

Archaeology of the New World

Archaeology 273

Section: D100

Term: 1999 Spring

Instructor: Professor Phil Hobler

Office: MPX 9637 (Ask at Archaeology general office: MPX 9635)

Morning course, Burnaby campus

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Lecture time: Friday 9:30 - 12:20

Discussion Topics: This course deals with the original discovery, exploration and settlement of the continents of the western hemisphere by the ancestors of today's Native people. It examines the evidence left behind by the real discoverers of the Americas, the people who found themselves at the end of the Ice Age with half of the earth in front of them without a single human inhabitant, an immense area rich in resources and abundant in dangers, with every extreme climate and terrain.

Where did they come from? What tools and beliefs came with them into the New World? How did they spread across the land? How may we chart their subsequent rise from hunters to true civilisation? The material facts, the ideas and arguments concerning these first people of North and South America are the subjects of this course.

Some of the topics to be covered include:

1. The earliest inhabitants and their economic activities in the context of the late Pleistocene.
2. Adaptation to the varied environments of the New World through the development of regionally specialised hunting, gathering and fishing activities.
3. The development of the economic foundations for higher civilisations through agriculture, the appearance of stable villages and small towns.
4. A consideration of the high civilisations that finally developed in Mexico and Peru with their dense populations, complex political and religious organisation and large-scale architecture.

Grading: There will be four equally spaced, equally weighed quizzes and one research paper. The quizzes count 75% and the paper 25%.

Required Texts: Fagan, Brian Ancient North America. Thames and Hudson, New York. ISBN 0 500 27817 2 Paperback

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ARCH 100-3 or 201-3 (formerly 101-3)

Notes: This is a lecture course with no tutorials.

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Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.