

# Anthropology 341: North American Archaeology

*This course meets in Mi'kma'ki the territory of the Mi'kmaw Nation*

**Instructor:** Terry Beaulieu

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**Office:** JBB 335H

**Office Hours:** Mon and Tue: 1:00-2:15 PM, Wed and Thur: 10:00-11:45 AM

**Room:** CO265

**Times:** Mon 11:30 – 12:45, Thur 1:00 – 2:15

**Prerequisite(s):** ANTH 243 or ANTH 253 or permission of the instructor

## **Course Description:**

This course provides a general survey of the archaeology of North America, north of Mexico. Temporal coverage will extend from the earliest known evidence for human settlement in the “New” World to the present. Geographical areas discussed will include the Arctic and Subarctic, Plains, Plateau, Great Basin, West Coast, Northwest Coast, and Eastern Woodlands. Although principally descriptive in nature, the course will also encompass current debates, interpretations, and issues in North American Archaeology. Students will also gain a basic working knowledge of the methods and goals of archaeological research.

## **Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Have a basic working knowledge of the methods and goals of archaeological research in North America
2. Discuss current interpretations and issues in North American Archaeology.
3. Describe significant variations between archaeologically distinctive regions, peoples, and cultures of North America.
4. Understand the archaeological evidence for the peopling of North America, and the debates surrounding that evidence.

## **Required Text:**

Fagan, Brian M. 2019 Ancient North America: The Archaeology of a Continent (Fifth ed.). Thames and Hudson, London.

Additional readings reflecting recently published data or interpretations on key issues in North American Archaeology may periodically be assigned throughout the term.

## **Evaluation:**

| Assignment                    | Weight | Due Date   |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Midterm Exam                  | 30%    | October 10 |
| Popular Media Critical Review | 15%    | November 4 |
| Archaeological Presentation   | 25%    | December 2 |
| Final Exam                    | 30%    | TBA        |

The penalty for late work is 1% per day. Extensions will only be granted under special circumstances, and with the approval of the instructor.

The midterm exam will be an in-class exam held during normal class time. The exam format may include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Question will cover topics covered to that point in the course, and may be drawn from readings, lectures, films, and other materials presented in class to that point.

The final exam will be an in-person exam scheduled by the Registrar and will occur during the normal examination period. It will be of a similar format to the midterm exam and will cover topics covered from the midterm exam to the end of the course. Questions may be drawn from readings, lectures, films, class presentations, and other materials presented to the class.

Use of the textbook (or other printed material), notes, computers, cellphones, or other electronic devices is not allowed during the writing of the midterm or final exams. Further information regarding exam formats and subjects covered will be provided in class.

### ***Class Schedule:***

Please note: the following is a tentative schedule. Time constraints or unforeseen circumstances may mean some topics on the outline may be moved or not covered, or that others may be added.

**Week 1:** (Sep 5) Introduction  
No assigned reading

**Week 2:** (Sep 9) Introduction to Archaeology in North America  
Reading – Chapter 1  
(Sep 12) Indigenous Archaeology  
Reading – Atalay 2006

**Week 3:** (Sep 16, 19) First Peoples to After Clovis  
Reading – Chapter 2/3

**Week 4:** (Sep 23, 26) The Far North  
Reading – Chapter 4

**Week 5:** (Sep 30) National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: No Classes  
No assigned readings  
(Oct 3) The Pacific Coast  
Reading – Chapter 5

**Week 6:** (Oct 7) Review  
No assigned readings  
(Oct 10) Midterm  
No assigned readings

**Week 7:** (Oct 14-18) *Study Break, No Classes!*  
No assigned readings

**Week 8:** (Oct 21, 24) The Southwest  
Reading – Chapter 6

**Week 9:** (Oct 28, 31) The Plains  
Reading – Chapter 7

**Week 10:** (Nov 4) The Eastern Woodlands  
Reading – Chapter 8  
Critical Review Due  
(Nov 7) The Pueblos  
Reading – Chapter 10

**Week 11:** (Nov 11) Remembrance Day: No Classes  
No Assigned Readings  
(Nov 18) Adena and Hopewell  
Reading – Chapter 11

**Week 12:** (Nov 18) Adena and Hopewell cont.  
Reading – Chapter 11  
(Nov 21) Mississippian and Cahokia  
Reading – Chapter 12

