

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA** - - Anthropology 262  
Fall 2014 Goodnow 105 MWF 10:00-10:50

**Prof. John Whittaker**

Goodnow 207 Extension 3447 whittake@grinnell.edu  
Office hours: email me for an appointment

A semester cannot do justice to all of North America, so this course will focus on major regions and themes. Coverage will emphasize three general aspects: 1) Basic culture history -- what happened in ancient America, prehistoric ways of life; 2) Some knowledge of American archaeology today -- methods, goals, theoretical stances, political and ethical issues; 3) Particular topics of current or abiding interest throughout the American continent – peopling of the Americas, reconstruction of social systems, trade and exchange and contacts between prehistoric cultures, the development and spread of agriculture and its results, the rise and decline of complex organizations, reconstruction of past environments and the relationships between people and nature, the destruction of native American cultures after European colonization, pseudoscientific and political uses of archaeology.

Meltzer, David J.

2010 *First Peoples in a New World*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

King, Kathleen

1983 *Cricket Sings: A Novel of Pre-Columbian Cahokia*. Ohio University Press, Athens.

Young, Biloine W., and Melvin Fowler

2000 *Cahokia: The Great American Metropolis*. University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago.

Noble, David Grant, ed.

2004 *In Search of Chaco: New Approaches to an Archaeological Enigma*. School of American Research Press, Santa Fe.

Magnusson, Magnus and H. Palsson, trans.

1965 *The Vinland Sagas: The Norse Discovery of America*. Penguin Books, Baltimore.

**OTHER READINGS**

Articles assigned will be posted electronically. You are encouraged to print articles to bring to class. There is a good deal of reading and you must read ahead for intelligent discussion.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Midterm exam, Final exam, Research Paper (About 15 pages on any approved topic).

Participation in class discussions and activities will be considered in grading.

You will have the opportunity (optional) to participate in an atlatl contest at Cahokia Sept 13.

**Schedule**

**Week 1**

F 8/29 Introduction. Archaeology and Material Culture: Atlatls

READ: Start reading Meltzer book

WEEKEND: Atlatl practice.

**Week 2**

M 9/1 American Archaeology - history and today.

**READ:** Meltzer Chapters 1, 2, 3

W 9/3 Who got here first: Clovis or Pre-Clovis?

**READ:** Meltzer Chapters 4, 5, 6

F 9/5 Bones, Teeth, Languages and other arguments

**READ:** Meltzer Chapters 6, 7

WEEKEND: Atlatl practice.

**Week 3**

M 9/8 Models, Facts, and alternate views

**READ:** -- Martin, Paul 1973 The Discovery of America. *Science* 179:969-974.

**READ:** -- Stanford, Dennis, and Bruce Bradley 2002 Ocean Trails and Prairie Paths? Thoughts about Clovis Origins. In *The First Americans: Pleistocene Colonization of the New World*. N. Jablonski, ed., pp. 255-271. California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.

W 9/10 Pleistocene Lifeways, Clovis

**READ:** -- Meltzer Chapters 8, 9, 10

F 9/12 Late PaleoIndian Cultures, finish PaleoIndian discussions

**READ:** --Wheat, Joe Ben 1967 A Paleo-Indian Bison Kill. In *New World Archaeology: Readings from Scientific American*. E.B.Zubrow et al. eds. pp.213-221. San Francisco: WH Freeman and Co. (Scientific American January 1967).

**FRIDAY 12 leave for Cahokia after classes (4:30)**

**SATURDAY 13 atlatl event at Cahokia**

**SUNDAY 14 return from Cahokia**

**Week 4**

M 9/15 Hunter-Gatherer Ways of Life – Transformation from the Pleistocene

W 9/17 The Archaic in N and E US -- "primary forest efficiency"

**READ:** -- Winters, H. D. 1968 Value Systems and Trade Cycles of the Late Archaic in the Midwest. In *New Perspectives in Archaeology* S.R. and L. Binford eds, pp. 175-221. Chicago: Aldine.

**READ:** -- Doucette, Dianna L. 2001 Decoding the Gender Bias: Inferences of Atlatls in Female Mortuary Contexts. In *Gender and the Archaeology of Death*, B. Arnold and N. L. Wicker eds., pp. 159-177. Altamira Press, Walnut Creek, CA.

F 9/19 The Archaic in SW and W US -- Desert Culture, setting the stage.

