

Course Title: Plains Archaeology: Prehistory and History

Ant 326E (Unique # 31435)

TTH 11:00 -12:30 am

SAC 4.118

Fall 2013

Instructor:

Dr. Mariah F. Wade Office: SAC 4.146

Office Hours: TH 2:00-4:00 PM or by appointment

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Course Description:

Life on the Plains has never been easy. The ecological characteristics of the Plains enabled varied human populations to adapt and change in response to environmental and historical circumstances. This course explores the evidence of human activities on the Great Plains, with a primary focus on the central and southern plains from prehistoric to historic times (ca. 11,000 BP to ca. AD 1850). We will review, critically, the principal environmental concepts used to define the plains, discuss the impact of specific resources such as the bison, and examine a number of archaeological sites as well as some relevant historical records.

Requirements: Upper division standing or consent of the instructor.

Required Text Books:

1998 *Archaeology on the Great Plains*, edited by W. Raymond Wood

Other assigned readings will be on Blackboard

Policies and Administrative details

- **Pre-requisites** There are no pre-requisites for this course other than those shown above. However, students should have taken Ant. 304 or have some knowledge of Archaeology, otherwise they might have problems following the material.
- **Attendance** is required.
- **Blackboard** Lecture materials will be placed on Blackboard after the class. Some maps, information sheets, articles and review sheets will be also on Blackboard.
- **Test policy** There will be no make-up tests, except when the absence is unavoidable in which case the student is expected to contact me, and I will require proof of the problem.
- **Tests** Exams will include a mixture of short answers, identifications and mini-essays. Fact sheets provided before the exam will include possible topics for the mini-essays.
- **Poster Project** Information on the Poster Project will be given later in class. But, as the name indicates, students will be expected to create a poster that will include text and images related to a topic, an archaeological time period or an archaeology site. You will choose between doing the project individually or as a pair. In either case you will give a 5- minute presentation on the finished product.
- **Scholastic honesty** Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and the rules of the University of Texas will apply. Please make sure that you well aware of the content of these rules, by visiting this site:
<http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/integrity/>
- **Plagiarism** You may also want to see these other sites, which include information about plagiarism and how to deal with web sources. Use of web material, particularly text, has to be referenced as completely as if you were dealing with a library book.
<http://newark.rutgers.edu/%7Eehrllich/plagiarism598.html>
- <http://www.indiana.edu/%7Ewts/wts/plagiarism.html>
- **Computers** Students have access to the Student Microcomputer Facility (SMF). Please visit this site for more information: <http://www.utexas.edu/smf/>
- **Disabilities** The University of Texas at Austin provides students with qualified disabilities with academic adjustments to their needs. For more information please visit this site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/> or call 471-6259. If you have a disability please let me know by the second week of classes.
- **Cell phones** Please make sure that your **cell phones and other electronic devices** are turned off while in the classroom.
- **Recording** According to University Rules tape-recording of lectures is not permitted, unless the instructor has granted permission.
- **Contact** You can contact me by **email**, by coming to the **office hours**, or by **appointment**. I will not answer emails received after 9:00 pm.

Evaluation and Grading:

Tests #1 and # 2: 25 points each (students can elect to drop, or not to take, one of these 2 tests).

Test # 3: 30 points
Poster Project: 30 points
Attendance/Class Participation: 15 points

Assignments:

- Reading assignments have to be completed before class.
- There are no make – up texts (see above).
- Class attendance is required (see above)

Syllabus

Week 1 - August 29

Introduction
The history of archaeology in the Plains –overview

Week 2 - September 3 -5

Definition of the Plains – Environment and Culture Areas
Climate and Topography

Week 3 - September 10-12

The History of the Prehistory of the Plains
Problems of Taxonomy

Week 4 - September 17-19

The Direct Historical Approach
Paleo-Indians
❑ **Fact sheet for Test 1 delivered**

Week 5 - September 24 -26

Paleo-Indians – Hunters and gatherers
❑ **Test 1: September 26**

Week 6 - October 1 -3

Late Paleo-Indians/Plains Archaic – Hunters and gatherers

Week 7 - October 8-10

The Archaic - Mobile Foragers

Week 8 - October 15 -17

The Archaic – Mobile Foragers
❑ **Fact sheet for Test 2 delivered**

Week 9 - October 22-24

The Plains Woodland Complexes
Early Village Tradition
The Central Plains Tradition

Week 10 - October 29-31

❑ **Test 2 – October 29**
Early and Late Village Traditions.

Week 11 - November 5-7

The Middle Missouri Tradition
Late Village Tradition/ Late Prehistoric
The Coalescent Tradition

Week 12 - November 12-14

The Southern Plains

Early and Late Villagers

- ❑ **Fact sheet for Test 3 delivered**

Week 13 - November 19-21

The Late High Plains Hunters
Historic Plains and Riverine Groups
The Arrival of the Europeans

- ❑ **Test 3 – November 21**

Week 14 - November 26

27 -30 Thanksgiving holiday
Conflict and Removal

Week 15 - December 3-5

Project Presentations

- ❑ **December 5th is the last day of class**

What you should expect to get (and know!) when you finish this course

A sense of place and a place of living

What characteristics made the Plains region special and how these characteristics enabled specific human systems of culture and lifeways.

How and why different populations through time adapted and profited from the physiographic and environmental conditions of the Plains.

Distinguish, identify, and characterize the principal archaeological features of the main archaeological Periods (i.e. different projectile point sequences, dwelling styles, burial customs, survival strategies...).

Understand and be able to explain how and why human populations on the fringes of the Plains region, or in certain areas of the Plains, developed different living and subsistence strategies (i.e. you should be able to write a comprehensive essay that compares, contrasts and exemplifies Paleoindian lifeways to Archaic lifeways; Archaic lifeways to Village Tradition lifeways...).

Understand and explain how and why the European colonizing process affected Native populations and their subsistence base.

You should have pondered and be able to discuss how the definitions of the Plains through time, as well as its organization for modern human purposes affects the way we view and study archaeology and the human populations that have inhabited the Plains.

