

## Archaeology of the American South Anthropology 550

### Week 1: Background and Overviews

*Part 1.* Throughout the semester, we will use the following book as the starting point for our more detailed readings on various topics:

David G. Anderson and Kenneth E. Sassaman (2012). *Recent Developments in Southeastern Archaeology: From Colonization to Complexity*. SAA Press, Washington, D.C.

As background for our first substantive discussion, please read the first chapter, “Foundations of Modern Southeastern Archaeology,” which provides an overview of the history and current practice of archaeology in the American South.

Each time you read one of the chapters in the textbook, come to the next class prepared to respond to the following prompts:

- \* What are your major “takeaways” from this chapter?
- \* What is at least one question this chapter brings to mind?

In reading this chapter (and the many other articles to come), don’t let yourself get bogged down in trying to remember and understand all the details. Just focus on understanding the big picture, with particular reference to the kinds of questions above. Also be thinking about potential paper topics!

If you see any terms or phrases that you don’t understand or don’t make sense, feel free to bring these questions to class also.

*Part 2.* Now is also the time to get a sense of the lay of the land. It’s difficult to talk about or to understand the ancient history of the South without knowing something about its geography, physiography, and forests. Read the article below and then do Exercise 1, which will be handed out separately and due in class on 1/25.

Gremillion, Kristen J. (2004). Environment. In *Southeast*, edited by Raymond D. Fogelson, pp. 53-67. *Handbook of North American Indians*, vol. 14. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. [Focus on pp. 53-60.]

#### *More Readings (Optional):*

Fenneman, Nevin M. (1917). Physiographic Subdivision of the United States. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 3(1): 17-22.

Smith, Bruce D. (1986). Archaeology of the southeastern United States: From Dalton to de Soto, 10,000-500 B.P. *Advances in World Archaeology*, vol. 5, edited by F. Wendorf and A. Close, pp. 1-92.

Steponaitis, Vincas P. (1986). Prehistoric archaeology in the southeastern United States, 1970-1985. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 15:363-404.