**Week 13:** (Nov 25) Mississippian and Cahokia cont.  
Reading – Chapter 12  
(Nov 28) Algonquians and Iroquoians  
Reading – Chapter 13

**Week 14:** (Dec 2) Archaeological Presentations  
No assigned readings  
(Dec 5) Review  
No assigned readings

**Assignments:** Explanations and Guidelines

**Critical Review:** A critical review of a popular media article must be submitted by November 4. Students must locate and review a popular news media article (online or print) having a focus on some aspect of archaeology in North America. The review should include a brief summary of the article, an assessment of its level of accuracy, thoroughness, credibility, etc. The critical review will be marked out of 15 and should not exceed three pages in length. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

**Archaeological Presentation:** A presentation exploring one of the topics covered in class must be presented in class on December 2. The presentation can take one of several formats: a PowerPoint presentation, an oral speech, a short video presentation, etc. The presentation should not exceed 5 minutes in length. The presentation must do more than simply summarize and review materials covered in class, but rather must expand significantly on class materials. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

**Important Dates:**

September 4 – First day of classes  
September 13 – Last day to change first-term or full-year courses  
September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no classes)  
October 14-18 – Fall Study Break (no classes)  
October 30 – Last day to drop first-term three-credit courses  
December 6 – Last day of classes for first term  
December 9-18 – First term final exam period

**Other Information:****Class Participation.**

To get the most out of your university experience you should come prepared to all classes. Readings are intended to be read prior to class, and you should be ready to actively engage in the classroom environment by asking questions, exchanging ideas, and participating in class discussions. Please be mindful that materials covered in this class can sometimes be challenging or disturbing. While a free exchange of ideas is encouraged, class discussions must remain respectful. If you need assistance participating in the course, do not hesitate to contact the instructor.

**Intellectual Property and Copyright Information.**

The course materials are designed for use in Anthropology 341 at St FX University and are the property of the instructor, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Copying this material for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright Law and is strictly prohibited. Visit the [StFX copyright guide](#) for more information.

**Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct**

Please ensure that you are aware of the policy on [Academic Integrity](#). Please make note of the change in wording of the section on 'Cheating' passed by Senate this year. Section 3.8.2b (v) now reads "Possession of unauthorized aids or assistance". This means that the students do not need to be caught USING a device like a cell phone or smart watch (for example) during a test or exam to be in violation of the policy. Simply having the unauthorized device on your person during the test or exam is a violation of the policy. The use of artificial intelligence aids - such as ChatGPT - are also expressly prohibited for all graded assignments and exams in this course..

**Equitable Learning.**

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. Instructors and students are invited to work together to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity. Please feel free to talk with your course instructor about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community in general. Should students have additional questions, they are encouraged to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the [Human Rights and Equity Team](#).

**Accommodation**

If you have a disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact the instructor during the first week of the semester so that your accommodations may be provided in a timely manner. Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) provides assistance in determining and facilitating appropriate accommodations for students with verified disabilities. The [Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning](#) welcomes students with documented permanent disabilities and offers them a student-centered program of support. Located in Room 108 of the Angus L. Macdonald Library, new and returning students meet with program staff to discuss options for support. Deadline for registering with the Centre is two weeks prior to the end of classes each semester and 3 Business Days' notice is required for booking all accommodated tests and exams.

Phone 902.867.5349

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**Course Drop Date.**

Students may drop a course, online in Banner, on or before October 30, 2024. After this date students are not permitted to drop courses without permission from their Dean. A course discontinued but not officially dropped is treated as a failure and will affect the student's end-of-year average. Simply informing the professor, or merely ceasing to attend class, is not sufficient. Refer to sec. 3.1 in the Academic Calendar for policies regarding course drops.

**Other Resources**

As part of a successful undergraduate experience at St. Francis Xavier University, we encourage you to make your health and wellness a priority. StFX provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership to the [StFX Campus Recreation Centre](#) as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the [Department of Music web page](#), [The StFX Art Gallery](#), [Theatre Antigonish](#), [Antigonight](#), [Town of Antigonish Recreation](#), [County of Antigonish Recreation](#), and [Keppoch Mountain](#) for various events.