

ARKY423 - ARCTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Peter Dawson

Location: ST130

Time: M,W,F @ 11:00am

Office: ES 820

Office Hours: Monday @ 1-3pm

Course Description

In this course, we will examine the pre-contact and historic northern Aboriginal cultures of the Arctic regions of Northeastern Siberia, the Aleutian Islands, North America and Greenland. Archaeological constructions of the origins, migration routes, economies, technology, social organization, art, and ideology of Paleoeskimo and Neoeskimo cultures will be explored. In addition, the impact of early European exploration on the development of historic Inuit, Eskimo and Aleut cultures will be discussed. Course material will consist of formal lectures, assigned readings from the course text and a prepared reading package. Students will be required to submit an annotated bibliography on a selected topic in arctic archaeology. A list of possible topics is included at the end of this syllabus. The annotated bibliography will consist of 10 references, and will be due no later than Nov. 17. This bibliography will form the basis of a 2500 word research paper, to be submitted no later than Thursday, Dec. 8 (Last day of classes).

Required Text:

Schledermann, Peter

1996 Voices in Stone: A Personal Journey into the Arctic Past. Komatic Press, Arctic Institute of North America.

ARKY 423 – Archaeology of the Arctic Reading Package (Download from Course Documents section of Blackboard).

NB* On occasion, I may place extra readings on Blackboard that cover topics of interest in more detail. These will be recommended readings only.

Course Evaluation:

Course Mechanics

Quiz 1:	20%	(February 9, 2009)
Quiz 2:	20%	(March 16, 2009)
Individual Wiki	20%	(March 23, 2009)
Group Wiki:	10%	(April 17, 2009)
Final Exam:	30%	(TBA)

Quizzes (20% Each). The midterms will be multiple-choice exams written in class.

Assignment: Wiki Entry (20% for individual wiki; 10% for group wiki) A wiki is a collaborative website which can be directly edited by anyone with access to it. The most famous wiki site is Wikipedia. During the first week of classes, you will be given a list of topics. Use Blackboard to rank these topics in terms of your interest. Blackboard will then place you into groups based on your choices. Your assignment is to write a **wiki no more than 1500 words** in length (6 double spaced pages) on the topic of your choice. Make sure that all work is cited from appropriate sources (this means no course textbooks, or internet websites) that you will list at the bottom of the page. Once your wiki is complete, I will randomly choose someone in your group to post their wiki to a Seedwiki entitled *Arctic Archaeology*, that is accessible through a link on Blackboard (www.seedwiki.com). You will then work to with other members of your group to add to your group wiki, or change something that other members of the group don't agree with. You will be required to submit a hard copy of your original wiki entry for marking. In addition, groups will receive a mark for their combined wiki.

Two of these topics will appear as essay questions on the final exam. Therefore, by doing a good job on your wiki's, each group will be creating an effective study tool.

Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be a cumulative multiple choice exam that covers all course materials, including readings and lectures.

Late Penalties for Course Assignments.

Late penalties will be 2% per day for the FINAL GRADE IN THE COURSE for any assignments that are handed in late. Delayed submission of assignments because of illness or family emergency will require official documentation.

* Students should familiarize themselves with the University of Calgary's policies of plagiarism and academic misconduct, outlined in the University Calendar.

* Students with special needs should identify themselves to the instructor during the first week of class.

* Late papers and class assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day. Any medical or family reasons cited for extensions or late papers will have to be supported by appropriate documents.

Grade Scale:

97% = A+

90% = A

87% = A-
84% = B+
80% = B
77% = B-
72% = C+
65% = C
60% = C-
55% = D+
50% = D
Below = F

Note: The A+ grade will become an official grade at the University of Calgary starting Fall Session, 2002. The A+ grade is described as an honorific grade having the same grade point value as an A grade (4.0). It will be used to indicate outstanding performance in a subject area but does not have a higher grade point value.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

WEEK 1

Lecture: Geography, Climate, and Biology of the Canadian Arctic.

Read: Physical Environment -- John K. Stager and Robert J. McSkimming (Readings Package).

Film: At the Winter Sea Ice Camp

WEEK 2

Lecture: Early Views on the Origins of Inuit and Eskimo Peoples.

Read: Therkel Mathiassen and the Beginnings of Eskimo Archaeology -- Frederica de Laguna.

The Problem of the Eskimo -- Diamond Jenness (both from Readings Package).

WEEK 3

Lecture: Early and Later Cultures of the Pacific Coast of Southwestern Alaska.

- Anangula Tradition
- Aleutian Tradition
- Ocean Bay Tradition
- Kodiak Tradition

Read: People of the Pacific Coast - D. Dumond (Readings Package)

WEEK 4

Lecture: The Earliest Paleoeskimo Cultures: North America and Greenland.

- Denbigh Flint Complex/Arctic Small Tool Tradition
- Pre-Dorset
- Independence I/Saqqaaq

Read: The True Pioneers and Visitors from the Sunny Side - Schledermann (course text)
People of the Later Tundra - D. Dumond (Readings Package)

WEEK 5

Lecture: Later Paleoeskimo Cultures Part 1: Northeastern Siberia and North Alaska.

