

**ANTHROPOLOGY 247**  
Spring 2008

Prof. Bruce J. Bourque  
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Office Hours: T-TH 3-4:00 & by appt.

**About the course:**

This course will familiarize you with the prehistoric peoples of the New World. We begin with a brief review of how humans got to the Bering Land Bridge - the jumping off point for the New World. We then examine the high points of North and Middle American prehistory. We end with a brief examination of Andean civilization and a look at what happened when Europeans arrived in the New World.

Your attendance in class and on field trips is expected. Read the assigned material before the next scheduled class and be prepared to discuss it. Your grade will be based mainly upon two exams and a 10 - 12 page term paper. Other work, such as labs and quizzes will also be considered.

**Exams:**

Exams will be primarily in the form of essays, although some short answer work may be required. (I'll let you know in advance.) Each exam will cover one half of the course.

**Term Papers:**

Your term paper will explore in detail a topic of particular interest to you. Please discuss your intended topic with me before preparing your outline, which is due on 12 February. Term papers are due on 2 April.

**Class and Reading Schedule:**

- 8 Jan. Introduction to the course. Do OXCAL exercise. Read Fagan Chapters 1-3.
- 10 Human expansion to Siberia. European Discovery; American Archaeology. Read Fagan Chapters 4-5.
- 15 Paleo-Indians. Read Fagan Chapters 6-7.
- 17 Plains prehistory. Read Fagan Chapters 8-9.
- 22 Northern peoples. Read Fagan Chapters 10-11.

- 24 West coast. Read Fagan Chapters 12-13.
- 29 The desert west. Read Fagan Chapters 14-15.
- 31 The Southwest. Fagan Chapters 16.
- 5 Feb The eastern Archaic period. Chapters 17-18.
- 7 The late Archaic. Read Fagan Chapters 19-20.
- 12 The Woodland period: the mound builders. Read Fagan Chapters 21.
- 14 The Northeast: Algonquians and Iroquoians.
- 16-24 **Winter Recess** Read Fagan Chapter 22.
- 26 Exam. Read Adams pp. 9-24, Ch. 2-3.
- 28 Trip to the Maine State Museum archaeology lab. Read Adams pp. 9-24, Ch. 2-3.
- 4 Mar Rise of Civilization: The Olmec. Adams Chapter 4-5.
- 6 The Maya. Adams Chapter.
- 11 Maya architecture Adams Chapter 6.
- 13 Maya art, mathematics and calendars. Adams Chapter 7.
- 18 Early Classic Mexico. Adams Chapter 8.
- 20 The Postclassic period. Adams Chapter 9.
- 25 The Aztec.
- 27 The Andes. Netting.
- 1 Apr. Cultures in contact Cortez, Pizarro Williams Chapters 9-11.
- 3 "Fantastic" Archaeology and Early Voyagers to the Americas.
- 7 Review for exam. **Term papers due.**
- 12 Final exams begin.
- 14 Scheduled final exam

**Text:**

Fagan, Brian, Ancient North America. Thames and Hudson (2005).

**Reserve Readings:**

Adams, R.E.W., Prehistoric Mesoamerica. Boston, Little Brown (2005).

Bruhns, Karen O, Ancient South America. Cambridge University Press (1996).

Guthrie, R. Dale and Mary L. Guthrie, On the Mammoth's Dusty Trail. Natural History 7/90:34-41.

Lynch, T., Glacial-Age Man in South America? A Critical Review. American Antiquity, vol. 55, no.1 (January 1990): 12-36.

Netting, R. McC., "An Unfair Trade." Natural History 12/86:74-77.

Smith, Bruce, Origins of Agriculture in Eastern North America. Science, vol. 246:1566-1571.

West, Fred H., American Beginnings: the Prehistory and Paleoecology of Beringia. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1996).