

**Archaeology of the American South
Anthropology 550
Spring 2024**

Week 9: Late Woodland

This week's readings deal with the period spanning AD 400-1000. First, we will look at some examples of community patterning and ritual during this period. Second, we will examine the adoption of maize agriculture. In reading the articles on the latter topic, focus on the various models that have been proposed for the adoption of maize as a staple crop. Why did people begin to farm maize intensively? And why did they do so around the end of the first millennium A.D., rather than earlier? And how did maize agriculture relate to changes in social and political complexity?

General Readings:

Steponaitis, Vincas P., et al. (2015). Coles Creek Antecedents. In *Medieval Mississippians: The Cahokian World*, edited by Susan M. Alt and Timothy R. Pauketat, pp. 12-18. SAR Press, Santa Fe.

Kassabaum, Megan C. (2011). Looking Beyond the Obvious: Identifying Patterns in Coles Creek Mortuary Data. *Southeastern Archaeology* 30(2): 215-225.

Kassabaum, Megan C., and Erin Stevens Nelson (2016). Standing Posts and Special Substances: Gathering and Ritual Deposition at Feltus (22JE500), Jefferson County, Mississippi. *Southeastern Archaeology* 35(2): 134-154.

Thompson, Victor, et al. (2022). The Early Materialization of Democratic Institutions among the Ancestral Muskogean of the American Southeast. *American Antiquity* 87(4):704–723.

van der Merwe, Nikolaas J. (1982). Carbon Isotopes, Photosynthesis, and Archaeology. *American Scientist* 70: 596-606.

Fritz, Gayle J. (1992). "Newer," "Better" Maize and the Mississippian Emergence: A Critique of Prime Mover Explanations. In *Late Prehistoric Agriculture: Observations from the Midwest*, edited by William I. Woods, pp.19-43. Studies in Illinois Archaeology 8. Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Springfield.

Scarry, C. Margaret (1993). Variability in Mississippian Crop Production Strategies. In *Foraging and Farming in the Eastern Woodlands*, edited by C. Margaret Scarry, pp. 78-90. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Briggs, Rachel V. (2016). The Civil Cooking Pot: Hominy and the Mississippian Standard Jar in the Black Warrior Valley, Alabama. *American Antiquity* 81(2): 316-332.

Optional Readings:

Milanich, Jerald T., et al. (1984). *McKeithen Weeden Island: The Culture of Northern Florida, A.D. 200-900*. Academic Press, Orlando. [Skim chapter 2 (pp. 9-24) and read chapter 5 (pp. 91-119).]

Rolingson, Martha Ann (1990). The Toltec Mounds Site: A Ceremonial Center in the Arkansas River Lowland. In *The Mississippian Emergence*, edited by Bruce D. Smith, pp. 27-49. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. [Focus on pp. 27-38, 44-46.]

Kelly, John E. (1990). Range Site Community Patterns and the Mississippian Emergence. In *The Mississippian Emergence*, edited by Bruce D. Smith, pp. 67-112. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. [Skim the introductory material and focus on the community patterns, pp. 79-110.]

Pluckhahn, Thomas J., Martin Menz, Shaun E. West, and Neill J. Wallis (2018). A New History of Community Formation and Change at Kolomoki (9ER1). *American Antiquity* 83(2): 320-344. [Don't get bogged down in the dating methods; focus on the site description and changes in community patterns, pp. 329-327, 332-340. Here the rough dates of the chronological units: Phase 1, AD 150-600; Phase 2, AD 600-700; Phase 3, AD 700-800; Phase 4, AD 800-1000.]

Wallis, Neill J., Thomas J. Pluckhahn, and Michael D. Glascock (2016). Sourcing Interaction Networks of the American Southeast: Neutron Activation Analysis of Swift Creek Complicated Stamped Pottery. *American Antiquity* 81(4): 717-736. [Don't get bogged down in the methods; focus on the introductory sections, the discussion, and the conclusion, pp. 717-721, 729-734.]

Smith, Bruce D. (1989). Origins of Agriculture in Eastern North America. *Science* 246: 1566-1571. [Carefully read pp. 1569-1570.]

Fritz, Gayle J. (1990). Multiple Pathways to Farming in Precontact Eastern North America. *Journal of World Prehistory* 4(4): 387-435. [Carefully read the sections on maize, pp. 407-412, 415-416.]

Johannessen, Sissel (1993). Farmers of the Late Woodland. In *Foraging and Farming in the Eastern Woodlands*, edited by C. Margaret Scarry, pp. 57-77. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

Hutchinson, Dale L., Clark Spencer Larsen, Margaret J. Schoeninger, Lynette Norr (1998). Regional Variation in the Pattern of Maize Adoption and Use in Florida and Georgia. *American Antiquity* 63(3): 397-416.