ANTH 5340/6340
ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE DESERT WEST
FALL 2015

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00-10:15 pm
Geology 302
Instructor: Judson Finley
Office: Old Main 245F
Phone: (435)797-9621
Email: judson.finley@usu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-4:00, or by appointment

Course Description

This class focuses on the archaeology of two major North American culture areas, the Great Basin and American Southwest, largely considered the core of the “Desert West”. These are areas with a rich natural and cultural history that we will explore through a set of articles written by scholars for the lay community. We will supplement those readings with articles from the peer-reviewed literature. Topics we will include the role of archaeology in understanding past environments, the variability of hunter-gatherer adaptations to desert landscapes, the adoption of maize agriculture throughout the region, and rise of complex societies in the Arizona desert and Colorado Plateau.

Learning Objectives

- Students will gain a factual knowledge of the archaeology of the Great Basin and American Southwest including terminology, classifications of artifacts and lifeways, as well as methods applied in the discipline
- Students will learn the fundamental principles of archaeology as it is practiced in western North America including generalizations about past Native American lifeways and the theoretical paradigms through which we understand them
- Students will develop competency in and gain a broader understanding of the archaeology of the Desert West required of professionals in the field
- Students will learn how to find and use resources while asking appropriate questions and solving problems related to the archaeology of the Desert West

Requirements

This course follows a seminar structure where in-class discussion is the primary mode of communication. Attendance and participation are mandatory, which means you must keep up with the readings. Grades for this class are based on five individual components: class participation (20%), a professional book review (20%), a class research paper (20%), one mid-term exam (20%), and one final exam (20%).
**FINAL EXAM—THURSDAY DECEMBER 17, 2015, 9:30-11:20, GEOLOGY 302**

**Required Texts:**


**COURSE SCHEDULE**

| Week 1 | August 31-September 4, 2015 | Course Introduction  
READING: Fowler and Fowler (pages 1-6, 27-34)  
FILM: Luther Cressman—Quest for the First People |
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| Week 2 | September 7-11, 2015 | *LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2015—NO CLASS*  
Great Basin Natural History  
READING: Fowler and Fowler (pages 7-26)  
BIGHORN CANYON DENDROCHRONOLOGY FIELD TRIP |
| Week 3 | September 14-18, 2015 | Early People of the Great Basin  
| Week 4 | September 21-25, 2015 | Archaic Foragers  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2015 |
| Week 5 | September 28-October 2, 2015 | Perishables and Rock Art  
FILM: The Rock Art Engravings of the Coso Range |
| Week 6 | October 5-9, 2015 | Early People of the American Southwest  
| Week 7 | October 12-16, 2015 | The Hohokam World: Part 1  
READING: Fish and Fish (1-48, 83-90)  
**NO CLASS THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2015 (FRIDAY SCHEDULE)** |
Week 8  
October 19-23,  
2015  
The Hohokam World: Part 2  
READING: Fish and Fish (49-82,117-146)

Week 9  
October 26-30,  
2015  
The Ancestral Pueblo World: Basketmakers and Pueblo I  

Week 10  
November 2-6,  
2015  
The Ancestral Pueblo World: Chaco Canyon  
READING: Noble (pages 116-122, 1-40)  
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEETINGS

Week 11  
November 9-13,  
2015  
The Ancestral Pueblo World: Chaco—Great House Communities  
READING: Noble (pages 70-115)

Week 12  
November 16-20,  
2015  
The Ancestral Pueblo World: Native Perspectives  
READING: Noble (Chaco pages 41-69), Noble (Mesa Verde pages 49-58)  
FILM:

Week 13  
November 23-27,  
2015  
The Ancestral Pueblo World: Mesa Verde Beginnings  
THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASS  
READING: Noble (pages 149-172, 1-8, 39-48, 59-66)

Week 14  
November 30-December 4, 2015  
The Ancestral Pueblo World: Mesa Verde—Sacred Landscapes and Times of Trouble  
READING: Noble (pages 39-48, 67-100, 127-138)

Week 15  
December 9-11,  
2015  
The Ancestral Pueblo World: Abandoning Mesa Verde  
READING: Noble (pages 139-148)  
LAST DAY OF CLASS WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2015

FINAL EXAM—THURSDAY DECEMBER 17, 2015, 9:30-11:20, GEOLOGY 302

ADDITIONAL READINGS


IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA), qualified students with disabilities may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room
101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA), it is the policy of the Department of Sociology, Social Work & Anthropology at Utah State University to maintain the confidentiality of students’ records. When it is not feasible to distribute exams, papers, and other assignments to students individually (e.g., in large-enrollment classes), the instructor may obtain from students a signed waiver of confidentiality regarding class assignments so exams, papers, and other academic exercises may be placed out during class or during other group sessions for students to pick up. A general waiver may be sought from each student at the beginning of the academic term with the understanding that the waiver may be rescinded, in writing, during the academic term if the student chooses. If a student does not sign a waiver, then assignments must be returned to that student confidentially.