**READ:** Largent, Floyd. 2003 Danger Cave: A Haven in the Heart of the Desert. *Mammoth Trumpet* 18(4): 15-18.

**READ:** -- Heizer, Robert F. 1970 The Anthropology of Prehistoric Great Basin Human Coprolites. In *Science in Archaeology, 3rd edition*. D.Brothwell and E.Higgs eds. pp. 244-250. New York: Praeger Publishers.

**READ:** -- Madsen, David 1989 A Grasshopper in Every Pot. *Natural History* 7():22-24.

### GRAHAM CAVE CONFERENCE Saturday 20<sup>TH</sup>

#### Week 5

M 9/22 Archaic religion: Rock Art and Split-Twig Figurines

**READ:** Emslie, Steven D., Robert C. Euler, and Jim I. Mead 1987 A Desert Shrine in Grand Canyon, Arizona, and the Role of Split-twig Figurines. *National Geographic Research* 3(4):511-516.

W 9/24 "Digger Indians" vs Computer Jocks -- archaeology in the Great Basin.

**READ:** -- Steward, Julian H. 1955 The Great Basin Shoshonean Indians: An Example of a Family Level of Sociocultural Integration. Chapter 6, pp 101-121 in *Theory of Culture Change*.

#### **READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

-- Thomas, David H. 1973 An Empirical Test for Steward's Model of Great Basin Settlement Patterns. *American Antiquity* 38(2):155-176.

-- Bettinger, Robert L. 1977 Aboriginal Human Ecology in Owens Valley: Prehistoric Change in the Great Basin. *American Antiquity* 42(1):3-17.

**NOTE:** Do not be intimidated by the statistics in Thomas and Bettinger. Everything is also explained in words. Read to see how the tests were set up, and the resulting pictures of Great Basin life.

F9/26 **NO CLASS** BOIS D'ARC KNAP-IN 26-28

**Weekend Assignment: - Be a forager, collect a bag of acorns**

#### Week 6

M 9/29 Acorn Porridge -- gatherers in the mountains, hills, and coasts. Yosemite example.

Film: Acorns: Gathering, Storing, Processing by Southwestern Pomo, CA.

**READ:** -- Gifford, E.W. 1951 Californian Balanophagy. In *The California Indians*. R.F.Heizer and M.A.Whipple eds.pp.237-242. Berkeley: U. of California Press.

**READ:** -- Heizer, R. and A. Elsasser 1980 *The Natural World of the California Indians*. Berkeley, Univ. of California Press. Read pp. 91-101, in Chapter 4.

W 10/1 Acorn Days - instead of class Wednesday, we will process acorns outside, in two groups, morning Wednesday, and morning Thursday, and experiment with other hunter-gatherer technology

F 10/3 Lessons from Acorns: taste tests and discussion, Archaic in general

### Week 7

M 10/6 Totem Poles, Potlatches, and Dried Fish -- the Northwest Coast "baroque Archaic".

**READ:** -- Ames, Kenneth 1992 Household Archaeology of a Northwest Coast Plank House. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 19(3):275-290.

**READ:** -- Daugherty, Richard 1988 Problems and Responsibilities in the Excavation of Wet Sites [Ozette Site], in *Wet Site Archaeology*, B. Purdy ed., pp. 15-29.

W 10/8 Bone Knives, Skin Boats, Snow Houses – Eskimos, others -- archaic lifeways in the cold.

**READ:** -- Hansen, J.P.H., J.Meldgaard and J.Nordqvist. 1985 The Mummies of Qilakitsoq. *National Geographic* 167(2): 190-207.

F 10/10 Film: The Eskimo - Fight for Life.

### Week 8

M 10/13 Arctic – discuss film and readings

W 10/15 Hunters and farmers of the Plains

**READ:** -- Bozell, John 1995 Culture, Environment, and Bison Populations on the Late Prehistoric and Early Historic Central Plains. *Plains Anthropologist* 40(152): 145-163.

**READ:** -- Banks, K.M. and J.S. Snortland 1995 Every Picture Tells a Story: Historic Images, Tipi Camps, and Archaeology. *Plains Anthropologist* 40(152):125-144.

F 10/17 FIRST EXAM

**SAT 18<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY**

**FALL BREAK BREAK BREAK BREAK 10/17-10/25**

### Week 9

M 10/27 The Southwest: Beginnings, environment, pit house dwellers, Introduction of agriculture, diversification of cultures.

