

PREHISTORY OF THE SOUTHWEST

PURPOSE

This is the introductory course in the study of the American Southwest. The course will provide an up-to-date synthesis of Southwestern prehistory for members of the Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS) who are interested in enrolling in or are enrolled in the Certification Program and is a prerequisite for all the other courses offered within the program.

The class is designed to be presented during twenty hours of classroom instruction. At the option of the Chapter and the instructor, the course may be presented during eight sessions, each lasting 2½ hours, or ten sessions, each lasting two hours.

The suggested text for this class is *Archaeology of the Southwest*, Second Edition by Linda S. Cordell. Additionally, two other recent books, *The Archaeology of Ancient Arizona* by J. Jefferson Reid and Stephanie M. Whittlesey and *Ancient Peoples of the American Southwest* by Stephen Plog, are suggested as supplemental texts. These books may be obtained through local booksellers. Allow six weeks for delivery if the book, or books, must be ordered. Refer to the REFERENCES for complete citations for these books.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, the student can perform the following:

1. Identify and describe the major geographic areas of the Southwest with their associated culture groups.
2. Indicate at least one theory as to how the Native American peoples arrived in the Southwest and support it with appropriate data.
3. Explain the difference between groups associated with big game hunting versus those who specialized in gathering wild foods.
4. Describe how cultures are developed.
5. Describe the most useful dating systems used in the Southwest.
6. Indicate the importance of domesticated agriculture in the development of life styles.

OBJECTIVES (continued)

7. Explain the concepts of regional integration, aggregation, and dispersed systems and discuss the effects of these on various Southwestern culture groups.
8. Describe data that indicates trade existed and attempt to explain the associated implications.
9. Name and describe the known cultural variations in the prehistoric Southwest comprised of Anasazi (or Ancestral Pueblo) including Mesa Verde, Chaco canyon, Kayenta, Rio Grande, and Virgin; Hohokam; Mogollon; Patayan including Cohonina, Cerbat, Prescott, and Lowland Patayan (or Laquish); Sinagua, Salado, Fremont, and Casas Grandes.
10. Indicate the effect of European contact on the native population.
11. Explain the United States and Arizona laws protecting cultural resources. Evaluate the influence of these laws on the general public.

COURSE OUTLINE

- A. Introduction
 1. Contemporary peoples
 2. Prehistoric cultures
 3. History of Southwest archaeology
- B. The natural environment
 1. Physiographic provinces
 2. Climate
 3. Vegetation
 4. Fauna
 5. Paleoenvironmental chronology
- C. Frameworks for Southwestern prehistory
 1. Major Southwestern traditions
 2. Methods of dating
 3. Current chronologies
- D. Paleoindian
 1. Discovery of Folsom and Clovis
 2. Research
 3. Paleoindian complexes
 4. Paleoindian chronology

- E. The Archaic period
 - 1. Paleoenvironmental considerations
 - 2. Subsistence and settlement
 - 3. Early cultigens in the Southwest

- F. Agricultural strategies
 - 1. Spread of agriculture in the Southwest
 - 2. Diversity of prehistoric agricultural and subsistence strategies

- G. Early Southwestern communities to A.D. 900

- H. Regional integration, A.D. 900 - 1150
 - 1. The Chaco Phenomenon
 - 2. Casas Grandes
 - 3. Hohokam
 - 4. Areas in between: Mesa Verde, Mimbres, Kayenta
 - 5. Dispersed systems

- I. Late prehistoric aggregated villages A.D. 1150 - 1300
 - 1. Distributions and patterns of settlements
 - 2. Ceramic production and distribution
 - 3. Late prehistoric organization

- J. Abandonment
 - 1. Traditional explanations for abandonments
 - 2. Reevaluation of the concept
 - 3. The Southwest at the beginning of history
 - a. Historical documents
 - b. History, legend, and archaeology of Awatovi
 - c. Apache and Navajo

REFERENCES on the next page.

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1977 *The Galaz Ruin: A Prehistoric Mimbres Village in Southwestern New Mexico*. Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.
- Cordell, Linda S.
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- Haury, Emil W.
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- Lister, Robert H. and Florence C. Lister
1983 *Those Who Came Before*. Southwest Parks and Monument Association, Globe Arizona (paper). The University of Arizona Press, Tucson (cloth)
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