Course Objectives
The American Southwest— a region incorporating Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah— contains some of the most spectacular archaeological ruins in the world. These ruins are the legacy of prehistoric peoples having remarkably varied and vigorous ways of life. Despite the high visibility of these ruins, the lifeways of the people who left them are still only dimly perceived.

This course examines what we know and still need to find out about the ancient cultures of the American Southwest. The time span covered is from the earliest traces of humans in the area around 12,000 years ago up to their contact with Europeans in 1540. The specific focus is on Ancestral Pueblo ("Anasazi") cultures of the Four Corners Area. Our interest is in how ancestral Pueblo cultures responded to, and also challenged, their natural environments. We are also interested in the implications of this knowledge for contemporary American society.

Course Requirements
Undergraduate students are graded on (1) class attendance and participation; (2) three take-home writing assignments that draw on the assigned readings and (3) a final take-home exam. Graduate students are graded on (1) and (2), above, plus (3) an original research paper on a topic of their choice.

The lifeblood of this course is class discussion. Everyone is required to have all reading finished for the days assigned. You should come to class thoroughly prepared to discuss this material. **You are also expected to bring to class at least one written question or discussion point per reading to share with the group. These will be collected.** This can be a question about specific reading content, or about a larger issue or question that’s raised by the reading.

Required Reading
The required reading for the course is listed for each class meeting below, and can be found on Electronic Reserve at Penrose Library.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Topic/Reading</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td><strong>Introduction and overview of the course.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td><strong>Environmental and cultural landscapes of the northern Southwest.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>READING:</strong></td>
<td>• Cordell, L. 1994 Introduction. From <em>Ancient Pueblo Peoples</em>. Smithsonian Press</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Topic/Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td><strong>Brief History of Southwestern Research.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DISTRIBUTE ASSIGNMENT #1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jan 12  Scientific and Indigenous Frameworks for Interpreting the Past.

READING:

Week 3
Jan 17  NO CLASS—MLK HOLIDAY

Jan 19  Culture and Environment in the Southwest.

READING:

ASSIGNMENT #1 IS DUE

Week 4
Jan 24  Earliest Peoples of the Southwest; Basketmaker Lifeways and Ideology.

READING:

Jan 26  Early Village Agriculturalists of the Southwest.

READING:
- Ware, J. 2002 What Is A Kiva? The Social Organization of Early Pueblo Communities. In *Culture and Environment in the American Southwest*, edited by D. Phillips and J. Ware. SWCA.

DISTRIBUTE ASSIGNMENT #2

Week 5
Jan 31  The Chaco Phenomenon: Introduction and Background.

READING:
VIDEO: “The Chaco Legacy”

Feb 2

**Chacoan Archaeoastronomy and Religion.**

READING:


VIDEO: “The Mystery of Chaco Canyon”.

Week 6

Feb 7

**Cannibalism in the Canyon?**

READING:


VIDEO: “Cannibalism in the Canyon.”

Feb 9

**Cannibalism: The Critique.**

READING:


**ASSIGNMENT #2 IS DUE**

Week 7

Feb 14

**The Post-Chaco Era: Developments at Mesa Verde.**

READING:


Feb 16

**Why did people abandon the Four Corners area?**

READING:


**DISTRIBUTE ASSIGNMENT #3**

Week 8

Feb 21

**Warfare in the Late Prehistoric Southwest.**

READING:


Feb 23

**Social Reorganization at Ramah-El Morro.**

**READING:**

**ASSIGNMENT #3 IS DUE**

Week 9

Feb 28

**Religious Cultism and Origins of the Modern Pueblo World View.**

**READING:**

DISTRIBUTE FINAL EXAM

Mar 2

**The Ancient Southwest: A Continental Perspective.**

**READING:**

Week 10

Mar 7

**The Future of the Puebloan Past.**

**READING:**
• Stuart, D. 2000 Enduring Communities. From *Anasazi America*. University of New Mexico Press.

Mar 9

**Loose Ends, Parting Shots.**

Mar 11

**FINAL TAKE HOME EXAMS AND RESEARCH PAPERS DUE.**