

# The Incas and their Ancestors: An Introduction to Peruvian Archaeology

Spring 2008, T-Th 1:15 - 3:05, Bldg 500 Seminar Room

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## Course Syllabus

### Summary

This course provides a basic survey of the prehistory of ancient civilizations in the Central and South-Central Andean Regions of South America (the highland and coastal areas that today are part of Peru and Bolivia, into northern Chile and Argentina and southern Ecuador). This area is one of the most ecologically diverse regions on earth. In the space of a hundred miles (roughly the distance between Palo Alto and Sacramento) it is possible to pass from the hyper-arid Pacific coast, over the extreme altitudes of the Andean mountain range (exceeding 6000 m [ca 20,000 ft] above sea level), and descend into the lush rain forests of the Amazon Basin.

This ecological diversity has contributed to an unusual diversity of cultural adaptations. The Andean region has a long record of cultural development, beginning in the Late Pleistocene, and is one of the few independent centers of plant and animal domestication, as well as one of the few global loci of independent (primary) state formation. Moreover, the arid conditions prevailing along the Pacific coasts of Peru and Chile have made possible truly spectacular preservation of archaeological materials. Here we find not only the usual pottery and stone tools, but also a wide variety of organic remains including cloth, adobe and wooden architecture, plant remains and even naturally mummified animals and humans. We therefore have a wide range of materials available to trace the Andean historical process.

The course will emphasize the following cultures and periods: the Preceramic and Initial Periods, Chiripa, Chavín, Pukara, Moche, Nazca, Wari, Tiwanaku, Chimú, and the Inka empire. Topics will include the history of South American archaeology, peopling of the continent, origins and evolution of agriculture, early village life, ceremonial and domestic architecture, the emergence of regional religious traditions, prehistoric art and symbolism, ancient technology, prehistoric economies and trade, social and political structure, and state formation and urbanism. The focus will be on recent archaeological investigations and interpretations combined with appropriate

analogy from ethnohistoric and ethnographic sources.

Classes will consist of lectures, with ample opportunity for discussion. Slides will be used heavily to illustrate concepts and sites presented in lectures.

This syllabus and any other required readings, other than the texts, will be available on the class web site on Coursework. Other material may also be placed on the website. If so, its presence will be announced in class.

### Grading

The class may be taken for 3 or 5 units. The difference between the two is that students taking the class for 5 units will be required to complete a 10-15 page paper at the end of the quarter. Otherwise, there is no difference.

The grading for the 3 unit option will be determined as follows:

30% A quiz testing knowledge of regional geography and early cultures, on April 22.

70% Final examination, on June 6. The final will be cumulative, but will focus on material from the second 1/2 of the course.

The grading for the 5 unit option is the same but with the addition of a final paper:

20% A map quiz on April 22.

40% Final examination, on June 6.

40% 10-15 page research paper, due on the last day of class (June 3).

I will consider material from the assigned readings to be testable, regardless of whether or not it is explicitly presented in lecture. The exams will also include material from guest lectures and from whatever films we may view in class during the course of the quarter.

### Sessions

Three required sessions are probably going to be held in this quarter. These sessions have the purpose of giving additional information, aiming at a hands-on experience with Andean archaeological materials.

### Schedule of topics and readings

This course has two required textbooks:

Moseley, Michael E.

2001 *The Incas and Their Ancestors: The Archaeology of Peru* (Revised Edition). Thames and Hudson, New York.

Silverman, Helaine, ed.  
2004 *Andean Archaeology*. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA.

A few additional readings will be assigned and made available through the Coursework site for the class. All readings are in English; knowledge of Spanish is *not* required for the class.

Readings should be completed during the week for which they are assigned.

April 1,3

Course introduction: The Andes as a physical and cultural environment.  
Read Moseley 1992 Ch. 1, 2 ("Introduction" and "Land of the Four Quarters")  
Silverman 2004 Ch. 1 ("Introduction: space and time in the central Andes")

April 8,10

April 8: Earliest inhabitants: hunters, gatherers and fishers of the coast and highlands.  
Read Moseley 1992 Ch. 4 ("Early settlements of the Cordillera")  
Silverman 2004 Ch. 2 ("The first settlers")  
OPT: Rick 1988 - *The Character and Context of Highland Preceramic Society*  
Pachamachay and Panalauca website:  
<http://www.stanford.edu/~johnrick/preceram/> (panoramas must be viewed in Internet Explorer; they will not run in Firefox)  
Raymond 1988 – *The View from the Tropical Forest*  
April 10: Guest lecture by Matt Sayre, "Plant Domestication in the Andes"  
Read Pearsall 1992 - *The Origins of Plant Cultivation in South America*  
Diamond 2002 - *Evolution, consequences and future of plant and animal domestication*

