Anthropology 88A: Sophomore Seminar in Anthropology  
Chumash Archaeology: The Channel Islands  
Fall 2004

Prof. Jeanne Arnold  
Class meets Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:45 am  
Office: 318E Haines Hall  
email: jearnold@ucla.edu  
phone: 310-206-5801

Overview:

This is a 2-unit seminar on archaeology and the Chumash Indians of California. Discussions will cover lifeways during the periods long before European contact as well as the first decades after colonists arrived. Topics include some of the earliest sites in North America, early boats, craft specialization, exchange systems, political economies, ancient climates, status and wealth, and more. The prehistory of the southern California coastline and offshore islands is unusually dynamic, and our understanding of it has been augmented recently by many new discoveries. Readings will include current publications and articles in press. Students will see how Chumash society, politics, and everyday lives differed from those of other California tribes and other groups along the Pacific Coast. Students will participate actively in discussions.

Grading:

Students will generally read 2-3 articles per week and participate in seminar-style discussions based on the readings. The course grade will be based on:

• attendance (20%)  
• participation in the seminar discussions (keeping up with readings, contributing actively to discussions, and occasionally leading some parts of discussions) (40%)  
• 2 sets of take-home essay questions covering selected sets of readings (2 pages each) (20% each; due Nov. 9 and Dec. 10)

Book:

The Origins of a Pacific Coast Chiefdom: The Chumash of the Channel Islands. Jeanne E. Arnold, editor (2001). In the textbook section at the UCLA BOOKSTORE.

Other assembled readings (to be housed in the Anthropology Reading Room, Haines 352).
Preliminary Listing of Course Topics (final topics and reading assignments will be on syllabus distributed first day of classes):

**Week 1:** Seminar introduction. Overview of the Channel Islands and the Chumash.

**Week 2:** When did people first arrive on the Channel Islands? How did they get there (focus on boating technology)? What was their economy?

**Week 3:** Who were the Chumash and what relationship did they have to others in California and along the northern Pacific Coast?

**Week 4:** What are the major research questions that archaeologists working on the Channel Islands of southern California have asked over the past 25 years? What are complex hunter-gatherers? Why is Santa Cruz Island so important?

**Week 5:** What is craft specialization? Why and in what ways were the Island Chumash so specialized? What kinds of evidence do archaeologists use to demonstrate specialized activities?

**Week 6:** Hands-on week. Visit to the Channel Islands Lab in the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA.... Bead assemblages, microlithic assemblages, fishing technology, bone tools, etc.

**Week 7:** How do archaeologists use data about diet? How have debates about ancient climates in this region been addressed through floral and faunal data?

**Week 8:** Guest seminar. How archaeologists have used mortuary data to understand Chumash society. Current ethical concerns about research with mortuary remains.

**Week 9:** How can we really know about status and wealth and labor control and sociopolitical ties in the past? How did the regional production and trade systems operate? What is the 'antap?'

**Week 10:** What happened to the Chumash during the early Historic era?

**Essays due on November 9 and December 10.**