

ARCHAEOLOGY 355

INDIANS OF SOUTH AMERICA: THE LOWLANDS AND NORTHERN ANDES

Fall 2009

Instructor: Richard Callaghan
Office: ES 856
Telephone: 220-5459
Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00 p.m.
Lectures: MWF 13:00 – 13:50
Room: EDC 287

What is the course about?

The Lowlands of South America: Verdant paradise? Land of riches and opportunity? Green hell? Mysterious land of cannibals, jaguars and dangerous snakes? Since its discovery by Europeans, writers have used very different--sometimes contradictory--imagery to portray the Lowlands. Many of them had not experienced the region first hand. Those that had were mainly adventurers, explorers, entrepreneurs, missionaries. Their accounts generalized and often sensationalized their limited experiences. The result: an overly simple portrayal of the ecologically most complex environment in the world and of the people living in it. Only recently have the Lowlands received much serious attention from the world's scientists. But it may be too late to learn many of their secrets. Western civilization, which has never been able to successfully settle the many parts of the Lowlands, is now destroying them. As the forest disappears, so are the last of the traditional cultures which, until the Europeans arrived, had achieved an ecological balance with the region.

This is the last act of a play which began when the first Spaniards arrived in the Antilles. All of the South American cultures were affected by the European conquest and subsequent settlement, but the effects were more strongly felt in some areas than in others. In the Caribbean, the Pampas and Patagonia the people, their cultures and languages were eradicated swiftly and almost simultaneously. This was also true of many of the societies which lived along the main stream of the Amazon, but some of those residing in remote parts of the forest have survived and give us some idea of what life was once like. In this course we shall use ethnographic, ethnohistorical, historical, and archaeological information to reconstruct and understand the traditional societies of Lowland South America. Excluding the Central Andes (Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Northwest Argentina, Northern Chile), our ethnological survey will cover the whole of South America, plus the island chains of the Caribbean.

Supplimental Readings:

Each student is encouraged to do as much reading as possible from these recommended books in the MacKimmie Library:

J. Siskind
M.J. Harner

To Hunt in the Morning
The Jivaro: People of the Sacred Waterfall

P. Furst	Flesh of the Gods
M. Harner	Hallucinogens and Shamanism
P. Lyon	Native South Americans
J. Steward & L. Faron	Native Peoples of South America
B.J. Meggers	Amazonia: Man and Culture in a Counterfeit Paradise
D.W. Lathrap	The Upper Amazon
A. Holmberg	The Nomads of the Long Bow
P. Matthiessen	At Play in the Fields of the Lord
G. Reichel-Dolmatoff	Amazonian Cosmos
J. Wilbert	Survivors of El Dorado
W. Whitten	Sacha Runa
C. Wagley	Welcome of Tears
J. Steward	The Handbook of South American Indians
K. Kensinger	The Cashinahua of Eastern Peru

There will be a mid-term exam and a term paper. In addition, there will be three short quizzes. The first of these quizzes will be concerned with geographical features of South America - each student is advised to become **well** acquainted with the map of South America. The term paper of approximately 20 pages is due on or before Dec. 8th. Term paper topics must be approved by the instructor. The following percentages will be used in determining grades:

Quiz 1	10%
Quiz 2	20%
Mid-term	30%
Quiz 3	5%
Term Paper	35%

Grading Scheme (%)

A+	= 100-97	C	= 71-65
A	= 90-96	C-	= 64-60
A-	= 89-87	D+	= 59-55
B+	= 86-84	D	= 54-50
B	= 83-80	F	< 50
B-	= 79-77		
C+	= 76-72		

Tentative Lecture Schedule.

Sept. 09	Introduction and Course Mechanics.
Sept. 11	Discussion of Ethnographic Sources.
Sept. 14	South American Environments.
Sept. 16	South American Environments.
Sept. 18	South American Environments.
Sept. 21	QUIZ #1; South American Language Families.
Sept. 23	Film
Sept. 25	Bands, Tribes, and Chiefdoms.

Sept. 28	Early Contact
Sept. 30	General Overview of Chiefdoms in the Northwest.
Oct. 2	General Overview of Chiefdoms in the Northwest.
Oct. 5	The Guajiro
Oct. 9	The Guajiro
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving
Oct. 14	The Guajiro
Oct. 16	QUIZ #2; The Warao
Oct. 19	The Warao
Oct. 21	The Warao
Oct. 23	The Warao
Oct. 26	The Warao - "Mosori Monika"
Oct. 28	The Piaroa
Oct. 30	The Piaroa
Nov. 2	The Piaroa
Nov. 4	The Piaroa
Nov. 6	The Kalapalo
Nov. 9	The Kalapalo
Nov. 11-15	Reading Days
Nov. 16	The Kalapalo
Nov. 18	The Kalapalo
Nov. 20	MIDTERM EXAM
Nov. 23	Film
Nov. 25	The Yuqui
Nov. 27	The Yuqui
Nov. 30	The Yuqui
Dec. 2	The Yuqui
Dec. 4	The Yuqui
Dec. 7	Quiz 3

Students are responsible for materials covered in the readings and the lectures, including films and videos. Classroom materials missed due to absenteeism are the sole responsibility of the student.

Assembly Point for EDC is Scurfield Hall Atrium.

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handled on Blackboard or handed out in class.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. Grades will **not** be available at Archaeology's main office.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suypaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.