

Duluth Campus

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Ancient Middle America Week 2

Who Were the First Americans?

This week we ponder the questions of who were the first people to arrive in America, and how and when did they get here.

We'll continue on and off over the next couple of weeks to look at slide materials aimed at setting the **basic analytic, theoretical and historical framework** for the course, and, as time permits, we will set off to visit the "Nine Brothers" in the Sonora Desert in northern Mexico.

We'll get back to that next week. . . .

But this week we're going to focus on how people got to the Americas—including Mesoamerica—in the first place . . . and in the second place. . . .

Tuesday we'll have a look at "**Coming into America**" with Alan Alda, and on Thursday we'll join *The Search for Ancient Americans*.

With "Coming into America" we'll first see the **Clovis culture**, the ones though by many to be the oldest people to populate the continent, who moved south from Alaska as Canadian across the Bearing Strait as ice sheets were breaking up. And we'll see how new evidence has changed those earlier ideas that migrations into the New World were being driven by "man the hunter."








Clovis Point

Thursday in our *Search for Ancient America* we'll see how newer technologies “are **changing the way archaeologists work** as they examine evidence that suggests hunter/gatherer tribes [*sic.*] moved across the Bering Straits from Siberia and spread across Alaska, the continental United States and Central America.”

And with these videos we'll begin to look at the whole “**Pre-Clovis**” controversy—one of the major controversies involving all of North and Middle America (and South America too, for that matter).




Don't forget to have a look at the **Case Study** information, which you can find at http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/case_studies/maCS-01.html. Your Case Study is basically a short report on one or more *individuals* involved with Ancient Middle America. Your Project Statement for your Case Study, or Project Proposal, is due by the end of Week 5, Friday, 3 October 2014.

Be sure to check the details of the activities and assignments of the week on your **Moodle** HomePage. With the Week 3 Activities we'd like to find out a little bit about your thoughts on Ancient Middle American topics, and your take on some news items . . .

-  [Response to the film "Coming into America" from Scientific American Frontiers \(Your Name Will Be Logged and Shown With the Answers\) Feedback](#)
-  [Response to the film The Search for Ancient Americans \(Your Name Will Be Logged and Shown With the Answers\) Feedback](#)
-  [Forum: Who Were the First Americans? \(Due by End of Week 4, Friday, 26 September 2014\)](#)
-  <https://ay13.moodle.umn.edu/mod/forum/view.php?id=228509> Forum: Oldest American Artefact (Due by End of Week 4, Friday, 26 September 2014)
 -  [Information on Points for Forum Posts](#)

Share your ideas, including study-questions with your classmates. Discuss them on-line with the others in class . . .

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-  Wiki for Project Collaboration
-  Live chat for Project Collaboration
-  Wiki for Project Collaboration
- QUICKMAIL (see sidebar)

The above items will be found at the top of your **Moodle** folder under “Student Collaboration Space”.

This week's **(1) Topics, (2) Reading Assignments Listings, and (3) Activities** are detailed in the Week 3 Block of your **Moodle** folder.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to stop in after class, or post them on **Moodle**, or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs