



# Anthropology (ANTH) 377

**Ancient Cultures of North America** (Revision 2)

**Delivery mode:** [Individualized study online](#)

**Credits:** 3

**Areas of study:** Arts or Social Science

**Prerequisites:** [ANTH 272](#) or [ANTH 277](#). Students who have completed introductory courses in other disciplines may request permission to register from the [Course Coordinator](#).

**Precluded:** None

**Challenge:** ANTH 377 has a challenge for credit option.

**Faculty:** [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#)

**Status:** Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#) for the current revision

# Overview

Anthropology 377: Ancient Cultures of North America is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the precontact cultures of North America, from the first peopling of the continent to the arrival of Europeans. The course has three major objectives:

- 1.** To foster an appreciation for the dynamic field of North American archaeology, particularly the gathering of information and interpretation of past cultures
- 2.** To furnish an understanding of the general historical sequence of North America's past and an appreciation for the diversity of the peoples and cultures that thrived here
- 3.** To provide the ability to evaluate the ways in which contemporary archaeologists consider and communicate with other stakeholders in North America's past

# Outline

## Part I: Introducing North American Archaeology

- Unit 1: The Nature and Practice of North American Archaeology
- Unit 2: The Culture and Environment in North America's Past

## Part II: The North American Past

- Unit 3: Peopling of the Americas
- Unit 4: Foragers of the North
- Unit 5: Paths to Complexity on the Northwest Coast
- Unit 6: Rivers, Roots, and Rabbits—The Plateau
- Unit 7: Diversity and Complexity in California
- Unit 8: Mobility, Flexibility, and Persistence in the Great Basin

- Unit 9: Foragers and Villagers of the Southwestern Mountains, Mesas, and Deserts
- Unit 10: Bison Hunters and Horticulturalists of the Great Plains
- Unit 11: The Eastern Woodlands, Part 1—Tribes and Chiefdoms in the Southeast
- Unit 12: The Eastern Woodlands, Part 2—Foragers and Farmers of the Midwest and Upper Great Lakes
- Unit 13: The Eastern Woodlands, Part 3—Fishing, Farming, and Foraging in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

### Part III: The Future of North American Archaeology


- Unit 14: Modern World and North American Archaeology for the Twenty-First Century

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for ANTH 377, you must complete a map quiz, an essay assignment, a research paper outline, a research paper, and a midterm and final examination, and you must achieve a minimum grade of D (50 percent) on both the midterm and final examinations, and an overall grade of **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) for the entire course.

Activity	Weight
Map Quiz	5%
Essay Assignment	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Research Paper Outline	10%
Research Paper	20%

Activity	Weight
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The **midterm and final examinations** for this course must be taken online with an AU-approved exam invigilator at an approved invigilation centre. It is your responsibility to ensure your chosen invigilation centre can accommodate online exams. For a list of invigilators who can accommodate online exams, visit the [Exam Invigilation Network](#) .

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

## Materials

Neusius, Sarah W., and G. Timothy Gross. *Seeking Our Past: An Introduction to North American Archaeology*, 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.  (Print)

## Other Materials

All other materials are available online through the course home page.



## Challenge for credit

### Overview

The Challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [Challenge for credit](#)  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for the ANTH 377 challenge registration, you must complete a map quiz, an essay assignment, a research paper outline, a research paper, a midterm exam, and a final exam and receive at least a **D (50 percent)**  on each of the exams and an overall course grade of D (50 percent). The weightings of each activity are listed below.




Activity	Weight
Map Quiz	5%
Essay Assignment	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Research Paper Outline	10%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Midterm and final exams are each three hours long and written at an invigilation centre.



**Challenge for credit course registration form**

## Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 

› [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 2, December 7, 2016*

*Updated January 11, 2023, by Student & Academic Services*

View [previous revision](#) 

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