

# Life in the Early Holocene

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sea level changes. The archaeology of islands and lost continents is a survey of how people moved in prehistory between islands (The Pacific Polynesia, the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas), that also goes into the reconstruction of the places now covered by water: the lands that connected Indonesia (Sunda), Great Britain to Europe (Doggerland), and Russia to Alaska (Beringia). An island has constraints, it has limited supplies of resources; an island is a discrete space; bounded by a water barrier that makes passage to, and from, difficult. Archaeology has to explain human habitation on islands in relation to developments on the mainland, or to other islands. In the same fashion, places that are now separated, were once part of a continuous landscape. Islands and Lost Continents helps us to look at the past in light of those constraints, inaccessibility, and visibility. What technology brought people to the islands? How did they live there? What was their impact on their ecosystem? Could they stay? What changed?

To address the above, the course will first survey the archaeology of islands and human dispersal in the past, starting with the Pleistocene, and going from region to region, more or less in order of settlement. Archaeological practise essentially compares two places with each other, to assess their commonality and perhaps their common origin, or their autochthonous development. Islands and Lost Continents is about a past dominated by the sea, that is perhaps also our future.

### Instructor:

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office hours: by appointment

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Archaeology of islands and lands beneath the sea; human dispersal, effects of climate change, and prehistoric transportation; discussion of Beringia, Doggerland, Sunda, the Caribbean, and Polynesia

## LEARNING GOALS

- Island Archaeology [EA1]
- Human maritime dispersals in prehistory [EA1]
- Island lives [EA4&5]
- Theoretical issues of social complexity (e.g. gift exchange and reciprocity in island societies).
- The importance of prehistory for the understanding processes of later colonization and the historical archaeology [EA4&5]

## Readings

1. Bailey, G. et al (eds) 2020 *The Archaeology of Europe's Drowned Landscapes*, Coastal Research Library 35, Springer Open, Cham. **Chapters 7, 10, 12:** The Atlantic Margin and the North Sea: Introduction, Great Britain: The Intertidal and Underwater Archaeology of Britain's Submerged Landscapes, France: Submerged Prehistory on Atlantic and Mediterranean Coasts.

2. Bellwood, P. 2017, *First Islanders: Prehistory and Human Migration in Island Southeast Asia* Wiley Blackwell, Hoboken. **Chapter 5:** Late Palaeolithic Archaeology in Island Southeast Asia.
3. Broodbank, C. 2013 *The Making of the Middle Sea: A History of the Mediterranean from the Beginning to the Emergence of the Classical World*, Oxford University Press, Oxford etc. **Chapter 5:** Brave new worlds (10,000-500 BC).
4. Gamble, C. 2001 Imagined Continents, in *Histories of Old Ages: Essays in honour of Rhys Jones* (eds A. Anderson, I. Lilley, S. O'Connor), Pandanus Books, Canberra.
5. Gamble, C. 2013 *Settling the Earth: The Archaeology of Deep Human History*, CUP Cambridge 227-278. **Chapter 7:** The call of the north: Terra 3, 50-4ka
6. Grove, R. H. 1995: *Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens and the Origins of Environmentalism, 1600-1860*, CUP Cambridge etc. **Chapter 1:** Edens, islands and early empires.
7. Kirch, P. V. 2017 *On the Road of the Winds: An Archaeological History of the Pacific Islands before European Contact*. University of California Press, Oakland. **Chapters 2, 4:** The Pacific Islands as a Human Environment, Lapita and the Austronesian Expansion.
8. Wilson, S. M. 2007 *The Archaeology of the Caribbean*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge etc. **Chapters 1, 2:** Introduction, First Human Colonization of the Caribbean.

*Additional materials will be made available.*

## GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

### Grades

- Participation 10%
- In-class quizzes (90%-six quizzes, each 15%)
- Extra credit: 5%-1000 word essay

### Assessment

Participation will be assessed along the following lines: (1) attendance, and (2) preparedness. The first is clear, attendance is coming to class on time. Preparedness involves coming to class having read the readings lined up for that class.

In-class quizzes will be a feature of every class, they will be on the previous week's reading and lecture (lecture slides will be made available on Sakai).

For extra-credit, you may write a short essay, 1000 word minimum, on a topic or theme relevant to the course.

## COURSE POLICIES

### Academic Integrity

All students must strictly adhere to the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy, which identifies and defines violations including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. Full definitions of each of these violations, as well as the consequences of violating the Academic Integrity Policy, are available as part of the student handbook. For details see: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

### Lecture Schedule

- ❖ Week 1
- ❖ Sunda, Sahul, Austronesia
  
- ❖ Week 2
- ❖ The Pacific: Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia

- ❖ Week 3
- ❖ Mediterranean Sea
  
- ❖ Week 4
- ❖ Pleistocene North Sea Doggerland
  
- ❖ Week 5
- ❖ Beringia and the Northern Pacific Rim
  
- ❖ Week 6
- ❖ The Caribbean
  
- ❖ Week 7
- ❖ Fictive islands, Lost continents, and the imagination

### Student-Wellness Services:

#### Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

#### Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

#### Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

#### Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request

for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

### Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.