PROJECT 2: ETHNOGRAPHY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Due: Tuesday, October 12

Over the last century, many ethnographies have been written that describe the various native cultures of the Southwest. Pick a culture that interests you and go to the library and find one or two sources that deal with that culture. While reading the description of the culture, consider what archaeological traces of these living people would remain long after they were gone. What sorts of things would be preserved that would allow you to reconstruct the living culture?

Summarize the ethnographic evidence for TWO of the following topics in the case of the culture you are studying. Then describe how these aspects of the culture would be visible in the archaeological record. How would you logically go about reconstructing these aspects of life from the archaeological remains? Would you be able to? What things would you not be able to reconstruct? You may use any format you wish to present your ideas; you are not limited to formal paper structure. Be sure to include citations for the sources you use.

1. Settlement Patterns. a) At a regional level, describe the environment and geography of your region, and the resources and ecological zones available for exploitation. Describe the locations of settlements, and how this is related to the landscape. Discuss the different types and sizes of settlements that exist. b) What archaeological remains would allow you to reconstruct this system?

2. Intra-site Spatial Patterns. a) Consider a major settlement of your group. How is it laid out? How do they use space? What sorts of rooms and areas are there? What do they do in them? b) As an archaeologist, how would you be able to define different types of rooms and spaces? How would you know what activities took place there?

3. Economic Organization. a) Describe the basic subsistence system of the culture. How do they get their food? How do they exchange goods within the culture and with other groups? b) What archaeological data would allow you to reconstruct the subsistence system? How would you determine patterns of exchange?

4. Social Organization. a) Describe the social organization of your group in terms of social ranking, kinship system, clans or other groupings, and household organization. b) What archaeological evidence will you use to reconstruct these aspects of the culture?

5. Religion. a) Describe the religious beliefs and practices of the culture. b) How will these be visible in the archaeological record?