

ANTH 206:  
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WARFARE  
Spring 2014  
Wed 2-4:45 / HSSB 2001a

Instructor: Amber VanDerwarker  
Office: HSSB 1038  
Email: [vanderwarker@anth.ucsb.edu](mailto:vanderwarker@anth.ucsb.edu)  
Office hours: Wednesdays 11-12

How do anthropologists define warfare and how is it observable in the archaeological record? How has archaeological research on warfare changed over time and what are the important contemporary debates surrounding this topic? How and why does warfare vary over time and space? These issues will be the focus of this seminar. We will discuss and evaluate multiple lines of archaeological data including settlement patterns, community and household organization, foodways, and skeletal remains. Readings will consist of archaeological, ethnographic and ethnohistorical research.

The course will begin with a review of the history of research on warfare. Several classes will then be devoted to discussing important topical/theoretical debates in the literature. Our goal will be to explicitly define the important organizational dimensions of warfare and violence that can and should be addressed by archaeological research. We will then refer to these organizational dimensions to closely examine and evaluate regional manifestations of violence. These regional investigations will focus on the New World as that is where most of us do our research.

**Readings:** I have gathered an enormous digital library of violence-related research. This library will be made available to you via a shared dropbox link.

**The course is organized as a seminar**, which means that you (the students) are responsible for **leading and participating in discussion** revolving around the readings. You are expected to attend class and to participate in discussion **every week**. Two students each week will be designated as discussion leaders, and will prepare a set of questions based on the readings that will spark discussion. As discussion leader, it will be your job to keep discussion going, provide adequate coverage of the week's readings, and steer the discussion if it gets off track. Participation in the seminar accounts for **25% of your grade**.

In addition to reading and discussion, you will be expected to write **three 6-page essays** dealing with issues relevant to the readings (75% of your grade – 25% each essay). The first two essays will be responses to a structured question that I will hand out a week before the essay is due. The final essay will be more open, allowing you to choose a topic of interest to you. All essays **MUST** engage the readings from the course in relevant ways. [A student may also choose a final paper option (15-20 pages) in lieu of the three essays **only if** that student has a dataset that has clear applicability to exploring warfare-related issues – **you are required to discuss this with me** and get my approval no later than one week prior to the due date for the first essay (April 25<sup>th</sup>). If I do not approve it, then you are required to write the three short essays.]

Essay Due Dates

Essay 1 (25%) → Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, by 4pm (Comps people due date TBA)

Essay 2 (25%) → Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, by 4pm

Essay 3 (25%) → Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, by 4pm

Final Paper Option → also due by 4pm on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Grading Scale:**

A+	=	97-100
A	=	93-96
A-	=	90-92
B+	=	87-89
B	=	83-86
B-	=	80-82
C+	=	77-79
C	=	73-76
C-	=	70-72
D+	=	67-69
D	=	63-66
D-	=	60-62
F	=	59 and below

---

**READING SCHEDULE****April 9 History of Anthropological Research on Violence and Warfare (88 pages)**

1. Keely, Lawrence, 1996, *War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage*. Oxford University Press, Oxford (Chapters 1-2).
2. Otterbean, Keith, 1999, A History of Research on Warfare in Anthropology. *American Anthropologist* 101(4): 794-805.
3. Simons, Anna, 1999, War Back to the Future. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 28:73-108.

---

**April 16 Debating Causality (86 pages)**

1. Arkush, Elizabeth N., 2011, *Hillforts of the Ancient Andes: Colla Warfare, Society and Landscape*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville (pp. 1-20)
2. Chagnon, Napoleon, 1988, Life Histories, Blood Revenge, and Warfare in a Tribal Population. *Science* 239: 985-992.
3. Ember, Carol and Melvin Ember, 1992, Resource Unpredictability, Mistrust, and War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36:242-262.
4. Gat, Azar, 2000, The Human Motivational Complex: Evolutionary Theory and the Causes of Hunter-Gatherer Fighting. Part I. Primary Somatic and Reproductive Causes. *Anthropological Quarterly* 73(1):20-34.
5. Moore, John H., 1990, The Reproductive Success of Cheyenne War Chiefs: A Contrary Case to Chagnon's Yanomamo. *Current Anthropology* 31(3):322-330.
6. Pauketat, Timothy R., 2009, Wars, Rumors of Wars, and the Production of Violence. In *Warfare in Cultural Context: Practice, Agency and the Archaeology of Conflict*, edited by Axel E. Nielsen and William H. Walker, pp. 244-262. Amerind Foundation Advanced Seminar Series, Dragoon, Ariz.

