

IDH2930
UNCOMMON READS:

GODS OF THUNDER

CLASS: 23612



Honors Program Fall 2025
Instructor: Anthony P. Farace

Mondays - 11:45 AM-12:35 PM
Honors Village Res Com #1 114

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Issues such as climate change, religious conflict, and human migration are prominent in today's science, media, and culture—but they are not new. *Gods of Thunder* explores how Indigenous peoples of the Americas responded to the Medieval Warming Period (AD 800-1300), a time of significant climate change. The course examines how these environmental shifts influenced religious transformation and long-distance migration. Through readings, discussions, and annotations, students will place modern global challenges in historical context. By semester's end, students will gain a broad understanding of the archaeology of the Americas and how insights from the past can inform our lives today.

(photos above are from Pauketat 2023)

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STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Explain...

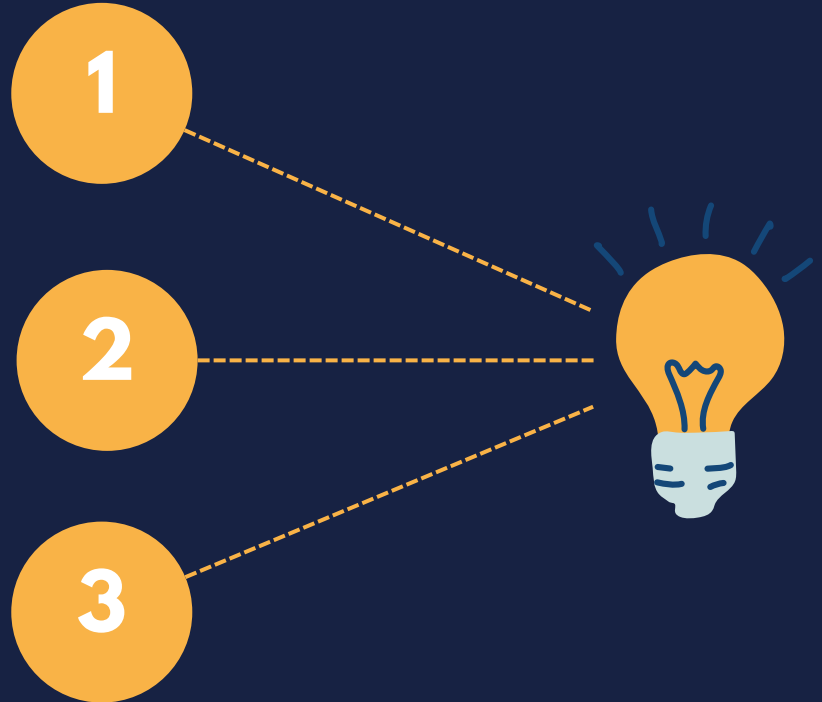
... how past cultures experienced and reacted to episodes of climate change and migration.

Critically Analyze and Contrast...

... these past issues with those in the present and examine how learning about these cultures might help the understanding of current world issues.

Argue and Describe...

... the utility of learning about the past and the importance of preserving archaeological sites and material culture.



INSTRUCTOR INFO

Instructor:
Anthony P. Farace

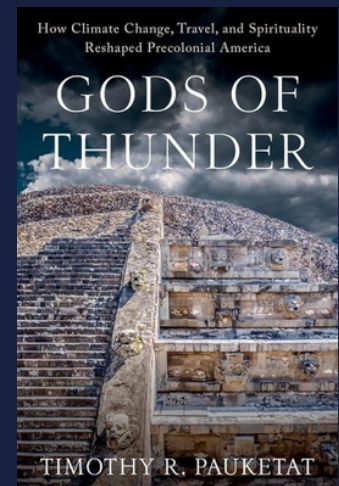
Contact: afarace@ufl.edu
or through Canvas

Office Hours:
Mondays 9:30-11:30 AM or by
appointment. Office hours are
typically virtual. See the Zoom
Conferences tab on Canvas.



REQUIRED TEXTS

This title needs to be purchased on Perusall through the Canvas course: Pauketat, Timothy (2023) *Gods of Thunder*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.



CANVAS HOMEPAGE

<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/534031>

COURSE FORMAT

The teaching format is a fully in-person, discussion course. Course topics are given weekly based on the chapter we are reading. Deadlines for the course are Eastern Time (ET). Assignments will be due at 11:59 PM EST and will be turned into Canvas. Be sure to read the instructions for all assignments to confirm the due dates and times. Assignments are expected to be graded by one week after the due date. Feedback will be given specific to the assignment contents. New Modules will open after class on Wednesdays. Course homework will be due by the following class. Make sure to review Perusall assignment direction within Perusall and not on the course pages.

