

# ANG 6930 – Regional Analysis

Section 2C87  
Spring 2015

Monday 1:55-4:55 PM (Period 7-9)  
Rinker 215

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## Course Description

Regions are spatial constructs, but of what spaces? Regions are part of something bigger but are themselves made up of parts. They are distinctive but not always bounded, changing but not generally moveable. In human terms, a region is made in its living. In analytical terms, a region is defined by the criteria one imposes. Because regions do not exist apart from larger and smaller spatial constructs, they are inherently relational phenomena.

Regions are thus all about scale and connections. Issues of *scale* are not simply the choices we make for bounding regions, but rather the interplay of scales, as in the relationships of regions to nations, for example. *Connections* bridge scales by putting things and persons in motion, crossing and remaking boundaries along the way. No matter what scale you choose to observe, as an analyst, there is time and space beyond that scale that affects your observations. The region, as a construct, seems to be a useful place to start, from which we can upstream to larger-scale process and structure, and downstream to the practice of daily living. Bridging scales is the greatest challenge, and a goal for this seminar.

The more prosaic goals of this course are to review the theory, method, and practice of regional analysis. We will start by asking *Why, When, and Where Regions?* and end with class projects that situate your local-scale projects in regional-scale time and space. *Regional Analysis* is not the paradigmatic *modus operandi* this seminar implies. It used to be distinctive in approach, gestated mostly in geography. Today just about any analysis that is multiscalar has its regional dimension, and the study of any particular region (say, the Northern Plains, or the Yucatan) crosscuts all manner of theory. We will thus see a wide variety of literature that can be loosely defined as regional analysis. Our focus is on archaeological practice, but some material from other fields of inquiry warrant our attention as well. A topical framework to the study of this diverse literature will assist in your goal of applying the theory and method of regional analysis to your own work.

## Required Text

All required readings will be posted on an e-learning site for the seminar.

## Format and Expectations

As a graduate seminar, *Regional Analysis* is designed to maximize discussion of the literature with limited formal lecture. The first few weeks will require more formality than the rest as we consider some basic definitions of regions and scale, and the methods by which regions are sampled and analyzed. Thereafter we will open discussion to topics of inherently multiscalar dimensions: migration and movement, exchange and trade, social networks, and the ideational rationale for spatial identities. The literature in this segment will be mostly case material, from around the globe. You are asked to contribute to this list with items you would especially like to discuss. This segment will segue to the final three weeks of the semester, when we will enjoy presentations on everyone's own research projects.

### *Research Projects*

You have to have in hand or be prepared to develop a research project for this course. It can be your ongoing thesis or dissertation research, or something altogether different. No matter your problem and questions, space is a relevant variable, and no matter the scale of space you are investigating, you will be compelled in this course to situate your project in larger spatial contexts. As you increase space, you simultaneously increase time scale. Ultimately, you are asked in this course to consider how multiscalar perspectives on your research inflect interpretation and the sorts of evidence needed to substantiate knowledge claims.

For the purposes of this course, your research project will be divided into the following eight components (note: all page lengths are double-spaced, 12 pt font, one-inch margins):

- (1) Define the study region relative to a research question (one page) – February 2
- (2) Construct a map or set of maps that shows spatial attributes of relevance (landmarks, routes, boundaries, resources, settlements, water bodies, etc.) – February 9
- (3) Describe physicality of the region (two pages) – February 16
- (4) Describe culture history of region (two pages) – February 23
- (5) Describe relevant regional processes (two pages) – March 9
- (6) Sampling and measuring variables in study region (one page, plus bibliography of 20+ sources) – March 16
- (7) Analysis (five pages) – April 6
- (8) Inference, Synthesis, Prospectus (five pages) – April 20

The due dates for each of these components are spread out over the entire semester, so you will be assembling a paper over three months. Throughout the semester we will draw on your projects to illustrate concepts and methods, and to compare results. You will be expected each week to know how the assigned literature relates to your own project. Due dates for assignments do not correlate precisely with discussion topics (e.g., we discuss sampling on Feb. 16, and your section

on that is a month later), and that is by design, to give you time to incorporate the literature into your own research.

### *Assembling the Readings and Leading Discussion*

You are asked to pick one of the four topics in the middle part of the course (migration and movement; exchange and trade; social networks; communities) and find a case study to share with the rest of us, and about which you will lead some discussion. By case study I mean an article or chapter that takes up the given topic with some nuance and engages a body of data to seek and interpret patterning at the regional scale. I have made my picks already, but we will add to each topic another 3-4 papers based on your choices, which will be due by February 23.

### **Grading**

I will provide comments and a grade for each of the eight components of your paper on a 10-point scale, and you will have the chance to revise and resubmit each component as needed or desired. Your final grade will be a sum of the grades for each of the components (maximum of 80 points), 10 points for your presentation, and 10 points for participation. The best way to assure full credit for participation is to engage the readings each week with a critical mind, synthesize concepts from readings that enable you to draw generalizable inferences about the subject matter, and articulate them in class with authority and efficiency. Your effort in leading discussion of the article you chose will factor heavily in determining how many points you earn for participation.

