ANTH 576K: Issues in Southwest Archaeology

Dr. Ruth Van Dyke Phone: 777-2487
Spring 2010, Tuesdays 1:15-4:15 pm Email: rvandyke@binghamton.edu
Office: Science I, Room 110B Ofc Hrs: Thurs 1-3 pm, or by appt.

Course Description
In this graduate course, we will investigate current research topics in the archaeology of the Southwest United States and Northwest Mexico. This region covers archaeological traditions such as the Anasazi, Hohokam, Mogollon, Sinagua, and Trincheras. Research topics include: ancient landscapes, memory & visibility, sociopolitical organization, migration, gender, identity, violence, ritual & ceremonialism, and relationships with contemporary indigenous Americans. We approach these issues using a variety of theoretical and epistemological perspectives. The course is taught in seminar format, with one three-hour meeting per week.

Texts:
This book should be available in the bookstore, or you can order it online direct from the publisher: www.sarweb.org, then go to the SAR Press page.

The rest of the readings for the course will come from journal articles and book chapters. Most of these can be found on electronic reserve (or regular electronic subscriptions) through Bartle Library. In cases where more than one chapter has been assigned from the same book, I will arrange for a paper copy to be made available. The reading list is attached; I reserve the right to make changes as necessary while the course is in progress.

Assignments:
*Reading response papers:* due throughout the semester (in total, 1/3 of your grade)
Everyone (regardless of credit hours) is asked to write a total of 8 response papers related to the assigned readings. The first 4 of these papers should be submitted before the midterm; the second 4 should be submitted after the midterm. Your response papers should draw together the readings for the week, pulling out what you see as one or two key themes treated in the assigned readings. The emphasis for these papers is on thinking critically and reflectively – you are not asked to summarize the readings. Writing the papers should help you organize your thoughts and prepare for class. You should submit your papers electronically no later than noon on Mondays. Papers should be 2-3 double-spaced pages in length, with 1” margins and 11-12 point fonts (approximately 1200 words). In-text citations and a “references cited” section should be included in all papers. Please use *American Antiquity* format.

*Midterm:* due in class on March 16 (1/3 of your grade)
The midterm will consist of a take-home essay exam that will cover the course material up to the date of the midterm. You will receive the question(s) for the midterm no later than 1 week before the exam is due. If you are taking the course for 1 credit hour, you are not required to take the midterm.
Research paper: due May 11 (1/3 of your grade)

You are responsible for choosing a topic on which to write a 20-page research paper (exclusive of references). Your paper should be focused around a research issue in Southwest archaeology that interests you. Potential topics are subject to professorial approval. Please use American Antiquity citation format, 1” margins, and 11-12 point fonts. Further details and discussion of this assignment will be provided in class. The paper is due in my office by 12 noon on Monday, May 11, 2009. If you are taking the course for 1 credit hour, you are not required to do the research paper.

* * * * *

SCHEDULE & READINGS

Week 1: Overview & History of Southwest Archaeology

- Lekson, Stephen H. (2009) A History of the Ancient Southwest. SAR Press, Santa Fe. Each chapter of this book contains two parts – an historical overview, and a substantive discussion of culture history. Please read the book before class on Tuesday, focusing on the historical sections. You can skim the culture history sections, then refer back to them throughout the duration of the course as needed.

Week 2: Early Agriculturalists

Week 3: Village Life on the Colorado Plateau


Week 4: Village Life in the Southern Deserts: The Hohokam Preclassic


Additional:

Week 5: The Chaco Phenomenon

Additional:
• Neitzel, Jill E.
Week 6: Social Upheaval & Violence


Additional:

Week 7: Pueblo Movement & Reorganization


Additional:

Week 8: **Hohokam Complexity and Collapse**


Additional:


Week 9: **Ritual and Political Power**


• Potter, James M. and Elizabeth M. Perry (2000) Ritual as a Power Resource in the American


Additional:

SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Landscapes


Additional:

Week 11: Identities & Ethnicities


Additional:


Week 12: **Breaking Down Borders – Northern Mexico**


Lake City.


**Week 13: Collaborating with Native Americans**


**Week 14: Whither Southwest Archaeology?**

