

**ARCHAEOLOGY 421**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE GREAT PLAINS**  
**FALL 2008**

Instructor: Dale Walde  
Office: ES 860  
Office Hours: W 1000–1200 or by appointment  
Lectures: MWF 0900–0950

**TEXTS**

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE GREAT PLAINS. W. Raymond Wood (editor). University Press of Kansas, Lawrence.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALBERTA: A VIEW FROM THE NEW MILLENNIUM. Jack W. Brink and John F. Dormaar (editors). The Archaeological Society of Alberta. Medicine Hat.

ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE EDGE. Brian Kooyman and Jane H. Kelley (editors). University of Calgary Press. Calgary.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Forbis, Richard G. 1992 The Mesoinian (Archaic) Period in the Northern Plains. *Revisita de Arqueologia Americana* 5:27-70.

Walde, Dale, David Meyer, and Wendy Unfreed 1995 The Late Period on the Canadian and Adjacent Plains. *Revisita de Arqueologia Americana* 9:7-66.

Additional suggested readings for class discussion topics will be distributed in class.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OUTLINE**

The Great Plains is an area defined by the Rocky Mountains on the west and the tall grass prairie on the east, extending from the boreal forest on the north to the Edwards Plateau of Texas on the south. The course surveys the archaeology of the area from the arrival of the first humans through the European settlement period with a particular emphasis on the precontact Canadian Plains, especially southern Alberta. Initial lectures and discussions briefly describe the physical setting and traditional First Nations culture of the Great Plains. The remaining lectures and discussions describe and discuss the archaeologically identifiable cultural developments in the various sub-areas of the Great Plains.

Active learning will form an integral part of the course. Student teams will participate in tri-weekly data gathering and text-reading exercises to create short papers that will form the basis for in-class presentation and discussion of issues of interpretation in plains archaeology. Some class time will be allocated for discussion development activities.

Class discussion topics will include:

First Peopling of North America as Viewed from Alberta  
Effects of Climate Change on Human Settlement on the Canadian Plains  
Migration vs. *In Situ* Cultural Development on the Canadian Plains  
Changes in Social Organization on the Canadian Plains

## EXAMS AND PAPERS

There will be a midterm and a final exam. All exams are closed book exams. The mid-term will be held on 15 October and the final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. A term paper will be completed. Tri-weekly discussion papers will be presented and submitted (due dates: 26 Sept., 20 Oct., 10 Nov., 24 Nov). Discussion participation will be evaluated. No particular course component must be passed to pass the course as a whole.

## GRADING

Mid-term (14 October)	15%
Discussion papers and presentations	25%
Final	35%
Term Paper (due 05 December)	25%

The paper will be 2500-3000 words in length and the topic must be selected in consultation with the instructor.

You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam or meet an assignment deadline. All requests for deferral of an examination or an extended deadline due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams and extended deadlines may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam or deadline for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make up” exam or assignment as close to the original dates as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Archaeology. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams and deadline extensions will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

## GRADING SCHEME

A+	93-100%	Outstanding achievement
A	87-92%	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of a subject matter.
A-	83-86%	
B+	79-82%	
B	75-78%	Good-clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B	71-74%	
C+	67-70%	
C	63-66%	Satisfactory-basic understanding of the subject matter.
C-	59-62%	
D+	55-57%	
D	50-54%	Minimal pass-marginal performance.
F	<50%	Fail-unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet [assignment or] course requirements.