You will have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 100 points toward your final grade. Letter grade values for points will be determined as follows:

93.0-100 A	90.0-92.9 A-
87.0-89.9 B+	83.0-86.9 B
80.0-82.9 B-	77.0-79.9 C+
73.0-76.9 C	70.0-72.9 C-
67.0-69.9 D+	63.0-66.9 D
60.0-62.9 D-	<60.0 E

### **Schedule**

January 12. *Introduction and Orientation*

(be prepared to provide a short description of the project you plan to develop for this course)

January 19. MLK Day – no class

January 26. *Why, When, and Where Regions?*

Johnson 1977; Kowalewski 2004; Salisbury 2009

February 2. *The Play of Scale*

Marquardt and Crumley 1987; Robb and Pauketat 2013; Selections from Lock and Molyneux 2006 (Lock and Molyneux- Introduction; Wobst – Chapter 4; Molyneux – Chapter 5)

February 9. *Conceptualizing Archaeological Regions*  
Wandsnider 1998; Kantner 2008; Anschuetz et al. 2001

February 16. Sampling Regions  
Selections from Fish and Kowalewski 1989; Read 1975

February 23. *Analyzing Regions*  
Selections from Knappett 2013; Kowalewski 2008

March 2. Spring Break, no class.

March 9. *Migration and Movement*  
Oetelaar and Meyer 2006; Cordell 1995

March 16. *Exchange and Trade*  
Habicht-Mauche 2000; portions of Wallis 2011

March 23. *Social Networks*  
Mills et al. 2015; portions of Blake 2014; Zedeño et al. 2014

March 30. *Cosmunities*  
portions of Dillehay 2012; Hollaway and Allen 2012

April 6. Presentations

April 13. Presentations

April 20. Presentations

## Readings (more to be added from student choices)

- Anschuetz, Kurt F. Richard H. Wilshusen, and Cherie L. Scheick  
2001 An Archaeology of Landscapes: Perspectives and Directions. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 9:157–211.
- Blake, Emma  
2014 *Social Networks and Regional Identity in Bronze Age Italy*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Cordell, Linda S.  
1995 Tracing Migration Pathways from the Receiving End. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 14:203–211.
- Dillehay, Tom D.  
2007 *Monuments, Empires, and Resistance: The Auricanian Polity and Ritual Narratives*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Fish, Suzanne, and Stephen A. Kowalewski (editors)  
1989 *The Archaeology of Regions: A Case for Full-Coverage Survey*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C.
- Habicht-Mauche, Judith  
2000 Pottery, Food, Hides, and Women: Labor, Production, and Exchange across the Protohistoric Plains-Pueblo Frontier. In *The Archaeology of Regional Interaction: Religion, Warfare, and Exchange across the American Southwest and Beyond*, edited by Michelle Hegmon, pp. 209–231. University of Colorado Press, Boulder.
- Holdaway, Simon, and Harry Allen  
2012 Placing Ideas in the Land: Practical and Ritual Training among the Australian Aborigines. In *Archaeology and Apprenticeship: Body Knowledge, Identity, and Communities of Practice*, edited by Willeke Wenrich, pp. 79–98. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
- Johnson, Gregory A.  
1977 Aspects of Regional Analysis in Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 6:479–508.
- Kantner, John  
2008 The Archaeology of Regions: From Discrete Analytical Toolkit to Ubiquitous Spatial Perspective. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 16:37–81.
- Knappett, Carl (editor)  
2013 *Network Analysis in Archaeology: New Approaches to Regional Interaction*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Kowalewski, Stephen A.  
2004 The New Past: From Region to Macroregion. *Social Evolution and History* 3:81–105.  
2008 Regional Settlement Pattern Studies. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 16: 225–285.
- Lock, Gary and Brian L. Molyneaux (editors)  
2006 *Confronting Scale in Archaeology: Issues of Theory and Practice*. Springer, New York.

- Marquardt, William H. and Carole L. Crumley  
 1987 Theoretical Issues in the Analysis of Spatial Patterning. In *Regional Dynamics: Burgundian Landscapes in Historical Perspective*, edited by Carole L. Crumley and William H. Marquardt, pp. 1–18. Academic Press, New York.
- Mills, Barbara, Matthew A. Peeples, W. Randall Hass, Lewis Borck, Jeffery J. Clark, and John M. Roberts, Jr.  
 2015 Multiscalar Perspectives in Social Networks in the Late Prehispanic Southwest. *American Antiquity* 80:in press
- Oetelaar, Gerald A., and D. Meyer  
 2006 Movement and Native American Landscapes: A Comparative Approach. *Plains Anthropologist* 51:355–374.
- Read, Dwight W.  
 1975 Regional Sampling. In *Sampling in Archaeology*, edited by J. W. Muller, pp. 45–60. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
- Robb, John, and Timothy R. Pauketat  
 2013 From Moments to Millennia: Theorizing Scale and Change in Human History. In *Big Histories, Human Lives: Tackling Problems of Scale in Archaeology*, edited by J. Robb, and T. R. Pauketat, pp. 3–33. School for Advanced Research Press, Santa Fe.
- Salisbury, Roderick B.  
 2009 Reimagining Regional Analysis in Archaeology. In *Reimagining Regional Analysis*, edited by Tina L. Thurston and Roderick B. Salisbury, pp. 2–15. Cambridge Scholars, Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K.
- Wallis, Neill J.  
 2011 *The Swift Creek Gift: Vessel Exchange on the Atlantic Coast*. University of Alabama press, Tuscaloosa.
- Wandsnider, LuAnn  
 1998 Regional Scale Processes and Archaeological Landscape Units. In *Unit Issues in Archaeology: Measuring Time, Space, and Material*, edited by A. F. Ramenofsky and A. Steffan, pp. 87–102. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.
- Zedeño, Maria Nieves, Jesse A. M. Ballenger, and John R. Murray  
 2014 Landscape Engineering and Organizational Complexity among Late Prehistoric Bison Hunters of the Northwestern Plains. *Current Anthropology* 55:23–58.