**READ:** Carpenter, J., G. Sanchez, and M. E. Villalpando 2002 Of Maize and Migration: Mode and Tempo in the Diffusion of *Zea mays* in Northwest Mexico and the American Southwest. In *Traditions, Transitions, and Technologies: Themes in Southwestern Archaeology*. Sarah Schlanger, ed. Pp. 245-256. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.

**PLAINS CONF FAYETTEVILLE AR 10/29-31**

W 10/29 The Anasazi: Cliff dwellers and marginal farmers.

**READ:** -- Dean, Jeffrey S. 1970 Aspects of Tsegi Phase Social Organization. In *Reconstructing Prehistoric Pueblo Societies*. W.A.Longacre ed. pp. 140-174. Albuquerque: Univ.of New Mexico Press.

**READ:** - Noble *Chaco* Chapters 1, 2.

F 10/31 Analogy and inference -- interpreting social systems in the Southwest.

**READ:** -- Anderson, Kieth M. 1969 Ethnographic Analogy and Archaeological Interpretation. *Science* 163:133-138.

**READ:** -- Hill, James 1972 A Prehistoric Community in Eastern Arizona. In *Contemporary Archaeology*. M.P.Leone ed.pp:320-332. Carbondale: Southern Illinois U. Press.

**READ:** -- Longacre, William A. 1968 Some Aspects of Prehistoric Society in East Central Arizona. In *New Perspectives in Archeology*. S.R.Binford and L.R.Binford eds.pp.89-102. Chicago: Aldine.

### Week 10

M 11/3 Sinagua - our work with Grinnell College Field School

**READ:** -- Noble *Chaco* Chapters 3, 4, 5

W 11/5 Chaco: Issues of Complexity and Regional Relationships

**READ:** -- Noble *Chaco* Chapters 6-12

F 11/7 Chaco continued.

**READ:** -- Noble *Chaco* Chapters 13- end.

### Week 11

M 11/10 Conflict and Violence

**READ:** -- War and Peace in the Southwest (Articles by Lekson, LeBlanc, Turner, Walker) *Discovering Archaeology* 1(3):38-54 May/June 1999

**READ:** Reinhard, Karl 2006 A Coprological View of Ancestral Pueblo Cannibalism. *American Scientist* 94:

W 11/12 Myth of the Moundbuilders, and the great Davenport controversy

**READ:** -- BEGIN reading King, *Cricket Sings* and Young and Fowler, *Cahokia*

F 11/14 Rise of Woodland Cultures: Midlands and Southeast

**READ:** -- Smith, Bruce D. 1995 The Origins of Agriculture in the Americas. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 3(5):174-184.

**READ:** -- Gremillion, Kristen J. 2004 Seed Processing and the Origins of Food Production in Eastern North America. *American Antiquity* 69(2):215-233.

### Week 12

M 11/17 Traders, Missionaries, Chiefs – The Hopewell Interaction Sphere

**READ:** -- Tainter, Joseph 1980 Behavior and Status in a Middle Woodland Mortuary Population from the Illinois Valley. *American Antiquity* 45(2):308-312.

W 11/19 Cahokia – Excavating and Understanding

**READ:** -- Young and Fowler *Cahokia* (to at least p. 164)

F 11/21 Cities, Colonies, and Death Cults: Life in the Mississippian

**READ:** -- Dickson, D.Bruce 1981 The Yanomamo of the Mississippi Valley: Some Reflections on Larson (1972), Gibson (1974), and Mississippian Period Warfare in the Southeastern United States. *American Antiquity* 46(4):909-916.

**READ:** -- Milner, George R., Eve Anderson, and Virginia G. Smith 1991 Warfare in Late Prehistoric West-Central Illinois. *American Antiquity* 56(4): 581-603.

**READ:** -- Finish Young and Fowler *Cahokia*

### Week 13

M 11/24 Royal Suns and Stinkards: Mississippian Social Order

**READ:** -- Finish King, *Cricket Sings* for discussion

W 11/26 NO CLASS

F 11/28 NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

### Week 14

M 12/1 So what do we have in Iowa?

**READ:** -- Benn, David 2009 Continuity in Woodland Mound Building Tradition of Northeastern Iowa. *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society* 56:1-32.

W 12/3 Vikings in the New World -- the good, the dubious, and the absurd.

**READ:** -- Magnusson, Magnus and Hermann Palsson 1965 *The Vinland Sagas: The Norse Discovery of America*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books Ltd.

<read intro and at least one of sagas>

**READ:** -- Ingstad, Anne Stine 1982 The Norse Settlement of L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland. In *Vikings in the West*. Eleonore Guralnick editor, pp 31-37. Chicago: Archaeological Institute of America.

