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.  

King, Kathleen  

Young, Biloine W., and Melvin Fowler  

Noble, David Grant, ed.  

Magnusson, Magnus and H. Palsson, trans.  

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: -- 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.


**GRAHAM CAVE CONFERENCE Saturday 20TH**

**Week 5**

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


**READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**


**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.


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".


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


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


F 10/17 FIRST EXAM

**SAT 18TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY**

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

**Week 9**


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

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


**READ:** - Noble *Chaco* Chapters 1, 2.
F 10/31 Analogy and inference -- interpreting social systems in the Southwest.

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: 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

Week 12
M 11/17 Traders, Missionaries, Chiefs – The Hopewell Interaction Sphere

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: -- 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?


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


<read intro and at least one of sagas>


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


**Week 15**
M 12/8 Historic sites archaeology in America.


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.

 знает

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

\[ N = 19 \text{ for all but weevils} \]

1) **EarthLife OakBran Porridge** (plain, the essential California style)
   Taste: (Delicious) 5 4 3 2 1 (Disgusting) 0 1 6 1 2 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) 1 2 6 0 1 0 Ave = 4.5
   Texture: (Pleasant) 5 4 3 2 1 (Vile) 1 4 4 1 0 0 Ave = 4.6
   Description and comments:

\[ N = 10 \text{ for weevils} \]

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’