

**Course Outline for:** ANTH 1236 Archaeology of Minnesota: Prehistoric Native Cultures

**A. Course Description**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Goal #10 People and the Environment

This course will evaluate the prehistory and cultures in Minnesota from the earliest prehistoric human presence to the time of contact with European settlements. Students will examine how the physical remains of past cultures in Minnesota are used to reconstruct the past. The focus will be on the environmental and resource factors that affected these early cultural groups in Minnesota.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** February 2022

**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. The nature, scope, and history of archaeology in Minnesota
2. Application of the scientific method to examining the chronology of cultural traditions in Minnesota
3. Application of the scientific method to examining the impact of geological forces to the formation of the landscape of Minnesota
4. The peopling of Minnesota
5. The exploitation of resources in the natural landscape, and the domestication of plants and animals
6. The transition in early Native lifeways Post-Contact with European settlers
7. Conflicts between Native Americans and Euro-American settlers in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and articulate the use of concepts, terms, and intellectual frameworks necessary to explain adaption and cultural evolution in the archaeological record in Minnesota. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 5a, 5c, 10a, 10d)
2. Apply and critique the methods of scientific inquiry as they apply to archaeology and prehistory of Minnesota. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2d, 5a, 5c)
3. Analyze and evaluate the record of archaeological data on Minnesota's archaeology (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 10a, 10b, 10c)
4. Recognize and articulate understanding of the major trends in cultural evolution and

ecological adaptation in late Pleistocene Minnesota to approximately 1600 A.D.  
(Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d)

5. Evaluate the explanations and interpretations of selected cultures and their histories. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 10a, 10b, 10d)
6. Articulate knowledge of the legacy of prehistoric cultures in Minnesota and the cautionary tales and implications for contemporary society based upon our archaeological findings. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to, the following formats: objective and/or subjective exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, reflection essays, group work, and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

**F. Special Information:**

None