F 12/5 Delirious Archaeology -- Barry Fell and other crackpots.

**READ:** -- Fell, Barry 1976 *America B.C.* New York: Simon and Schuster. Pages 261-276.

### Week 15

M 12/8 Historic sites archaeology in America.

**READ:** -- Otto, John S. 1980 Race and Class on Antebellum Plantations. In *Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America: Afro-American and Asian American Culture History* R. Schuyler ed, pp. 3-13. Farmingdale: Baywood.

**READ:** -- Crist, Thomas A.J. 1995 Bone Chemistry Analysis and Documentary Archaeology: Dietary Patterns of Enslaved African Americans in South Carolina. In *Bodies of Evidence*, A. Graner ed., pp. 197-219. New York: John Wiley and Sons Inc.

W 12/10 Souls, Slaves, and Rebellion -- Spanish colonization in the Southwest and California.

### PAPER DUE

F 12/12 (LAST CLASS) Current Directions in American Archaeology, final thoughts and discussions.

**EXAM as scheduled Fri Dec 19, 9:00**



## EarthLife OakBran Porridge®

## TreeStrong OakToasty Muffins®

### The Authentic Flavor of Ancient California

For thousands of years, Native Peoples have savored the hearty, natural taste of Mother Earth's bounty, and harnessed the nutritional power of the mighty Oak. Today, Grinnell EcoFoods brings you the tastes that made the Californians among the hardiest and most advanced of the original people of America: EarthLife OakBran Porridge and TreeStrong OakToasty Muffins.

⦿ More Protein, more essential oils and amino acids than Wheat!

⦿ Lower in fattening carbohydrates. All natural!

☞ The perfect powerhouse for today's active student!

(And FREE for the collecting — all you have to do is add hours of processing).

Our delicious food fits all gastropolitical positions from vegan (OakBran Porridge), to vegetarian (OakToasty Muffins) and even patriarchal bug-murderers who need animal protein (CrispyFry Weevil Grubs — free with each batch of acorns).

So move into ancient California and take our **Acorn Taste Test:**

(For each, rank texture and flavor, and describe or comment. Nutrition is guaranteed !)

1) **EarthLife OakBran Porridge** (plain, the essential California style)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting)

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile)

Description and comments:

2) **EarthLife OceanSpray OakBran Porridge** (with salt, Los Angeles Style)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting)

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile)

Description and comments:



3) **EarthLife HiSpeed OakBran Porridge** (with honey, Beverly Hills style)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting)

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile)

Description and comments:

4) **TreeStrong OakToasty Muffins** (include milk, sugar, wheat flour)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting)

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile)

Description and comments :

5) **CrispyFry Weevil Grubs** (the whole bug, nothing but the bug)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting)

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile)

Description and comments:

**Muffin Recipe**

1 cup acorn meal (subs for oatmeal in orig recipe)

1 cup buttermilk

1 egg

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup melted shortening

1 cup flour

1 t. (teaspoon) baking powder

1/2 t. soda

1/2 t salt

Beat eggs in milk, add sugar, add acorns, add shortening, add rest of ingredients.

Drop 2 heaped tablespoons in each socket in well-greased muffin pan. Bake 15-20 min at 400 F.

## RESULTS

*N = 19 for all but weevils*

1) **EarthLife OakBran Porridge** (plain, the essential California style)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting) 0 1 6 12 0 Ave = 2.4

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile) 5 7 3 3 1 Ave = 3.6

Description and comments:

2) **EarthLife OceanSpray OakBran Porridge** (with salt, Los Angeles Style)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting) 1 4 6 5 3 Ave = 2.7

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile) 4 8 4 2 1 Ave = 3.6

Description and comments:

3) **EarthLife HiSpeed OakBran Porridge** (with honey, Beverly Hills style)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting) 1 8 9 1 0 Ave = 3.4

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile) 3 9 5 1 1 Ave = 3.6

Description and comments:

4) **TreeStrong OakToasty Muffins** (include milk, sugar, wheat flour)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting) 12 6 0 1 0 Ave = 4.5

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile) 14 4 1 0 0 Ave = 4.6

Description and comments :

*N = 10 for weevils*

5) **CrispyFry Weevil Grubs** (the whole bug, nothing but the bug)

Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting) 6 4 0 0 0 Ave = 4.6

Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile) 5 4 0 1 0 Ave = 4.3

Description and comments: several compared to 'popcorn'