

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with the prehistory of North America, from the earliest colonization by people at the end of the Ice Age over 12,000 years ago, to the catastrophic collapse of Native American populations following the arrival of Europeans (and infectious diseases) in the late 15th century. The basic organization of the course is chronological.

Course Schedule:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Jan. 13	Course overview. Vikings' touchdown!	
Jan. 15	Who owns the past? The story of Ishi and its lessons	Chapter 1
Jan. 20	Debates over human antiquity: the beginnings of American archaeology	Chapter 2
Jan. 22	A short history of American archaeology in the 20 th century	Chapter 3
Jan. 27	Monte Verde, Kennewick and the controversy of the first Americans	Chapter 4:71-89
Jan. 30	A review of other controversial sites	PDF file
Feb. 3	Peopling of the New World: timing and routes of entry	
Feb. 5	The Clovis evidence	Chapter 4:89-96
Feb. 10	What about South America?	
Feb. 12	Late Pleistocene environments and extinctions	PDF file
Feb. 17	Folsom et al.	
Feb. 19	Midterm Exam	
Feb. 24	Late Paleoindian cultures	Chapter 5
Feb.26	Bison Hunters on the Plains	Chapter 6
Mar. 3	Village Farmers on the Plains	Chapter 7
Mar. 5	Prehistoric Rockies	
Mar. 10	Presentations I	
Mar. 12	Presentations II	
	<i>Spring Break</i>	
Mar. 24	Arctic Cultures	Chapter 8-9
Mar. 26	The Great Basin	Chapter 12
Mar. 31	Origins of Agriculture the Americas	
Apr. 2	The Archaic in the Southwest	Chapter 14
Apr. 7	Southwest villages and Pueblos	Chapter 15
Apr. 9	Eastern Woodlands Archaic	Chapter 17
Apr. 14	Early Woodland and Adena	Chapter 18
Apr. 16	Middle Woodland and Hopewell	Chapter 19
Apr. 21	Mississippian cultures	Chapter 20
Apr. 23	Algonquians and Iroquoians	Chapter 21
Apr. 28	European contact: disease, horses and guns	Chapter 22
Apr. 30	Archaeology at the Little Bighorn	
May 7	Final exam: 10:45-1:15	

Our text book is B. Fagan’s *Ancient North America*, Thames and Hudson (4th edition.), other specific readings will be posted on Blackboard in a PDF format:

<https://unco.blackboard.com/webapps/login/>

Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Access Center (970) 351-2289 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

You are responsible for attending the class. I will not share my notes; therefore, if you miss a lecture you do so at your own risk. Keep in mind that all exams will strongly emphasize the lecture materials. In the exams, or all matters related to the course, you will be expected to follow the UNC honor code. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the class.

Your course grade will be based on one midterm exam, a final exam, a presentation and two research papers. Each of these will count for 20% of your final grade. You can already mark your calendar for the final exam. It will take place on May 7th from 10:45 AM to 1:15 PM in Candelaria 1190. The midterm is scheduled for February 19th.

No make-up exam will be given under any circumstances unless you have a written note from your Academic Advisor or appropriate health-related documents explaining your absence. Your final grade will use only straight letter grades and will not include + or -.

Score (pts)	Grade
<60	F
60 to 69	D
70 to 79	C
80 to 89	B
90 to 100	A

Each research paper should be no fewer than 6 and no more than 8 pages (12pt font double spaced). For this first paper you will chose an object recovered at a North American archaeological site, describe the context of its discovery, the specific ways it was manufactured and find an equivalent in the ethnographic world. Using analogy you will then discuss its possible function(s). Please keep in mind that I will need to approve the topic to ensure that there will be no overlap among class members. The second paper will be a continuation of your research and further instructions will be given in class and posted on Blackboard in due time. The first paper is due on the day of your class presentation, the second one on April 16th 5PM. No exceptions will be made.

The class presentation will be on the same topic as your first paper. The presentation will be an approximately 10 minute PowerPoint lecture -- the length may vary based on overall class enrollment. In the presentation, I expect you to summarize your research paper for the rest of the class.

My office is located on the second floor of Candelaria, in room 2263. My office hours are on T 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, and R 1:00 PM-2:00 PM or by appointment. If you need to reach me at any other time, my phone number is (970) 351-2761 and my email address: frederic.sellet@unco.edu