GRADING

Grade Percent	Passing Grade	Grade Points
93.0 or above	A	4.00
92.9 - 90.0	A-	3.67
89.9 - 87.0	B+	3.33
86.9 - 83.0	B	3.00
82.9 - 80.0	B-	2.67
79.9 - 77.0	C+	2.33
76.9 - 73.0	C	2.00
72.9 - 70.0	C-	1.67
69.9 - 67.0	D+	1.33
66.9 - 63.0	D	1.00
62.9 - 60.0	D-	0.67
<59.9	E	0.00

Letter grades are assigned based on the total percent of points. A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

If you need more information on UF's grading policy follow this link:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Course Assignment Breakdown (100%/100 pts)

In-class:

I. Participation 50%

Out-of-class:

II. Course Reflection Essays (2 x 5%) 10%

III. Perusall Annotations 30%

IV. Current Archaeology Presentation 10%

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

I. Participation (50%)

Since this course is focused around the reading and discussion of *Gods of Thunder* it is important that you are present and participate in class. Therefore, 50% of your class grade will be based on participation points. In the first 7 weeks and the last 6 weeks, you can earn up to 26 points. You can earn these points by:

- Being present in class. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of points. You will be given 1 unexcused absences After that, there you will recieved a 1 point loss on your score for each day missed without an excused absence.
- Being on time to class.
- Being active in our class discusssions. You should answer questions, ask questions, and give your own ideas and perspectives throughout our class sessions. I will be monitoring this.
- Being respectful of your classmates and instructor. Treat others how you would like to be treated.
- Fostering a safe environment to discuss ideas and fostering others ideas by contributing to another student's ideas.

II. Course Reflection Essays (10%)

There are two different short essays (approx. 500-700 words each) that will be assigned during the beginning and end of the semester. These are prompt driven which you can find on Canvas. The first essay due September 1st will have you discuss your familiarity and knowledge concerning archaeology and climate change and how the two intersect. The second essay due December 8th will have you take what we have learned (and read) through the semester and describe how we might be able to utilize the information to understand more about climate change today.

These assignments should be 500-700 words in 12 point font, Times New Roman. You should start the paper with your name, class #, date, and assignment name. The assignment will be submitted on Canvas and scanned through TurnItIn to check for plagiarism and AI.

(SLOs 2, & 3)

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

III. Perusall Annotations (30%)

Since this is a course focused around reading a book, you will be expected to join into a collaborating reading experience by annotating, asking questions, and interacting with other posts from your peers on Perusall. This ensures that you understand the main ideas, theories, and arguments that the authors are making. Using the Perusall tool through Canvas, you will read the assigned chapter/article for 10 of the 12 weeks and make three annotations due by **Sundays at 11:59 PM** so we can discuss them in class the following day. These should consist of two insights and one question. These could be specific to a question you have or something you think your peers might need more explanation on. You will be responsible for reading through these before class on Perusall so we can discuss them. I, as well, will be prepared to address and discuss your points in class. Review the Perusall Student Guidelines on Canvas. (SLO 1, 2, & 3)

Tips for annotating on Perusall:

- Highlight words and concepts that are unclear to you, look them up, then share what you found in a comment. Remember to include the source of your reference.
- Share facts and descriptions from the text that surprise you and tell us why.
- Engage each chapter in multiple places.
- Ask questions (using a "?" has Perusall recognize a comment as a question) and read the comments and questions posed by others.
- Upvote comments or questions that are helpful.

Review the Perusall Student Instructions on the Orientation page.

Perusall®



ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

IV. Current Archaeology Presentation (10%)

Every week a student will lead a 5 minute informal presentation outlining a real world example of recent archeological work that pertains to the world area and topic that we are discussing for that week's reading. This assignment will familiarize you with current archaeological research where we can make connections to what we are reading each week.

Requirements:

- A student will pick a recent research article (within the past two years) that is **directly relevant** to the week's subregion and time period.
- Here, a research article refers to **a peer reviewed research paper**.
- Then the student will summarize the main points of the research.
- A student, if they wish, can prepare a formal presentation however this is not required. The student can just give a informal, vocal presentation to the class instead.
- Students are encouraged to contact the instructor if they are unsure of the article's relevance or if they are having trouble finding something.
- A sign-up sheet will open during the first week of class on the Canvas Discussions where you can pick which week you will present.
- Before your presentation, you are required to submit your article to the sign-up sheet where other students can access it.
- Students will be graded on how well you are able to present the main points of the research including the research question, methods, the result/discussion, and the relevancy of the article.

