The Archaeology of the Andes

Fall 2010
Instructor: Allison Davis (Allison_Davis@brown.edu)
Meeting time: MWF 2:00 pm (tentative)

Further reading for those who develop deeper interests and just can’t get enough!

**Week 1: Introduction to the course and Andean archaeology**

**Wednesday, September 1: Introduction to the course**

**Friday, September 3: Archaeological traditions in the Andes**

**Week 2: Using Spanish colonial documents and ethnography to study prehistory**

**Monday, September 6: LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES**

**Wednesday, September 8: Colonial documents, modern ethnography, and prehistory**

**Recommended ethnographies**


**Friday, September 10: Writing Assignment 1**


(http://www.kb.dk/permalink/2006/poma/info/en/frontpage.htm)


**Week 3: Early Andean settlements**

**Monday, September 13: The first South Americans**


**Wednesday, September 15: Early cultural complexity on the desert coast**


**Friday, September 17: Early high altitude herders**

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE!


**Week 4: Ritual and authority in early highland societies**

**Monday, September 20: The early ceremonial center of Chavín de Huántar**


**Wednesday, September 22: Agro-pastoral societies around the world’s highest navigable lake**


**Friday, September 24: In-class activity 1: How to find a mummy when the flesh is gone**


**Week 5: Flamboyant cultures on the coast**

**Monday, September 27: Moche art and the ethics of studying looted material**


**Wednesday September 29: Moche temples, tombs, and politics**


**Friday, October 1: Nasca villagers vs. aliens**


**Week 6: The Nasca lines and Exam 1**

**Monday, October 4: In-class activity 2: Making the Nasca Lines**

**Wednesday, October 6: Review for Exam 1**
Friday, October 8: EXAM 1 (IN CLASS)

**Week 7: Highland empires Part 1: Wari**

**Monday, October 11: Fall Weekend Holiday – NO CLASSES**

**Wednesday, October 13: Processual archaeology and the first highland empire**

**Friday, October 15: Wari territorial expansion and the nature of ancient empires**

**Week 8 Highland empires Part 2: Tiwanaku**

**Friday, October 18: Ethnicity and migration in the Tiwanaku state**


**Wednesday, October 20: Can ancient technology help modern farmers?**

*Short film: “Lost empire of Tiwanaku”*


Hurst for About.com, interview with Clark Erickson, "Recreating raised field agriculture in Bolivia and Peru" [http://archaeology.about.com/cs/agriculture/a/erickson1.htm](http://archaeology.about.com/cs/agriculture/a/erickson1.htm)


**Friday, October 22: In-class activity 3: How to use iconography to study time and culture**

**Week 9: Collapse and the aftermath**

**Monday, October 25: The role of climate change in the collapse of Wari and Tiwanaku**


**Wednesday, October 27: The Chimu**


Friday, October 29: Was the ‘vertical archipelago’ an ancient tradition or a colonial invention?

Week 10: Inka origins and customs

Monday, November 1: Inka origins

Wednesday, November 3: The Inka Empire: no money, no writing, no problem


**Friday, November 5: In-class activity 4: Creating and reading an Inka khipu**


**Week 11: Inka imperial expansion**

**Monday, November 8: Inka imperial expansion and local populations**


**Wednesday, November 19: Machu Picchu, an Inka royal estate**


Friday, November 12: Machu Picchu and modern controversy
The World Bank website for the Vilcanota Valley Rehabilitation and Management Project
See especially: “World Bank loan to preserve natural and cultural assets around Peru’s Machu Picchu” (September 15, 2004 World Bank press release, the online version includes interviews and videos)

Week 12: The Amazon AND Spanish conquest
Monday, November 15: Archaeology of the Amazon and environmental conservation

Wednesday, November 17: The arrival of the Spanish
Friday, November, 19: Presentation of the Machu Picchu Guidebook (Writing assignment 2)

**Week 13: Transformations under colonial rule**

**Monday, November 22: Indigenous people under colonial rule**

*Further reading*


**Wednesday, November 24 and Friday, November 26 – Thanksgiving NO CLASSES**

**Week 14: Prehistory and modern politics AND course conclusions**

**Monday, November 29: Prehistory and modern identity in the Andes**


**Wednesday, December 1: Conclusions and Review for Exam 2**

**Friday, December 3: EXAM 2 (IN CLASS)**