

SYLLABUS
ANTH2301
Archaeology of Texas and Northern Mexico
Fall 2015

Instructor: Samuel Cason

Office location: Ferguson Hall, Room 114F (Center for Big Bend Studies)

Office hours: T, Th 10:00-12:00

Phone: 432-837-8823

Email: scason@sulross.edu

Required Texts: There are no required texts for this course. However, we will draw heavily from the website <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/>. **Students will be required to interact with the website exhibits on-line**, on computers, either personal or via SRSU computer labs. Supplemental texts will be provided by the instructor.

Course Description and Schedule: This course will present a survey of prehistoric archaeology in Texas with a considerable emphasis on the prehistory of the Trans-Pecos and Big Bend region. The initial sessions will introduce fundamental elements and concepts of anthropology and archaeology, followed by discussions of natural environments and geography that set the stage for cultural development in the state.

Subsequent sessions will address the prehistoric cultural developments in the various geographic areas of Texas (i.e. North Texas, Coastal Texas, Panhandle Plains, etc.), with an emphasis on how behavioral diversity is manifest in the archaeological record. Roughly the last quarter of the semester will focus on the prehistory of the Trans-Pecos/Big Bend region and northern Mexico. Lectures and classroom experience will be augmented by presentations by guest speakers, slideshows, hands-on workshops with archaeological materials, and **at least one field trip**.

Goals and Objectives—Students will acquire background knowledge in the following areas:

- Introductory concepts of anthropology and archaeology
- Basic understanding of the natural environments in Texas and how they condition prehistoric cultural developments
- Examples of archaeological manifestations from different portions of Texas and northern Mexico
- Fundamental understanding of prehistory in the Trans-Pecos and Big Bend region
- Diverse resources that present/publish archaeological information—research tools
- Introduction to archaeological literature research

Grading: Students' final grades will be based on six components, consisting of two exams, reading summaries, activities, research, and participation.

Component	Percent of Final Grade
Reading Summaries	20
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	20
Activity	10
Research	20
Participation	10
Total	100

Final Grading will be determined as percentages:

- 90-100% **A**
- 80-89% **B**
- 70-79% **C**
- 60-69% **D**
- Below 60% **F**

The two exams will address material from roughly each half of the class, and each is worth 20% of the final grade; there will be no cumulative final. Readings will be supplied for each week, and students will be expected to prepare short (roughly 1 page, double spaced) outline of the material, the total of which is 20% of the grade. A research project (20% of the final grade) will necessitate students to explore an individual archaeological site that is representative of a particular geographic region of the state. Source material for the research project will be available on-line on a state maintained website, but two additional sources will be required. A three page (double spaced) report of the research is required. The readings will be reviewed over the course of the week, and students will be expected to contribute to classroom discussion of the readings for a class participation score (10% of the final grade). One or two short activities will be assigned during the class that will amount for 10% of the final grade.

Attendance policy: Three unexcused absences are allowed. Any more than three must be arranged and explained to the instructor personally. If a student misses more than six classes, they will be dropped from the class with an "F" recorded for their grade. Punctuality is required so as not to disturb the class.

A **field trip** will be arranged to meet the schedule of the class. The trip will require several hours and will satisfy two class days (we will meet only once that week). If you are unable to attend during the scheduled time, you will be required to attend both class days during that week to receive alternative instructive materials.