---

**April 23 Impacts, Outcomes, and Transformations (104 Pages)**

**This is the SAA wed – we will need to reschedule this for Monday or Tuesday afternoon.**

1. Bossen, Claus, 2006, Chiefs Made War and War Made States? War and Early State Formation in Ancient Fiji and Hawaii. In *Warfare and Society: Archaeological and Social Anthropological Perspectives*. Edited by Otto, Ton, Henrik Thrane, and Helle Vandkilde. Pp 237-260. Aarhus University Press, Langelandsgade.
2. Carneiro, Robert. L., 1970, A Theory of the Origin of the State. *Science* 169: 733-738.
3. Galtung, Johan, 1969, Violence, Peace, and Peace Research. *Journal of Peace Research* 6(3):167-191.
4. O'Mansky, Matt and Arthur A. Demarest, 2007, Status Rivalry and Warfare in the Development and Collapse of Classic Maya Civilization. In *Latin American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence*. Edited by R.J. Chacon and R.G. Mendoza, Pp. 11-33. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

5. Netting, Robert M.C., 1973, Fighting, Forest, and the Fly: Some Demographic Regulators among the Kofyar. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 29(3):164-179.
6. Resic, Sanimir, 2006, Gilgamesh to Terminator: The Warrior as Masculine Ideal-Historic and Contemporary Perspectives. In *Warfare and Societies: Archaeological and Social Anthropological Perspectives*, Edited by Otto, Ton, Henrik Thrane, and Helle Vandkilde. Pp. 423-432, Aarhus University Press, Langelandsgade.

---

**April 30 Defensive and Offensive Tactics (108 pages)**

1. Allen, Mark, 2008, Hillforts and the Cycling of Maori Chiefdoms: Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors. In *Fall To Pieces: Global Perspectives on the Collapse of Complex Society*. Edited by Reycraft and Railey, Pp. 65-81. Greenwood Press.
2. Blitz, John, 1988, North American Archaeology, "Adoption of the Bow in Prehistoric North America. *North American Archaeology* 2:123-145
3. Keeley, Lawrence, Fontana, Marisa, and Russell Quick, 2007, Baffles and Bastions: The Universal Features of Fortifications. *Journal of Archaeological Research*. 15:55-95.
4. Keener, Craig S., 1999, An Ethnohistorical Analysis of Iroquois Assault Tactics Used against Fortified Settlements of the Northeast in the Seventeenth Century. *Ethnohistory* 46(4):777-807.

---

**May 7 Ethics of Warfare Research (110 Pages)**

1. Schmidt, Christopher W. and Rachel A. Lockhard Sharkey, 2012, Ethical and Political Ramifications of the Reporting/Non-Reporting of Native American Ritualized Violence. In *The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research: Reporting on Environmental Degradation and Warfare*, edited by R. J. Chacon and R. G. Mendoza, pp. 27-36. Springer, New York.
2. Dye, David H. and M. Franklin Keel, 2012, The Portrayal of Native American Violence and Warfare: Who Speaks for the Past? In *The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research: Reporting on Environmental Degradation and Warfare*, edited by R. J. Chacon and R. G. Mendoza, pp. 51-72. Springer, New York.
3. Ogburn, Dennis, 2012, Overstating, Downplaying, and Denying Indigeneous Conquest Warfare in Pre-Hispanic Empires of the Andes. In *The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research: Reporting on Environmental Degradation and Warfare*, edited by R. J. Chacon and R. G. Mendoza, pp. 269-288. Springer, New York.
4. Arkush, Elizabeth, 2012, Violence, Indigeneity, and Archaeological Interpretation in the Central Andes. In *The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research: Reporting on Environmental Degradation and Warfare*, edited by R. J. Chacon and R. G. Mendoza, pp. 289-310. Springer, New York.
5. Carneiro, Robert L., 2012, The Studied Avoidance of War as an Instrument of Political Evolution. In *The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research: Reporting on Environmental Degradation and Warfare*, edited by R. J. Chacon and R. G. Mendoza, pp. 361-366. Springer, New York.
6. Walden, John, 2012, Medical Ramifications of Failing to Acknowledge Amerindian Warfare, Violence, Social Inequality, and Cultural Enigmas. In *The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research: Reporting on Environmental Degradation and Warfare*, edited by R. J. Chacon and R. G. Mendoza, pp. 367-394. Springer, New York.

