

## Anth/Ind 2173FA Archaeology of North America

Mon/Wed 10 to 11:30 am

class: BB2002

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The course introduces the history and cultures of Indigenous North America from an archaeological perspective. It reviews culture history, technology, economy and political organization, with an emphasis on Canada. While regional cultural variability is emphasized, trends evident across regions are considered. Since few overview publications or textbooks address Canadian Indigenous archaeology in detail, it is important that students attend all the lectures.

Lectures are delivered in person, with pdf versions of the lectures available for download via MyCourseLink. There is no required text book, and the PPTs and lecture notes are your primary study guides.

Students can contact me through email or phone to address an issue or to set a time for an in-person conversation in my office. As I am working in several locations, email is the most efficient. Students should not expect less than 8 hour turn-around time for email messages.

Archaeological interpretation is difficult and often based upon controversial data. We will review differing opinions and newly emergent information. Students are encouraged to ask questions or challenge interpretations in class. This is because antiquated interpretations are often perpetuated in the literature, with some new (and often crackpot archaeology) becoming widely known via internet and not peer-reviewed journals.

### Class evaluation will consist of the following:

1 practice Quiz	05%
1 Midterm Quiz	25%
3 Encyclopedia Entries (3x10%)	30%
Final Exam (TBA)	35%
Participation	05%

The **midterm quiz** (25%) and the **final exam** (30%) are dominated by true/false and multiple-choice questions. Some 'matching' questions and 'identify diagnostic artifact types' might also be asked. A 'practice' quiz (5%) will occur early in the term to help prepare for the midterm.

You will produce three encyclopedia entry writing assignments (ca 250 words each) valued at 10% each and submitted to me by email. Please use WORD or PAGES so that I can offer editorial suggestions. They should address a technology, an archaeological culture, or an archaeological technique you have learned about. 'Encyclopedia entries' distil complex information down to a summary. While appearing small, such writing assignments are demanding. They must be well-written, accessible to a non-technical reader (no jargon), and offer clarity of interpretation. Usually a few (2-3) key references are included so readers can access additional information. An example will be offered in class to illustrate my expectations. Do not plagiarize! DO NOT JUST COPY DOWN A GOOGLE DEFINITION. I will be checking. You are being evaluated on the quality of your prose, and your ability to effectively summarize complex issues. These assignments are intended to refine your communication skills. Don't just use AI-use your own brain.

### **Lakehead's Accommodation & Confidentiality Statements:**

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities/medical conditions. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities/medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability/medical condition and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as

early as possible. For more information, please email [sas@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:sas@lakeheadu.ca) or visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the Student Code of Conduct (<http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>) with regard to both academic and non- academic misconduct. Non-compliance will NOT be tolerated in this course and the code will be adhered to in terms of disciplinary action.

## Optional Texts

Fagan, B.M.

2005 **Ancient North America: The Archaeology of a Continent** Thames and Hudson, New York. (Feel free to purchase a used old edition... there is comparatively little difference in the information).

McMillian, A.D. 1988 **Native Peoples and Cultures of Canada** Douglas and McIntyre, Vancouver

Fagan, B. M. 1988 **Archaeology: A Brief Introduction** Scott Foresman and Co. London.

Fiedel, S.J. 1987 **Prehistory of the Americas** Cambridge University Press, New York

These texts serve as supplements to the lecture notes. Students without a background in archaeology are encouraged to review Fagan (2005:33-68) or Fagan (1988). Additional readings are suggested from time to time. The McMillian text focuses on Canadian archaeology and ethnography- something not generally covered in other text books. Students are also encouraged to seek information on the Internet either using Search Engines or Links attached to Web Pages such as <http://www.canadianarchaeology.com/>. Remember that the internet is often a cesspit of misinformation and personal agendas. Be careful and critical about the sources you access from the web.

