

Caribbean Archaeology

3 credit course

Caribbean archaeology will focus on the major themes of archaeological research taking place on the Greater and Lesser Antilles island groups. Research themes such as social complexity, mobility, inter-island connections, and long distance connections all are current topics in Caribbean prehistory today. The archaeologically visible ties between the islands of the Caribbean and the South American continent underscore the maintenance of long distance connections, as well as the transmission of ideas. Mobility of resources, such as jadeite and flint, are evidence of a lively, Pre-Columbian, inter-island mobility and social relationships. The disruption brought about by the arrival Columbus to the Caribbean, and the outcome of colonization and slavery will also be dealt with in the course.

Course prerequisites

Either Introduction to Archaeology (01.070.105) or Introduction to Human Evolution (01.070.102) or Introduction to Caribbean Studies (01.595.100).

Instructor

Hylke de Jong

Office hours Tuesday and Friday 9.15-10.45 AM or by appointment

Room: BIO 204B

Class meetings

Monday and Wednesday: 5.35-6.55 PM, in HCK-119, Douglass Campus.

Materials

In addition to the resources available on Sakai, the following book is required:

Wilson, S.M. 2007. *The Archaeology of the Caribbean*; CUP, Cambridge, etc.

Learning goals

- Major themes of archaeological research in the Caribbean.
- The Caribbean as a model of human diffusion.
- Theoretical issues of social complexity.
- The importance of the Caribbean prehistory for the understanding processes of later colonization and the historical archaeology of the Americas.

Grading

Grading will be based on participation in class discussion (10%), chapter and paper reviews (30%), a term paper (approx. 2000 words long, excluding references and captions) (30%) and a midterm (30%).

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Cheating lowers the value of a Rutgers degree and the learning experience for all students. No form of cheating, including plagiarism, will be tolerated. One commits plagiarism when one represents the text or ideas of others as one's own creation. Please visit the website of the Rutgers Office of Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>) for a fuller explanation of plagiarism and of the penalties for it. Convicted plagiarists may receive a disciplinary F in the course and possibly face expulsion from the University.

Student Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Schedule

1. Week 1: **18 January** Introduction
2. Week 2: **23/25 Jan** De Insulae: Island Biogeography, Wilson Chapter 1
3. Week 3: **30 Jan/1 Feb** The human colonization of the Americas and the Caribbean, Wilson Ch 2
4. Week 4: **6/8 Feb** The Aceramic Caribbean
5. Week 5: **13/15 Feb** The Saladoid, Wilson Ch 3
6. Week 6: **20/22 Feb** The Taino, Wilson Ch 4
7. Week 7: **27 Feb/1 Mar** The Lesser Antilles
8. Week 8: **6/8 Mar** Review and Midterm
9. Week 9: **13/15 Mar** NO CLASS-Spring Recess
10. Week 10: **20/22 Mar** The Caribbean on the Eve of European contact, Wilson Ch 5
11. Week 11: **27/29 Mar** The Caribbean after Columbus, Wilson Ch 6
12. Week 12: **3/5 Apr** Mobility: raw materials
13. Week 13: **10/12 Apr** Mobility: people
14. Week 14: **17/19 Apr** Social complexity, the Greater Antilles
15. Week 15: **24/26 Apr** Ethnohistorical perspectives
16. Week 16: **1 May** Last class