---

**May 14 Southwest (116 pages)**

1. Billman, Brian R., Lambert M. Patricia, and Banks L. Leonard, 2000, Cannibalism, Warfare, and Drought in the Mesa Verde Region in the Twelfth Century AD. *American Antiquity* 65:1-34.
2. Kohler, Timothy A and Kathryn K. Turner, 2006, Raiding for Women in the Pre-Hispanic Northern Pueblo Southwest? *Current Anthropology* 47(6):1035-1045.
3. Lekson, Stephen, 2002, War in the Southwest, War in the World. *American Antiquity* 67:607-24.

4. Martin, Debra, 2008, Ripped Flesh and Torn Souls: Skeletal Evidence for Captivity and Slavery from the La Plata Valley. In *Invisible Citizens: Slavery in Ancient Pre-state Societies* Edited by C.M. Catherine. Pp. 159-180. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

---

**May 21 Coastal Southern California, the Northwest Coast, and the North Pacific Rim (149 pages)**

1. Herbert D. G. Maschner and Katherine L. Reedy-Maschner, 1997, Raid, Retreat, Defend (Repeat): The Archaeology and Ethnohistory of Warfare on the North Pacific Rim. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 17:19-51.
2. Johnson, John, 2007, Ethnohistoric Descriptions of Chumash Warfare. In *North American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence*. Edited by R.J. Chacon and R. G. Mendza. Pp 74-113. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
3. Lambert, Patricia M., 1997, Patterns of Violence in Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherer Societies of Coastal Southern California. In *Troubled Times: Violence and Warfare in the Past*, edited by D.L. Martin and D.W. Frayer, pp. 77-110. Gordon and Breach, Amsterdam.
4. Maschner, Herbert D. G., 1997, The Evolution of Northwest Coast Warfare. In *Troubled Times: Violence and Warfare in the Past*, edited by D.L. Martin and D.W. Frayer, pp. 267-302. Gordon and Breach, Amsterdam.
5. Walker, Phil, 1989, Cranial Injuries as Evidence of Violence in Prehistoric Southern California, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 80(3):313-323.

---

**May 28 The Southeastern and Midwestern U.S. (116 pages)**

1. Alt, Susan, 2007, Unwilling Immigrants: Culture Change and the “Other” in Mississippian Societies. In *Invisible Citizens: Slavery in Ancient Pre-state Societies* Edited by C.M. Catherine. Pp. 205-222. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
2. Dye, David and Adam King, 2007, Desecrating the Sacred Ancestor Temples: Chiefly Conflict and Violence in the American Southeast. In *North American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence*. Edited by R.J. Chacon and R. G. Mendza. Pp 160-181. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
3. Emerson, Thomas E., 2007, Cahokia and the Evidence for Late Pre-Columbian War in the North American Midcontinent. In *North American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence*. Edited by R.J. Chacon and R. G. Mendza. Pp 129-148. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
4. Milner, George, 2007, Warfare, Population, and Food Production in Prehistoric Eastern North America. In *North American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence*. Edited by R.J. Chacon and R. G. Mendza. Pp 182-201. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
5. Willey Patrick and Thomas E. Emerson, 1993, The Osteology and Archaeology of the Crow Creek Massacre. *Plains Anthropologist* 38:227-269.

---

**June 4 Andean South America (118 pages) [shift time to 1pm start time if possible]**

1. Arkush, Elizabeth N., 2006, Collapse, Conflict, Conquest: The Transformation of Warfare in the Late Prehispanic Andean Highlands. In *The Archaeology of Warfare: Prehistories of Raiding and Conquest* ed. by Arkush, Elizabeth and Mark W. Allen. Pp. 286-335. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
2. Arkush, Elizabeth N. and Stanish, Charles, 2005 Interpreting Conflict in the Ancient Andes: Implications for the Archaeology of Warfare. *Current Anthropology* 46(1):3-28.
3. Sutter, Richard C. and Rosa J. Cortez, 2005, The Nature of Moche Human Sacrifice: A Bioarchaeological Perspective. *Current Anthropology* 46(4):521-549.
4. Tung, Tiffany A., 2007 Trauma and Violence in the Wari Empire of the Peruvian Andes: Warfare, Raids, and Ritual Fights. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 133:941-956.