## OUTLINE

### Week 1 (Sept 4)

Introduction to course, grading

**Two Approaches to North American Archaeology**

Cultural Historical Perspective

Cultural Evolutionary/Adaptation Perspective

**North American Physiology, Climate, Vegetation**

**The Culture Area Concept**

**Expectations of Encyclopedia Entry**

### Week 2 (Sept 9, 11)

**Thumbnail sketch of Archaeological Method and Theory**

**The Initial Peopling of the Americas**

**The Palaeo-Indians**

Clovis Culture

Folsom and Plano

**Preparing for Practice quizzes**

### Week 3 (Sept 16, 18)

**The Concept of the Archaic**

Developmental Sequences within the Archaic

Archaic in the Eastern Woodlands

**Practice Quiz #1 (5%).**

### Week 4 (no class Sept 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Oct 2)

**The Eastern Woodlands**

The Development of Social Complexity

Sedentism, food production, and social complexity

Adena

Hopewell

**Encyclopedia #1 Due (10%) due Oct 2**

**Week 5 (Oct 7, 9)**

**The Eastern Woodlands cont'd**

Mississippian society

Why the collapse of riverine agricultural societies?

**Northeastern Woodland Agricultural Societies**

The spread northward of the settled agricultural life

The consequences of an agricultural economy

The emergence of the Iroquoian and Huron Agricultural society.

**Week 6 Oct 14-18 Study Week**

**Week 7 (Oct 21, 23)**

**Maritime Adaptations**

North West Coast

Interior Plateau

**Midterm Quiz (25%) Oct 23.**

**Week 8 (Oct 28, 30)**

**The Plains**

The emergence of the Big Game Hunting Tradition

Was there really a Plains Archaic?

Continuity of the Big Game Hunting Tradition

**Week 9 (Nov 4, 6)**

**The Plains cont'd**

Influences of the Woodland on Plains Peoples

Horticulture on the Northeastern Plains

**Week 10 (Nov 11, 13)**

**The Arctic**

**Encyclopedia #2 Due (10%) Nov 11**

**Week 11 (Nov 18, 20)**

**Upper Great Lakes and Eastern Subarctic**

Plano in northern Ontario

The Archaic Period Developments: Shield Archaic and Old Copper

The Early and Middle Woodland Periods

The Hopewell Interaction Sphere

Late Woodland

**Week 12 (Nov 25, 27)**

**Eastern Subarctic continued (local case studies)**

**The Fur Trade and European Influences**

**Encyclopedia #3 Due (10%) Nov 27**

**Week 13 (Dec 2, 3)**

**The Fur Trade and European Influences continued**

**Summary and Review**

## Bibliography

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- Binford, Lewis R.  
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- 1968 "Post-Pleistocene Adaptations" In **New Perspectives in Archaeology** edited by S. R. Binford and L. R. Binford University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- 1977 **Nunamuit Ethnoarchaeology** Academic Press
- Bryan, Liz  
1991 **The Buffalo People: Prehistoric Archaeology on the Canadian Plains** University of Alberta Press, Edmonton.
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1986 **Dog Days in Southern Alberta** Archaeological Survey of Alberta Occasional Papers 28, Edmonton.
- Burley, David (ed)  
1985 **Contributions to Plains Prehistory** Archaeological Survey of Alberta Occasional Paper No 26 Alberta Culture, Edmonton.
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1992 **Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times** McClelland and Stewart Inc, Toronto.
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1983 **Tracking Ancient Hunters: Prehistoric Archaeology in Saskatchewan** Saskatchewan Archaeological Society, Regina.
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1978 **Canadian Arctic Prehistory** National Museum of Man, National Museums of Canada Van Nostrand Reinhold Ltd Toronto.
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2013 **Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province** McGill-Queens Press. Native and Northern Series #72.
- Nicholson, B.A. (ed)  
2011 **HUMAN ECOLOGY OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIE ECOZONE OVER THE PAST 10,000 YEARS** Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, Regina.
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