

Archaeology 351
Archaeology of South America: The Lowlands and Northern Andes

Winter 2010
MWF 9:00 – 9:50
ST 027
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Office hours: MW 10 – 11:00
OR by appointment

Course Description:

This course introduces the archaeology of South America, *excluding* the Central Andes and Peruvian coast. It presents an overview of the prehispanic cultural development of a vast region, including: northwestern South America and the lower part of Central America; the Caribbean shore of South America and the Antilles; the tropical lowlands; the Guiana and Brazilian uplands; the southern plains and steppe of the Pampas and Patagonia; and the wet fjord coast of Chile and Tierra del Fuego. Because this is such an expansive area and archaeology in many regions is wanting, emphasis will be placed on current and traditional controversies and important research questions regarding human systems and processes. Some of the topics explored will include the peopling of the continent, the origins of food production, the potential for socio-cultural development in tropical environments, and humans' adaptation to and/or cultural modification of the environment.

Note: There is no textbook for this course. Seminar readings and readings that supplement the lecture topics will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Objectives:

- To acquaint students with a general understanding of the prehistory and of South America (excluding the Central Andes).
- To critically, discuss and write about key issues related to the prehistory of the region.
- To familiarize students with the archaeological methods, theoretical frameworks, and the types of evidence that have been used in the region to study past human behaviour.
- To encourage students to think critically and to communicate effectively.

Course Evaluation:

You will be evaluated on the content of the course by a map quiz, two exams, and a final exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true and false and short answer questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

In-class discussion and/or discussion groups will be used to stimulate appraisal of the seminar readings and videos. Short written commentaries will critically evaluate specific issues presented in the readings and videos.

Participation will be assessed through in-class discussion of the seminar readings as well as the written commentaries.

No particular course component need be passed in order to pass the course as a whole.

Map Quiz	10%
Quizzes	40% (Two @ 20% each)
Written Discussion Commentaries	20% (Two @ 10% each)
Discussion Participation	10%
Final Exam	20%

Map Quiz and Exams:

You will be expected to become acquainted with the physical and political geography of the pertinent areas of South America. Further information on the map quiz will be provided in the lectures.

The mid-term and final exams will test your knowledge on the *lecture material, videos shown in class, supplemental readings, and discussion readings*. The final exam will *not* be cumulative.

Grade Scale:

A+	95 – 100%	B	75 – 79.9%	D+	55 – 59.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B-	70 – 74.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	C+	65 – 69.9%	F	< 50%
B+	80 – 84.9%	C	60 – 64.9%		

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

The lecture and reading schedule will be posted on Blackboard.