

# ANT 3xx: Archaeology of the North

Instructor: Erik Gjesfeld  
Office and Office Hours: TBD

## Course Description

The archaeology of northern latitudes provides some of the most challenging yet rewarding archaeological research. Understanding how humans lived in this diverse region can help archaeologists address fundamental questions about human culture including the role and spread of technological innovations, adaptation to diverse ecological settings and the relationship between core and peripheral societies. Overall, this course seeks to not only provide an introduction to the archaeological history of the North Pacific, North Atlantic and the Arctic but also understand how archaeological research in these regions can help better understand our the challenges faced by our ancestors as well as our modern society.

## Required Text

Hoffecker, John 2004. A Prehistory of the North: Human Settlement of the Higher Latitudes. Rutgers University Press

In addition to the required text, this course will utilize journal articles, book chapter and popular media. Copies of these additional materials will be provided throughout the quarter.

## Learning Goals

1. Demonstrate competency in the archaeological history of the North
  - a. Chronological and culture history
  - b. Contribution of key sites / artifacts / scholars
2. Critically evaluate the similarities and differences between Arctic people throughout the world understand how their histories are connected
  - a. Northeast Asian and North American Arctic
  - b. North Atlantic Arctic
3. Integrate archaeological themes of northern latitudes to broader archaeological debates and modern societal issues
  - a. Human ecological adaptation
  - b. Environmental change
  - c. Impact on current social and political issues

### **Grading and Evaluation**

Student performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of the following assignments:

|                                     | <b><u>Total Points</u></b> | <b><u>% of Grade</u></b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Midterm Exams (2) – 100 points each | 200                        | 40%                      |
| Final Exam – 100 points             | 100                        | 20%                      |
| Research Paper – 100 points         | 100                        | 20%                      |
| Annotated Bibliography              | 50                         | 10%                      |
| Site Summary (5 x 10 points each)   | 50                         | 10%                      |

### **Grading Scale**

| Percentage | Points  | Letter Grade | GPA Value |
|------------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 90-100     | 450-500 | A+           | 4.0       |
| 85-89      | 425-449 | A            | 4.0       |
| 80-84      | 400-424 | A-           | 3.7       |
| 77-79      | 385-399 | B+           | 3.3       |
| 73-76      | 366-384 | B            | 3.0       |
| 70-72      | 350-365 | B-           | 2.7       |
| 67-69      | 335-349 | C+           | 2.3       |
| 63-66      | 316-334 | C            | 2.0       |
| 60-62      | 300-315 | C-           | 1.7       |
| 57-59      | 285-299 | D+           | 1.3       |
| 53-56      | 266-284 | D            | 1.0       |
| 50-52      | 250-265 | D-           | 0.7       |
| 0-49       | <250    | F            | 0.0       |

**Midterm and Final Exams:** Two exams will be given throughout the course consisting of multiple choice, short-answer and essay questions from all the available course material including readings, in-class assignments, lectures, videos and guest lectures. A cumulative final exam will be giving covering all of the course material. While similar to midterm exams, the final exam will focus on critically evaluating themes from the course and applying them to broader archaeological scenarios and our modern society.

**Research Paper:** Throughout this course we will be discussing a number of important archaeological sites. In your research paper, I want you to chose an archaeological site (approved by me) and write a 3,000 word research paper concerning the history of archaeological research at the site, the importance of the site to our understanding of NE Asian and Arctic archaeology and the relevance of the site to broader archaeological themes. Additional details about the course will be provided later in the course.

**Annotated Bibliography:** In preparation for your research paper, I want you to develop and annotated bibliography with at least ten peer-reviewed publications and a paragraph highlighting the key insights of each article or chapter.

**Site summaries:** Through the course, I will ask student to chose from a selection of key sites and summarize the findings and the site and their importance to the course themes. Site summaries will be at least 500 words long and must use at least two peer-reveiwed sources.

### Course Policies

**Class participation:** This is primarily a lecture class, although discussions will supplement lecture content and readings. Your opinions, questions and commentary are always welcome as long as your opinions respect other students in the course and your instructors. I will not tolerate any disrespectful comments towards student or instructors.

### **Absences**

Your attendance and class participation is critical to your success in this class. In-class activities and discussions during lecture will help prepare you for exams and review worksheets. Note that exams and in-class assignments cannot be made up without an officially excused absence.

### Class Schedule

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Topics</b>  | <b>Assignments Due</b>    |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|
| W1          | <b>Introduction to Archaeology of the North</b><br>1.1 Introduction to the Arctic<br>1.2 Introduction to North Pacific and North Atlantic<br>1.3 Research History and Central Themes |                           |
| W2          | <b>Northeast Asia In Perspective</b><br>2.1 The First Arrivals<br>2.2 The Migration to Northeast Asia<br>2.3 The Yana and Ushki Lake Sites   | <b>2.3 Site Summary 1</b> |
| W3          | <b>Early Cultures of Northeast Asia</b><br>3.1 The Amur River<br>3.2 Prikhote, Kolyma, Chukotka<br>3.3 Exam 1  |                           |
| W4          | <b>Peopling of the Americas</b><br>4.1 Beringia and Northeast Asia<br>4.2 Alaska<br>4.3 Synthesizing the Peopling of the Americas Debate   | <b>4.3 Site Summary 2</b> |
| W5          | <b>North American Arctic</b><br>5.1 Arctic Small Tool<br>5.2 Norton and Ipiutak<br>5.3 Birnirk and Thule   | <b>5.2 Site summary 3</b> |

|     |   |                                   |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| W6  | <b>North Atlantic Arctic</b><br>6.1 Pre-Dorset and Dorset<br>6.2 The Thule Expansion<br>6.3 Working in the Arctic – Cape Kruzenstern / Review   | <b>6.3 Annotated Bibliography</b> |
| W7  | <b>Scandinavian Archaeology</b><br>7.1 Hunter-Gatherers of the Mesolithic and Neolithic<br>7.2 The Norse Expansion<br>7.3 Exam 2  |                                   |
| W8  | <b>Understanding Adaptation</b><br>8.1: Technological Innovations in NE Asia and the Arctic<br>8.2: Social networks and mitigating hazards<br>8.3: The Resilience Perspective   |                                   |
| W9  | <b>Indigenous People and Archaeological Research</b><br>10.1 The use of ethnographic analogy<br>10.2 Indigenous people of Northeast Asia (Koryak and Itelmen)<br>10.3 Indigenous people of Alaska and Canadian Arctic (Inuit) | <b>8.1 Site summary 4</b>         |
| W10 | <b>Will there still be an Arctic?</b><br>10.1 Environmental change and the Arctic<br>10.2 What can archaeology do to help understand climate change?<br>10.3 The Future of Ice – Educating the public about the Arctic        |                                   |
| W11 | <b>What does it all mean?</b><br>11.1 Integrating Arctic research within broader archaeological themes<br>11.2 Research Paper peer review (no class)<br>11.3 Course wrap-up   | <b>10.1 Site summary 5</b>        |
| W12 | <b>Final Exam</b><br><b>Date and Time: TBD</b>  | <b>11.1 Research Paper Due!</b>   |
|     |   |                                   |