

ARCHAEOLOGY 355

Native Cultures of the Amazon

Fall 2016

Instructor: Richard Callaghan
Office: ES 856
Telephone: 220-5459
Office Hours: TuW 11:00 - 12:00
Lectures: TuTh 12:30-1:45
Room: SA 245



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 Library:

J. Siskind
M.J. Harner
P. Furst

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

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not essential if the student is to pass the course as a whole.

Tentative Lecture Schedule.

Sept. 13	Introduction and Course Mechanics, Discussion of Ethnographic Sources.
Sept. 15	South American Environments.
Sept. 20	South American Environments.
Sept. 22	South American Environments.
Sept. 27	QUIZ #1
Sept. 29	Film

Oct. 4	Bands, Tribes, and Cheifdoms, South American Language Families, Early Contact
Oct. 6	General Overview of Chiefdoms in the Northwest.
Oct. 11	General Overview of Chiefdoms in the Northwest.
Oct. 13	The Guajiro
Oct. 18	The Guajiro
Oct. 20	QUIZ #2
Oct. 25	The Warao
Oct. 27	The Warao
Nov. 1	The Warao
Nov. 3	The Panare
Nov. 8	The Panare
Nov. 10- 13	Reading Days
Nov. 15	The Kalapalo
Nov. 17	The Kalopalo
Nov. 22	The Kalapalo
Nov. 24	MIDTERMEXAM
Nov. 29	The Yuqui
Nov. 29	The Yuqui
Dec. 1	The Yuqui
Dec. 6	Last consultation on papers.
Dec. 8	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.

Computers and communication devices are not allowed in the classroom during tests.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT OF THE COURSE OUTLINE

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Academic Accommodations:

The academic accommodations policy can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students that have not registered with the SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about the academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section of 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
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk Information

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 (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

Student Union Vice President - Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representative

Phone: (403) 220-3913

Email: socilsci@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/students-rights.html>