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ANTY 457.01: Archaeology of the Pacific Northwest

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Anthropology 457: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Professor: Anna M. Prentiss; Office: Social Science 205; Telephone: 243-6152; Message Telephone (Anthropology Department) 243-2693; email: anna.prentiss@umontana.edu; Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12-2 PM or by appointment.

I. DESCRIPTION: The course will provide an introduction to the archaeology of the Pacific Northwest region of North America. Course content will include an overview of climate change, peopling of the Americas with emphasis on the Pacific Northwest data, the evolution of complex hunter-gatherer societies throughout the region, rise of Northwest Coast art, and contemporary issues in Pacific Northwest archaeology. Data from this region will permit us to examine past population movements, origins of contemporary peoples, and patterns and processes of cultural evolution.

II. PURPOSE:

A. MISSION STATEMENT: This course is an elective for anthropology majors.

B. Objectives for the student:

1. To identify major events, cultures, patterns of change, and researchers significant in the archaeological study of Pacific Northwest prehistory.
2. To develop concepts and methods which aid in our understanding of the processes of culture change in the Pacific Northwest during the past 12,000 years.
3. To practice analytical skills in evaluating basic archaeological research.
4. To read primary and secondary sources and consider their significance to archaeological problems.

C. Goals for the student:

1. To develop a broad perspective on the origins of today's native American peoples
2. To develop ability to identify important artifacts and other material markers of past cultures.
3. To develop the ability to recognize archaeological signatures of past hunter-gatherer behavior from the Pacific Northwest region.
4. To develop the ability to use data in evaluating archaeological inferences and explanations.

D. General Learning Outcomes for the student:

In addition to basic content-related objectives outlined above, the course has several general liberal-learning goals for developing basic academic skills. With successful completion of this course the student will improve ability in the following areas:

1. To develop the ability to manage data requiring the student to organize information and distinguish between empirical fact, inference, and theory.
2. To develop the ability to understand organizing principles to be used in sorting information.
3. To compare and evaluate arguments.
4. To organize thoughts and communicate these in written form.
5. To practice in synthesizing information during constrained time periods (as in exams).

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Prerequisites: None

B. Texts and readings:

   Required Texts:

   Matson, R.G. and G. Coupland

   Moss, Madonna L.
   2011  *Northwest Coast Archaeology as Deep History*. The SAA Press, Washington D.C.

   Prentiss, Anna Marie and Ian Kuijt
   2012  *People of the Middle Fraser Canyon: An Archaeological History*. UBC Press, Vancouver.

   Additional Readings: Available at the Mansfield Library (see below).

C. Grade Determination:

Grading will be accomplished via (1) preparation of two assignments; (2) one class presentation and (2) two examinations. Graduate students will be required to present a 30-minute seminar on the issues associated with research paper #1.

(1) All participants will submit a ten (twenty pages for graduate students) page (typed, double-spaced) research paper reviewing research themes and issues in Pleistocene to Middle Holocene Pacific NW archaeology (see handout). The paper will summarize the importance of the issue, identify key debates, discussion, and issues, and offer suggestions for future research. For consideration of full credit, the paper must read and cite at least six sources not on the required reading list. The paper is worth 100 points. The format shall be *American Antiquity* style.

(2) All participants will submit a ten page (20 pages for Graduate Students), typed, double-spaced, research paper on the evolution of Pacific NW cultures and cultural traits. Topics will focus on problems in late Holocene Pacific Northwest archaeology that include evolution of maritime adaptations, emergence of socio-political complexity, definition and explanation of the potlatch, and the meaning of art in Northwest Coast cultures (see handout). For consideration of
full credit, the paper must read and cite at least six sources not on the required reading list. The paper is worth 100 points. The format shall be *American Antiquity* style.

(3) Graduate Students will make a 20-30 minute presentation on their case study (assignment 1) on a scheduled day. These presentations are worth 50 points. Students must sign up for specific topics.

(4) A mid-term and final examination: short answer and essay questions worth 100 points each. Blue book required.

(5) All students will also provide a 10-20 minute presentation of the results of their research (Assignment #2) during the final two weeks of regular class. Students must sign up for a specific topic. Seminar #2 presentations are worth 50 points.

Deadlines are extended only in cases of illness (with a doctor's note) or an emergency. Final grades are determined as follows:

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450-500 = A etc.

**D. Tests and Other Important Dates for Course**

- October 11 Paper #1 Due
- October 14 Mid-Term Exam
- December 2 Paper #2 Due
- December 12 Final Exam
Reading List and Schedule

(August 26) COURSE INTRODUCTION

(August 28 - 30) PACIFIC NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURES

Required Reading:

Matson and Coupland, Chapters 1 and 2
Moss, Chapters 1-2
Prentiss and Kuijt, Chapter 1

(September 4) HISTORY OF RESEARCH

Required Reading:

Matson and Coupland, Chapter 3

(September 6-11) PALEOINDIANS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST: WESTERN STEMMED AND CLOVIS TRADITIONS

Required Reading:

Matson and Coupland, Chapter 4
Moss, Chapter 4

Recommended Reading:

Beck, C. and G.T. Jones

Chatters, James C., Steven Hackenberger, Brett Lenz, Anna M. Prentiss, and Jayne-Leigh Thomas

(September 13-20) PALEOARCTIC, NORTH COAST MICROBLADE, AND OLD CORDILLERAN TRADITIONS

Required Reading:
Matson and Coupland, Chapter 4
Moss, Chapter 4
Prentiss and Kuijt, Chapter 2 (pp. 41-43)

Recommended Reading:

Chatters, James C., Steven Hackenberger, Brett Lenz, Anna M. Prentiss, and Jayne-Leigh Thomas

(September 23-30) CULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION IN THE MIDDLE HOLOCENE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Required Reading:

Matson and Coupland, Chapter 5
Moss, Chapter 5
Prentiss and Kuijt, Chapter 2

Recommended Reading:

Prentiss, A.M.

(October 2-9) COLLECTOR ECONOMIES ON THE NORTHWEST COAST AND PLATEAU 3500-2400 B.P.

Required Reading:

Matson and Coupland, Chapter 6
Moss, Chapter 5
Prentiss and Kuijt, Chapter 2

Recommended Reading:

Prentiss, A.M.
2009 The Emergence of New Socioeconomic Strategies in the Middle and Late Holocene Pacific Northwest Region of North America. In Macroevolution in

**(October 11)** GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

First Paper Due: October 11

**(October 14)** MID-TERM EXAM

**(October 16)** INTRODUCTION TO “COMPLEX HUNTER-GATHERERS”

Required Reading:

Moss, Chapter 3  
Prentiss and Kuijt, Chapter 6

**(October 18-25)** COMPLEX SOCIETIES OF THE NORTHWEST COAST 2400-1000 B.P.

Matson and Coupland, Chapter 7  
Moss, Chapter 6  
Prentiss and Kuijt, Chapter 3

Recommended Reading:

Lepofsky, D., K. Lertzman, D. Hallett, and R. Mathewes  

Prentiss, A.M.  

**(October 28-November 8)** COMPLEX SOCIETIES OF THE PLATEAU 2400 B.P. INTO THE ETHNOGRAPHIC PERIOD

Prentiss and Kuijt, Chapters 4-8

Prentiss, W.C., J.C. Chatters, M. Lenert, D.S. Clarke, and R. O’Boyle  
2005 The Archaeology of the Plateau of Northwestern North America during the Late Prehistoric Period (3500-200 B.P.): Evolution of Hunting and Gathering
Societies. *Journal of World Prehistory* 19:47-118. (e-reserve)

Recommended Reading:

Prentiss, A.M., G. Cross, T.A. Foor, D. Markle, M. Hogan, and D.S. Clarke

*November 11*: Holiday

*November 13-18* COMPLEX SOCIETIES OF THE NORTHWEST COAST 1200 B.P. INTO THE ETHNOGRAPHIC PERIOD

Required Reading:

Matson and Coupland, Chapter 8
Moss, Chapters 6 and 7

Recommended Reading:

Matson, R.G., G. Coupland, and Q. Mackie
2003 *Emerging from the Mist: Studies in Northwest Coast Culture History*. UBC Press, Vancouver. (Chapters 2, 4, and 5; reserve)

*November 20-25* NORTHWEST COAST ART

Required Reading:

Holm, B.

Recommended Reading:

Stewart, H.
1979 *Looking at Indian Art of the Northwest Coast*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. (reserve)

*November 27-29*: Holidays

*December 2-6* RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Final Paper Due: December 2
(December 12 8:00-10:00) FINAL EXAM
ANTH 457 Archaeology of the Pacific Northwest
Assignment #1 Topics (Choose One of These)

1. What is the Pacific Northwest archaeological evidence for human origins in the New World? What have we learned about the number, timing and nature of human migrations into the New World from archaeological data?

2. What is the evidence for social organization on the Northwest Coast or Interior Plateau prior to 2400 B.P.? What form(s) did it take and how do we know?

3. What is a logistically organized collector system? How and why did logistically organized collecting emerge in the Pacific Northwest region during the mid-Holocene?

4. What is subsistence intensification? Describe the process of subsistence intensification in the Pacific Northwest during the middle Holocene. Why did it occur in this region?

5. Define sedentism. What form(s) did sedentism take in during the middle Holocene in the Pacific Northwest region? How can we explain the evolution of sedentism at this time?

6. What is the evidence for inter-personal violence during the terminal Pleistocene and early to middle Holocene (pre-2400 B.P.) in the Pacific Northwest region? What form did violence take? Why did it occur?

7. The early Holocene (10,000-5000 BP) archaeological record from the Pacific Northwest region suggests a pattern of occupation by mobile, egalitarian foragers. This was apparently a stable and successful adaptation that changed abruptly in many areas. Why did this happen? Describe the early Holocene hunter-gatherer systems from the Pacific Northwest region. Discuss potential causes for change after 5000 BP.

8. Explain the transition from the Paleoindian (Western Stemmed tradition) to Archaic (Old Cordilleran Culture) periods in the Pacific Northwest. Was it in situ evolution or an ethnic replacement? Why? Justify your response in reference to archaeological data.