- Old Whaling Culture
- Choris
- Norton
- Ipiutak

Read: People of the Bering and Chukchi Seas - D. Dumond (Readings Package)

WEEK 6

Lecture: Later Paleoeskimo Cultures Part 2: The Eastern Arctic.

- Early Dorset
- Independence II
- Middle Dorset

Read: The Arctic Renaissance, and Silent Shores - Schledermann (course text).

WEEK 7

Lecture: Later Paleoeskimo Cultures Part 2: The Eastern Arctic (cont...)

- Late Dorset
- Terminal Dorset
- The Dorset/Thule Succession

Read: The Shamans Gather - Schledermann (course text)

The Dorset-Thule Succession in Arctic North America: Assessing Claims for Culture Contact - R. Park (Readings Package).

Meetings between Dorset culture Paleoeskimos and Thule culture Inuit: Evidence from Brooman Point – Robert McGhee (Readings Package)..

Social Bonding and shamanism among Late Dorset groups in High Arctic Greenland – Hans Christian Cullov and Martin Appelt (Readings Package).

WEEK 8

Lecture: The Origins and Expansion of Thule Culture.

- The Origins of Thule Culture (Okvik/Old Bering Sea, Punuk, Birnirk).
- Theories for Thule Migration into the Eastern Arctic
- Thule Migration Routes and Dates for Migrations.

Read: People of the Northern Coasts - D. Dumond (Readings Package)
The Arctic Whale Hunters - Schledermann (course text)
The Earliest Thule Migration – David Morrison (Readings Package).
Late Dorset “Longhouse” Occupations of Creswell Bay, Somerset Island and Their Possible Relationship to the Thule Migration – Eric Damkjar (Readings Package).
Population Movements in the Canadian Arctic – Susan Rowley (Readings Package)
Western Elements in the Early Thule Culture of the Eastern High Arctic – Peter Schledermann and Karen McCullough (Readings Package).

WEEK 9

Lecture: Thule Culture in the North American Arctic and Greenland.

- Technology
- Economy
- Socio-Political Organization
- Current Research Issues in Thule Archaeology

Read: A Critical View of Thule Culture and Ecological Adaptation - M.R Freeman (Readings Package)
The Nature of Thule Eskimo Whale Use - A.P McCartney (Readings Package)

WEEK 10

Lecture: The Emergence of Historic Inuit Cultures from Thule Culture.

- Economic Change
- Environmental Models
- European Contact

Read: Disease and the Development of Inuit Culture - R. McGhee
Death and Abandonment - Schledermann (course text)

WEEK 11

Lecture: The Influence of European Exploration on Inuit/Eskimo Cultural Development.

- The Norse in Greenland
- Early Voyages to Polar Regions - Martin Frobisher and Henry Hudson
- The Franklin Era in Arctic Exploration
- European and American Whaling and the Fur Trade

Read: Vikings in the High Arctic - Schledermann (course text)
Cows, Seals and Churchbells: Adaptation and Extinction in Norse Greenland – Thomas McGovern.
An Examination of Processes of Culture Change among Nineteenth Century Copper Inuit – Clifford Hickey.

WEEK 12

Lecture: Contemporary Issues Facing Inuit and Eskimo Peoples Today.

- Whaling, Sealing, and the Animal Rights Movement
- The Settlement Era and Housing in the Canadian Arctic
- The High Arctic Relocations: Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord
- The Creation of Nunavut

Read: A Question of Sovereignty - Schledermann (course text)
Images of the Inuit - A.R Marcus.

WIKI TOPICS

Cite **all references** according to the format used in the journal *ARCTIC*.

- 1) Warfare in North Alaska and the Pacific Eskimo Zone.
- 2) Shamanism in Inuit and Eskimo Societies, Past and Present.
- 3) Inuit/Eskimo Dwellings and Clothing Styles, Past and Present.
- 4) Whaling in Inuit and Eskimo Societies, Past and Present.
- 5) Art and Iconography in Inuit/Eskimo Cultures, Past and Present
- 6) Arctic Watercraft and Maritime Hunting Technology
- 7) A Historical Overview of either the Fifth Thule Expedition or the Canadian Arctic Expedition.
- 8) Early European views of the Canadian Arctic and Inuit Culture
- 9) The Norse Occupation and Abandonment of Greenland
- 10) Archaeological Evidence for Dorset-Thule Contact

Good places to look for both paper topics and references include the journals: *ARCTIC*, *ARCTIC ANTHROPOLOGY*, *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*, *INUIT STUDIES*, *CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY*, as well as *THE HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS (ARCTIC)*. *ANCIENT PEOPLE OF THE ARCTIC* by Robert McGhee, *EASTERN ARCTIC PREHISTORY* by M. Maxwell, and *THE ESKIMOS AND ALEUTS* by D. Dumond are also good sources for references.