How do anthropologists define warfare and how is it observable in the archaeological record? How has archaeological research on warfare changed over time and what are the important contemporary debates surrounding this topic? How and why does warfare vary over time and space? These issues will be the focus of this seminar. We will discuss and evaluate multiple lines of archaeological data including settlement patterns, community and household organization, foodways, and skeletal remains. Readings will consist of archaeological, ethnographic and ethnohistorical research.

The course will begin with a review of the history of research on warfare. Several classes will then be devoted to discussing important topical/theoretical debates in the literature. Our goal will be to explicitly define the important organizational dimensions of warfare and violence that can and should be addressed by archaeological research. We will then refer to these organizational dimensions to closely examine and evaluate regional manifestations of violence. These regional investigations will focus on the New World as that is where most of us do our research.

Readings: I have gathered an enormous digital library of violence-related research. This library will be made available to you via a shared dropbox link.

The course is organized as a seminar, which means that you (the students) are responsible for leading and participating in discussion revolving around the readings. You are expected to attend class and to participate in discussion every week. Two students each week will be designated as discussion leaders, and will prepare a set of questions based on the readings that will spark discussion. As discussion leader, it will be your job to keep discussion going, provide adequate coverage of the week’s readings, and steer the discussion if it gets off track. Participation in the seminar accounts for 25% of your grade.

In addition to reading and discussion, you will be expected to write three 6-page essays dealing with issues relevant to the readings (75% of your grade – 25% each essay). The first two essays will be responses to a structured question that I will hand out a week before the essay is due. The final essay will be more open, allowing you to choose a topic of interest to you. All essays MUST engage the readings from the course in relevant ways. [A student may also choose a final paper option (15-20 pages) in lieu of the three essays only if that student has a dataset that has clear applicability to exploring warfare-related issues – you are required to discuss this with me and get my approval no later than one week prior to the due date for the first essay (April 25th). If I do not approve it, then you are required to write the three short essays.]

Essay Due Dates
Essay 1 (25%) → Friday, May 2nd, by 4pm (Comps people due date TBA)
Essay 2 (25%) → Friday, May 23rd, by 4pm
Essay 3 (25%) → Thursday, June 12th, by 4pm
Final Paper Option → also due by 4pm on June 12th.
Grading Scale:

- A+ = 97-100
- A  = 93-96
- A- = 90-92
- B+ = 87-89
- B  = 83-86
- B- = 80-82
- C+ = 77-79
- C  = 73-76
- C- = 70-72
- D+ = 67-69
- D  = 63-66
- D- = 60-62
- F  = 59 and below

**READING SCHEDULE**

**April 9 History of Anthropological Research on Violence and Warfare (88 pages)**

**April 16 Debating Causality (86 pages)**

**April 23 Impacts, Outcomes, and Transformations (104 Pages)**

*This is the SAA wed – we will need to reschedule this for Monday or Tuesday afternoon.*


**April 30 Defensive and Offensive Tactics (108 pages)**


**May 7 Ethics of Warfare Research (110 Pages)**


**May 14 Southwest (116 pages)**


May 21 Coastal Southern California, the Northwest Coast, and the North Pacific Rim (149 pages)

May 28 The Southeastern and Midwestern U.S. (116 pages)

June 4 Andean South America (118 pages) [shift time to 1pm start time if possible]