NORTH AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY
Anthropology 450
Spring 2012

Prof. Vincas Steponaitis (vin@unc.edu)
Office: Alumni 108
Hours: Thurs 2:00-3:00, and by appointment (email or call 962-6574)

Course Description: This course will survey the archaeology of North America, with an emphasis on the eastern and southwestern United States.

Course Structure: There will be two lectures per week. Films and guest lectures will be scheduled at various times during the semester.


Course Requirements: In addition to the assigned readings, course requirements will include the following: a midterm exam (25%, taken in class on 2/23), a 10-12 page term paper (30%, due on 4/24), and a final exam (40%, taken at 12 pm on 5/3). Note that you must also submit a term-paper prospectus (due 2/16) and a term-paper progress report (due 3/22), each no more than a page long; these assignments will constitute the remaining 5% of your grade. Recitation sections will meet on Jan 24-26, February 14-16, March 13-15, April 3-5, and April 17-19.

Course Web Site: The course web site contains not only the information in this syllabus, but also slide shows pertinent to the class and links to other relevant web sites. It can be found at <http://rla.unc.edu/courses/anth450/>. The course web site will be continually updated throughout the semester. Note also that all the assigned and optional articles published in Science and Annual Review of Anthropology are available on the web from JSTOR at <www.jstor.org>. JSTOR can be accessed from any campus computer; to access this site from home, you must do so through the UNC Library catalog. Articles in Scientific American and American Scientist are also available electronically through the Library catalog.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

1/10 Introduction.
Milner, pp. 11-21; Plog, pp. 13-36.

1/12-1/17 Peopling of the Americas.

1/19-2/7 Paleoindian cultures.
Milner, pp. 22-31; Plog, pp. 37-45.

Optional:

2/9-2/21 Eastern Archaic cultures. [Termpaper prospectus due 2/16]
Milner, pp. 31-53.


3/29 Late Northeastern cultures. Milner, pp. 177-189.


Benson et al. (2003). Ancient maize from chacoan great houses: Where was it grown? Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 100(22): 13111-13115.


4/24 European incursions. [Termpaper due 4/24]
Milner, pp. 190-198; Plog, pp. 181-193.

5/3 Final examination (12:00 pm). (rev. 4/10/12)