

The Archaeology of Mobile Hunter-Gatherers

Dept of Humanities & Philosophy, University of Central Oklahoma

Summer 2020

Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:30 via WebEx, Zoom, or telephone

Instructor: Dr. Joey Williams

Office: LAN 205G

Hours: Tues., 1-2:00, Wed., 12-3:30, Thurs. 2-2:00, or by appt.

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Course Description: This independent study is intended to provide archaeological perspectives on prehistoric mobile hunter-gatherer groups in North America and beyond. The student in this course will gain an understanding of the interpretation of hunter-gatherer sites and artifacts as well as a working knowledge of the history and of ongoing issues in the archaeology of mobile groups. Through regular readings and discussion with the instructor, the student will prepare a term-paper length research project on the archaeology of a mobile hunter-gatherer group or landscape. At the end of the independent study, the student will prepare to submit this work to a local or regional research conference in archaeology.

Student Learning Outcomes: The student in this introductory course will engage with the methods, techniques, and ideas central to archaeological lithics analysis. The student will attain the following learning outcomes:

1. Understand the theoretical and methodological foundations of the study of mobile hunter-gatherer groups in archaeology;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of hunter-gatherers in world archaeology, both in the past and present day;
3. Apply their knowledge of archaeology to the analysis of a particular mobile hunter-gatherer group through research on archaeological reports and artifacts;
4. Create a term-paper length research project that culminates in a submission to either the Oklahoma Archaeological Conference or another relevant academic conference.

Transformational Learning Objectives: The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered institution committed to transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. This course addresses three of the university's transformative learning goals: Discipline Knowledge, through coverage of materials and ideas core to archaeology, a discipline closely linked to both History and Humanities; Problem Solving, by requiring oral and written analysis of archaeological evidence; Global & Cultural Competencies, through the analysis of cultures from a variety of eras and locations.

Grading:

Weekly reports (50%): the student will provide regular updates on their progress with the readings, reflection on their work establishing a research topic, and updates on any issues encountered while writing the paper. These reports should be one half-page to a full page long, and should include an annotated bibliography when discussing research toward the final project.

Final project (50%): at the end of the independent study, the student will submit a 16-20 page paper discussing a particular mobile hunter-gatherer group in an archaeological context. This paper should examine the group through the lens of contemporary archaeological theory.

Readings drawn from:

Kelly, R. L. 2013. *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers: The Foraging Spectrum*. Cambridge University Press.

Bettinger, B. L., et al. 2015. *Hunter-Gatherers: Archaeological and Evolutionary Theory*, 2nd edition. Springer.

Additional journal articles will supplement the above.

Academic Affairs Student Information Sheet: <http://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/>

Week 1 – introduction to mobile hunter gatherers in archaeology

Kelly, chapter 1

Price, T. Douglas and James A. Brown, 1985. Aspects of hunter-gatherer complexity. In *Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers: The Emergence of Cultural Complexity*, edited by T. D. Price and J. A. Brown, pp. 3-20. Academic Press, Orlando.

Ames, Kenneth M. 2014. Complex hunter-gatherers. In *Encyclopedia of World Archaeology*, edited by Claire Smith, pp. 1613-1621. Springer, New York.

Week 2 – archaeological theories of hunter-gatherers, part 1 – Written correspondence only

Kelly, chapter 2

Bettinger et al., chapters 1 & 2

Week 3 – archaeological theories of hunter-gatherers, part 2

Bettinger et al., chapters 3 & 4

Binford, L. R., 1980: Willow smoke and dogs' tails: hunter-gatherer settlement systems and archaeological site formation. *American Antiquity* 45(1): 4-20.

Week 4 – traditional knowledge, food strategies, and material culture

Kelly, chapter 3

Colson, Elizabeth, 1979. In good years and in bad: food strategies of self-reliant societies. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 35(1): 18-29

Dale R. Croes, Ed Carriere, and Darby C. Stapp, 2018. Generationally-linked archaeology. *SAA Archaeological Record* 18(5): 9-13.

Week 5 – archaeologies of mobility

Kelly, chapter 4

Kent G. Lightfoot, Rob Q. Cuthrell, Chuck J. Striplen, and Mark G. Hylkema, 2013. Rethinking the study of landscape and management practices among hunter-gatherers in North America. *American Antiquity* 78(2), 2013, pp. 285–301.

Sassaman, Kenneth E., 2004. Complex hunter-gatherers in evolution and history: a North American Perspective. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 12(3): 227-280.

Week 6 – hunter-gatherer technologies

Kelly, chapter 5

*Torrence, R. 2003. "Hunter-gatherer technology: macro- and microscale approaches," in *Hunter-Gatherers: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*, 73-98. Cambridge.

Cobb, Hannah, 2014. Materials, biographies, identities, experiences: New approaches to materials in hunter-gatherer studies. In *The Oxford Handbooks of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-Gatherers*, pp. 1204-1220. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Week 7 – egalitarian and nonegalitarian hunter-gatherers

Kelly, chapters 6 & 9

Feinman, G. M., 1995: The emergence of inequality: A focus on strategies and processes. In *Foundations of Social Inequality*, edited by T. D. Price and G. M. Feinman, pp. 255-279. Plenum, New York.

Week 8 – hunter-gatherers: past and future directions

Kelly, chapter 10

Colwell, Chip, 2016: Collaborative archaeologies and descendant communities. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 45: 113-127.

Jordan, Peter and Vicki Cummings, 2014. New approaches in the study of hunter-gatherers. In *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-Gatherers*, pp. 1093-1109. Oxford University Press, Oxford.