Try looking here for reputable sources:

For peer reviewed journal research, check out these journals:

- Science
- Nature
- American Antiquity
- Antiquity
- Latin American Antiquity
- Southeastern Archaeology
- And try searching on UF library's search engine

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Readings/Topics	Assignments	Due Date (all at 11:59 PM)
25-Aug	Introduction & Burke et al. (2021)	1st Course Reflection Paper	Due September 1
8-Sep	Chapter 1. Temples of Wind and Rain	Perusall Annotations Chapter 1	Annotations Due Sept. 7
15-Sep	Chapter 2. Lost in Ancient America	Perusall Annotations Chapter 2	Annotations Due Sept. 14
22-Sep	Chapter 3. Dark Secrets of the Crystal Maiden	Perusall Annotations Chapter 3	Annotations Due Sept. 21
29-Sep	Chapter 4. Mesoamerican Cults and Cities	Perusall Annotations Chapter 4	Annotations Due Sept. 28
6-Oct	Chapter 5. Across the Chichimec Sea	Perusall Annotations Chapter 5	Annotations Due Oct. 5
13-Oct	Chapter 6. Ballcourts at Snaketown	Perusall Annotations Chapter 6	Annotations Due Oct. 12
20-Oct	Chapter 7. A Place Beyond the Horizon	Perusall Annotations Chapter 7	Annotations Due Oct. 19
27-Oct	Chapter 8. The Other Corn Road	Perusall Annotations Chapter 8	Annotations Due Oct. 26
3-Nov	Chapter 9. Paddling North	Perusall Annotations Chapter 9	Annotations Due Nov. 2
10-Nov	Chapter 10. Smoking Daggers	Perusall Annotations Chapter 10	Annotations Due Nov. 9
17-Nov	Chapter 11. First Medicine	Perusall Annotations Chapter 11	Annotations Due Nov. 16
24-Nov	Thanksgiving Break	None	None
1-Dec	Chapter 12. Wind in the Shell and Discussion on Climate Change	Perusall Annotations Chapter 12	Annotations Due Nov. 30
8-Dec	Exams Week/ No Class	2nd Course Reflection Paper	Due at 11:59 PM on Dec 8

COURSE POLICIES

General UF Academic Policies and Honor's Program Info

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#). (The direct link is [https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/Links to an external site.](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site.).) Below are course-specific policies.

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519. Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu. Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

Cheating, Plagiarism, and AI

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here](#) to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

If you cheat or plagiarize any assignment, you will automatically receive a 0 on the assignment. Any alleged violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Please review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at www.sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/.

Harassment and Discrimination

"Harassment" is defined as conduct that (1) is of any type (written, oral, graphic, or physical), (2) is directed towards or against a person because of their personal status (i.e., race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy or others), and that (3) unreasonably interferes with the individual's work, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF or creates a working or learning environment that a reasonable person would find threatening.

"Discrimination" is defined as a conduct that (1) adversely affects any aspect of an individual's employment, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF, and (2) is based on one or more personal characteristics listed above. Any student who feels that his/her rights have been violated may speak to the instructor who will direct the complaint through the proper university channels, or the student may directly file a complaint with UF Department of Human Resources.

Late Assignments/Extensions

Extensions on assignments will be given if you have a documented illness, health, emergency, or major scheduling conflict. Proof of these events must be provided to the instructor via email or filled out through the Dean of Students office (<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>). These arrangements should be made with either your instructor. The best way to provide communication for late assignments/extensions would be through e-mail or Canvas mail.

All late assignments without a documented excuse will be reduced by 5% for each day late. After 7 days the assignment will be marked as a zero. All of the policies stated above are consistent with the university policies for absences and illnesses. Please review this link for further information:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absence-text>

Library Resources

The UF Libraries provide access to numerous resources and services that will help you succeed in this course. Access thousands of online databases, books, and articles or visit one of the branch locations for additional resources, services, and study spaces. Further, as this class requires students to complete a bibliography and research paper, both the Anthropology Library Guide and the Anthropology Assignment Guide may be of assistance. You can also contact the Anthropology Librarian directly for help with developing your research topic/question, searching for sources, and evaluating information. And you can also Ask A Librarian for help by email, chat, text, or phone.

- There is a Library Guide for archaeology: <https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/anthropology/archaeology>
- Ginessa Mahar (Anthropology Librarian): gjmahar@ufl.edu, office: Library West 500

Religious Observances

Students seeking modification of due dates for class participation, assignments, and exams for religious reasons should contact the instructor well in advance to request this modification, which will then be granted.

Technology Support

As a reminder, neither the Instructor or TA are experts in IT support. We may be able to mediate some difficulties if they arrive. However, most of these problems will need to be dealt with using UF or Perusall's IT support. Here is the contact information for both resources:

UF Helpdesk (Phone and E-mail)

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- Chat with a specialist via their website: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- Walk-In

Normal Hours:

- Monday – Friday 8am to 10pm
- Saturday – Sunday 8am to 5pm

Perusall Help

- Use this link to view their help forum:
<https://support.perusall.com/hc/enus/categories/360002173133-Students>
- You can also submit a support request through your account in Perusall or through this link:
<https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>