April 15,17

The foundations of Andean civilization: the Cotton Preceramic and early Initial Period.  
Read Moseley 1992 Ch. 5 ("Preceramic foundations of civilization")  
Silverman 2004 Ch. 3 ("Cultural transformations in the central Andean Late Archaic")  
OPT: Shady 2006 – *America's First City? The Case of Late Archaic Caral*  
See also: <http://www.archaeologychannel.org/caralint.html>

**Session 1 Early Preceramic Stone Tools**

April 22, 24

April 22: The Initial Period and Early Horizon: interaction spheres, religious traditions.  
Read Moseley 1992 Ch. 6 ("The Initial Period and Early Horizon")

Silverman 2004 Ch. 4 ("Building authority at Chavín de Huántar: Models of social organization and development in the Initial Period and Early Horizon")

April 24: Guest lecture by John Rick, "The Early Horizon as seen from Chavín"

Read: Rick 2005 – *The Evolution of Authority and Power at Chavín de Huántar*

Exploring Chavín de Huántar website

([http://www.stanford.edu/~johnrick/chavin\\_wrap/chavin/](http://www.stanford.edu/~johnrick/chavin_wrap/chavin/)) (Needs to be viewed in Internet Explorer, not Firefox).

**Apr 22: Quiz in class.**

April 29, May 1

April 29: The Early Horizon (cont.)

Read Burger 1988 – *Unity and Heterogeneity in the Chavin Horizon*

May 1: The Early Intermediate Period: Developing complexity and diversity.

Moche, Recuay.

Read Moseley 1992 Ch. 7 ("The Early Intermediate Period", pp.172-196)

Silverman 2004 Ch. 6 ("The art of Moche politics")

OPT: Chapdelaine 2002 - *Out in the Streets of Moche*

Verano 2001 – *War and Death in the Moche World: Osteological Evidence and Visual Discourse*

<http://www.huacas.com/>

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0103/feature3/index.html>

May 6, 8

May 6: More EIP (Lima, Nazca)

Read Moseley 1992 Ch. 7 ("The Early Intermediate Period", pp.196-222)

Silverman 2004 Ch. 5 ("Life, death and the ancestors")

May 8: Guest lecture by Silvana Rosenfeld, "Wari and the Middle Horizon"

Read Moseley 1992 Ch. 8 ("The Middle Horizon")

Silverman 2004 Ch. 8 "Wari Art and Society"

May 13, 15

May 13: Tiwanaku

Read Silverman 2004 Ch.10 ("Household and city in Tiwanaku")

OPT: Interactive Dig Tiwanaku:

<http://www.archaeology.org/interactive/tiwanaku/index.html>

May 15: The Late Intermediate Period: Regionalism resurgent.

Read Moseley 1992 Ch. 9 ("The Late Intermediate Period")

Silverman 2004 Ch. 11 ("Late Prehispanic Sociopolitical Complexity")

May 20, 22

May 20: Pachacamac, Sicán, The Kingdom of Chimor

Read Kolata 1990 - *The Urban Concept of Chan Chan*

Shimada 1991 - *Pachacamac Archaeology: Retrospect and Prospect*

OPT: <http://www.sican.org/>

<http://www.pachacamac.net/>

May 22: Guest lecture by Melissa Chatfield, "Inca Origins"

Read Moseley 1992 read Ch. 3 ("The Inca model of statecraft"), review Ch. 2 ("Land of the Four Quarters")

Silverman 2004 Ch. 12 ("Knowing the Inca Past")

OPT: Cobo - *Of the legendary origin of the Incas, former Kings of Peru*.  
Guaman Poma website

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

**Session 2: Hands-on session with Peruvian archaeological materials** (if possible)

May 27, 29

The expansion of the Inca Empire

Read: Silverman 2004 Ch. 13 ("Andean Empires")

D'Altroy 2002 Ch. 4, 6, 9, 10

OPT: Urban mummies: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/inca/>

Ice mummy: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/andes/>

June 3

The Conquest and the immediately post-Colonial period

Read: D'Altroy 2002 Ch. 13

Rowe 1957 - *The Incas Under Spanish Colonial Institutions*

OPT: Rowe 1946 - *Inca culture at the time of the Spanish conquest* (focus especially on pp. 193-282)

Francisco de Jerez 1540, Diego de Trujillo 1579, Agustin Zarate 1555,

Garcilaso de la Vega 1609, Alonso de Guzman (no date), Pedro

Pizarro 1571, in J. Cohen (trans., ed.), *The Discovery and Conquest of*

*Peru*, pp. 97-109, 127-134

**Research papers are due Tuesday, June 3.**

**The final exam is scheduled for Friday, June 6, 3:30-6:30p.m.**