Standard Course Syllabus

**ARCH 273-3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NEW WORLD**

Calendar Description: A survey of ancient history of the Indigenous cultures of North and South America. The peopling of the New World, the rise of the civilizations of Mexico and Peru, and the cultural adaptations by populations to other parts of the New World. Prerequisite: ARCH 100 or 201. Breadth-Social Sciences.

Example Course Outline Description[[1]](#footnote-1): This course surveys the archaeological record for details about the ancient history of contemporary First Nations. Students will become familiar with the theories that seek to explain the origins of the Indigenous populations and their relationship to other people of the ancient world. It examines the evidence for their lifeways, material culture and the diverse environments they occupied. Students will learn about the cultural adaptations that emerged in response to environmental changes.

The following topics must be covered:

* Origin and antiquity of First Nations history
* Palaeolithic lifeways in ‘Ice Age’ America
* Epipalaeolithic and Mesolithic lifeways
* Human expansion into Arctic regions
* Neolithic foundations for American civilization
* Historical archaeology in British Columbia
* Debated “origins” of First Nations peoples
* The most ancient archaeological sites in North and South America
* The Northwest Coast and Plateau
* The Southwest and Great Basin
* The Eastern Woolands
* The Arctic Regions
* Mesoamerica – The Olmec, Aztec, and Maya
* South America – The Moche and Inca

Grading:

Archaeologist/Site Biography 10%

Paper Proposal 10%

Term Paper 30%

Midterm Exam 25%

Final Exam 25%

Textbook:

Sutton, Mark, Q.

2011 Prehistory of North America. Pearson Publishing. ISBN-10: 0205342019 or ISBN-13: 9780205342013

Semester Schedule

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| Week/Date | Topic | Readings | Exercise/Due |
| 1-Jan 4 | Course Introduction and the Environments and Archaeology of North, Central and South America | Chapter 1 |  |
| 2-Jan 9/11 | North and South America’s Oldest Archaeological Sites | Chapters 2 and 3 |  |
| 3-Jan 16/18 | Eastern Woodlands | Chapters 11 and 12 | Paper Proposal |
| 4-Jan 23/25 | The Southwest | Chapter 9 |  |
| 5-Jan/Feb 30/1  | The Northwest Coast Part 1 | Chapter 5 |  |
| 6-Feb 6/8 | The Northwest Coast Part 2 | Chapter 5 | Archaeologists or Site Biography |
| 7-Feb 13/15 | READING BREAK NO CLASSES! |
| 8-Feb 20/22  | The Plateau and Great Basin | Chapters 6 and 8 | Mid Term Exam |
| 9-Feb/Mar 27/1 | The Plains | Chapter 10 |  |
| 10-Mar 6/8 | The Sub-Arctic and Arctic | Chapters 4 and 13 |  |
| 11-Mar 13/15 | Mesoamerican Civilizations | Watson 2012 |  |
| 12-Mar 20/22 | South American Civilizations/How to prepare your final paper | Ogburn, Connel and Gifford 2009 |  |
| 13-Mar 27/29  | Ethics in Archaeology/Indigenous Archaeology | Klassen, Budwha and Reimer 2009McGhee 2008Colwell- Chanthaphonh et al. 2010 |  |
| 13-Apr 3/5 | Course Summary and Evaluations |  | Final Paper |

Non Text Book Required Readings Posted on Canvas

Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, T. J. Ferguson, Dorothy Lippert, Randall H.McGuire, George P. Nicholas, Joe E. Watkins and Larry J. Zimmerman

2010 The Premise and Promise of Indigenous Archaeology. *American Antiquity*, Vol 75, No. 2, pp. 228-238.

Klassen, Michael, Rick Budhwa and Rudy Reimer

2009 First Nations, Forestry, and the Transformation of Archaeological Practice in British Columbia, Canada. *Heritage Management*, Vol. 2(2): 199-238.

McGhee, Robert

2008 Aboriginalism and the Problems of Indigenous Archaeology. *American Antiquity*, Vol. 73, No. 4, pp. 579-597.

Ogburn, Dennis, Samuel Connell ad Chad Gifford

2009 Provisioning of the Inka army in wartime: obsidian procurement in Pambamarca, Ecuador. *Journal of Archaeological Science* Vol. 36: 740-751.

Watson, Matthew, C.

2012 Staged Discovery and the Politics of Maya Hieroglyphic Things. *American Anthropologist* Vol. 114(2): 282-296.

1. Course coverage and materials are at the discretion of the instructor, but major changes in ARCH 201 course content should be approved by Archaeology Department Chair well in advance of the first day of classes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)