectives:

- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of the principal ancient human cultures and adaptations that make up the North American archaeological record.
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of key topics of major interest and significance to archaeologists today (such as the antiquity of human occupation in North America, and the origins of agriculture).
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of key methods and theoretical perspectives that guide contemporary archaeology in North America.

- ✓ Demonstrate the ability to conduct research on a topic in North American archaeology using primary professional sources. Critically assess and evaluate primary sources.

**Required text:**

Brian Fagan, 2005, *Ancient North America: The Archaeology of a Continent* (fourth edition—third edition, 2000, is OK to use), Thames and Hudson, New York. You'll find it at [the Montana bookstore](#) (UM bookstore) or online stores, such as Amazon or Powell's. A physical copy of the 3rd edition is on reserve in the library.

Assignments:

There are two written assignments for this class, with about two weeks given to each of them; each serves to strengthen one of the “themes and goals” listed above. Instructions for these assignments will be given on the appropriate week. *Assignments must be turned in during the week they are due; late assignments will not be accepted only with an instructor-approved excuse.* Each assignment is worth 100 points (200 points for this component).

Quizzes and Participation:

This course is designed to be taken in “real time,” with each section taken in sequence in the appropriate week. There is a true-false quiz for each week's work, each worth 10 points. I will monitor your progress by these deadlines. Quizzes, therefore, are closed at midnight on each Sunday. Note that week one has a special quiz on plagiarism issues, making a total of two for that week. These 15 quizzes total 150 points.

Tests:

There are three tests. Each test consists of 35 questions worth 3 points each for a maximum total of 105 points for a perfect test; tests are “curved” by simply counting the resulting score on a 100-point scale (unfortunately, Moodle grades won't do this automatically). A test follows a third of the course and focuses on that third's lecture material and readings, with the “terms and concepts” lists for each relevant week as a good place to begin studying. Conceptual ideas, especially on archaeological techniques, environmental studies, and technology, and social organization may cross from one unit to the next. *Tests are more in-depth and difficult than quizzes.* Tests are available for the week they are noted on the syllabus, available to midnight on Sunday.

Improving your grade:

There are **no** extra credit assignments for this course. However, a comprehensive essay test will be given in the final exam period (see schedule). The test may be taken in lieu of or to substitute for a lower grade on a regular exam or assignment. Please see the study guide in Week 14 for the scope of this exam. *This test cannot lower your grade.*

**Incompletes:**

An incomplete will be considered only when requested by the student. At the discretion of the instructor, incompletes are given to students who missed a portion of the class because of documented serious health or personal problems during the session. Students have one year to complete the course; requirements are negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Plagiarism and misconduct:

Honesty is required. Students found cheating, plagiarizing, “patch writing” (writing by taking phrases or sections copied from a variety of sources, linked together with your words), or giving false excuses will be dealt with strictly. Plagiarism is the subject of our first quiz, so if you are unfamiliar with college expectations, please start with Indiana University Bloomington’s [Understanding Plagiarism](#). Academic misconduct in this class will be subject to an academic penalty (up to receiving a failing grade in this class) and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Disabilities Services:

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations in this online course. To request course modifications, please contact me as soon as possible. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the [Disability Services website](#) at or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/TTY).

Grade Determination:

There are 650 points possible in the class; students with 90% (585 points) or more of the points will receive an "A," etc. (whole grades only).

Drops:

February 10 (5:00 pm) is the last day to add or drop a course on Cyberbear without penalty, and **April 3** (5:00 pm) is the last day to add or drop with approval from your advisor and instructor and without the Dean’s signature (leaves a “W” on transcript)

