

Course Outline
Anth 3315 Archaeology of the Boreal Forest

Class:	BB2002	Time:	Mon, Wed 2:30 to 4:00 pm
Instructor:	Scott Hamilton	Office:	BB2001E
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Description

This course addresses culture and history of the Subarctic or Boreal region of Canada, with particular emphasis on northern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Emphasis is on how human culture is influenced by climate, ecology, hydrology deglaciation and geology. While these physical conditions did not cause human cultural expression, the effects are evident in complex feedback relationships. The course includes ethnographic review and synthesis, the archaeological culture history, and the ethno-ecology literature relevant for the area. It also addresses how archaeology is practiced in the region, and how this affects contemporary models, approaches and interpretations.

The course consists of lectures, with student-presented seminars late in the term. Students will also be expected to participate by offering perspective and questions. No textbook is assigned, but an extensive reading list supplements the lectures.

You will be required to present a 20 to 30 minute long seminar on a topic approved by the instructor. This is designed to assess your ability to synthesize the primary literature and provide an organized and coherent oral presentation (usually supported with visual aids). Your willingness to ask questions and offer comments during the lectures and seminars will define your participation grade. The mid-term test consists of definitions and a choice of small essay topics.

Grading	%
Encyclopedia Entries (3 x 10%)	30
Mid-term test (wk 8)	20
Participation	05
Seminar (wk 12)	20
Final Paper (due wk 12)	25

Wk 1 Jan 8, 10

- Course Introduction
- Biophysical and Climatic overview of Circumpolar Subarctic
- Canadian Shield geology, physical geography
- Ecology of Shield and Hudson Bay Lowlands
- Late Pleistocene deglaciation and early/middle Holocene recovery
- Post glacial vegetation succession
- Modeling past and future climate change.

Wk 2 Jan 15, 17

- Ecological dynamics of Canadian Boreal Forest
- Evolutionary ecology, disturbance and forest succession
- Theoretical underpinnings of Boreal Forest Archaeology

- Wk 3 Jan 22, 24
Ethnographic observations and generalizations
Ethno-linguistic divisions within Canadian Boreal/Subarctic zone
Subarctic Hunter-gatherer culture. generalizations and distinctions
family-based foraging, adaptive flexibility
seasonality, ecological volatility and avoiding resource overexploitation
Mobility, technology and its seasonal variation
social networks, kinship, marriage patterns
Jan 24 Encyclopedia #1 due (10%)
- Wk 4 Jan 29, 31
Early Human expansion northward into Subarctic
Charlie Lake Cave and late Clovis expansion northwards up Ice Free Corridor
Northern Plano of S. Nunavut
Late Paleo-Indian Expansion into sw Canadian Shield
Caribou Lake Complex
Lakehead Complex and Interlakes Composite
- Wk 5 Feb 5, 7
The Archaic Tradition in North America
Northern Archaic Cultures on the Canadian Shield
Shield Archaic (Wright's original model)
Laurentian Archaic
Old Copper Culture
Timing & geographic expansion with deglaciation & meltwater lake drainage.
- Wk 6 Feb 12, 14
Archaic Continued
The quickening pace of cultural transformation
Encyclopedia #2 due (Feb 14)
- Wk 7 Feb 19-23 Study Week
- Wk 8 Feb 26, 28
Middle Woodland Cultures of Boreal Forest
Hopewell and the Northern Tier Middle Woodland
Northward diffusion of new cultural traits
Laurel Culture, Population growth, improved site visibility
Burial Ceremonialism
Feb 28 Midterm Quiz (Feb 28)
- Wk 9 Mar 4, 6
Late Woodland Cultures of Boreal Forest
Blackduck, Selkirk, Sandy Lake and other ceramic wares
Food production versus foraging production

Possible implications of small-scale food surplus production
Archaeological methods in Boreal Forest Archaeology
Theoretical development relevant to Taiga forager studies

Wk 10 Mar 11, 13

The Fur Trade and recent Aboriginal history of Boreal Forest
Cultural Heritage, Aboriginal Treaty Rights and the emerging new reality.

Wk 11 Mar 18, 20

Case Studies of Subarctic research
Encyclopedia #3 Due (Mar 20)

Wk 12 Mar 25, 27

CRM archaeology in the north

Wk 13 Mar 3, 8

Seminars Mar 3
Course 'catch up'