Note: Hand in your paper in the Anthropology Main Office (Haines 341) before 4:00PM when the office closes.

Assignment:

You are required to write a 10-12 page RESEARCH PAPER on a topic that is relevant to this course. Several topical areas are listed below. You may choose any one of these general questions, or settle on a topic of your own choice in consultation with Professor Brantingham.

Ground Rules:

1. The paper must be no longer than 10-12 pages of typed double-spaced text in 11 or 12 point font. This page limit excludes your list of references and any tables or figures you decide to include. That is, you can have as many pages of references or extra figures that you deem is necessary to complete the paper. I WILL NOT read any pages of text beyond page 12.

2. Citations and references MUST follow the guidelines set out for the journal *American Antiquity* (see link on class web site: SAA Style Guide).

3. I do not require that you use a specific number of references. All I require is that you reference ALL ideas that are not your own (see the syllabus for a detailed statement on cheating and plagiarism). Somewhere between 10 and 20 references would be appropriate for a paper of this size.

4. NO WEB SOURCES ALLOWED! If you identify some information on the web that you feel is important enough to include in your paper, you MUST find and cite a published scientific source (journal or book) that discusses this information. You will lose points for materials taken from the web, cited or uncited!

5. The paper may be handed in for comments any time up to class time Friday, May 28, 2004 (one week before it is due). I am here to help you on all aspects of this research paper. Come and see me in my office hours, or make an appointment to see me to have questions answered regarding the paper and any materials related to the course.

6. Creativity backed-up with sound scientific practice will be favorably graded.
General Paper Topics:

Note: All of the following paper topics ask you to strike a balance between theory, method and empirical data. You should also strive to reach this balance if you design a paper topic of your own.

1. Early hominids inherited many (but not all) of their behavioral characteristics from pre-Pliocene primates. Analyze the characteristics of early hominid behavior in an evolutionary framework providing archaeological and other evidence to substantiate your conclusions.

2. Analyze the formation of early hominid archaeological sites and how various processes of transformation both help and hinder our understanding of the evolution of human behavior. Compare and contrast at least two archaeological sites to illustrate your points.

3. *Homo ergaster* was the first hominid to leave sub-Saharan Africa and colonize more seasonal, high-latitude environments. Analyze the ecological and evolutionary processes that contributed to this dispersal event and use archaeological, geological and paleontological evidence to support your conclusions.

4. The Lower and Middle Paleolithic record of East Asia is very different in many ways from the records seen in Europe and Africa of the same time period. Analyze the potential site formational, behavioral, ecological and/or evolutionary processes that might underlie these differences. Use archaeological and other forms of evidence to support your arguments.

5. Neandertals are alternatively seen as “acultural” brutes, or hominids that were not all that different from us. Argue in favor of one or the other position using behavioral, ecological and/or evolutionary theory and archaeological evidence to support your conclusions.

6. Did anatomically modern humans drive Neandertals and other archaic *Homo sapiens* populations to extinction? Discuss the theoretical reasoning and empirical evidence relevant to answering this question.

7. The Upper Paleolithic marks the first widespread use of symbolic material culture in everyday life. Discuss the origins of these behaviors from a theoretical perspective of your choice. Use archaeological evidence to support your arguments.

8. Human populations may have colonized the Australian continent as early as 100,000 to 60,000 years ago. Was it necessary to be “fully modern” to accomplish this colonization event? Provide a discussion of what it means to be “fully modern” (or whether such thing actually exists) illustrating your points with archaeological evidence from Australia and other areas around the world.