

UNST 232 assignments 3 and 8

Human Cultures and Climate

In the lecture section we are studying physical processes associated with change in Earth's climate over time. The goal of this research project is to place climate variability in a human context. To do this, you are asked to form small (4 people is ideal) research teams and select a culture/region and time from the list below to be the focus of your team's research. The project will have three components: research initiated in the mentor section and continued with your team, a paper reporting on that research, and an in-class presentation about what you learn.

Assignment 3a: research groups

1. Select research groups.
2. Select the cultural group/geographic location your group will study from this list:
 - Akkadian Empire, Mesopotamia, 2350 to 2150 BCE (Bronze Age)
 - Indus Valley Civilization, 2300 to about 1700 BCE (Bronze Age)
 - The southern Levant, 2300 to 1900 BCE ("Intermediate Bronze Age")
 - Bronze Age Oxus Cultures of Central Asia (also called Oasis Civilizations); this is a challenging but interesting option
 - Moche culture, north coastal Peru around 600 CE & Chiribaya culture, south coastal Peru, 950 to 1350 CE (Rio Osmore valley)
 - Classic Maya period, 750 to 950 CE, Yucatan Peninsula (explore the different experiences of cities in the north and south)
 - Tiwanaku culture Bolivian/Peruvian Andes around Lake Titicaca, around 1100 CE
 - Vikings (and Inuit) in Greenland, 1000 to 1400 CE
 - Anasazi culture in SW United States 1250 to 1450 CE
 - western Uganda droughts early 1500's, 1600, 1700 CE
 - Roanoke colony, North Carolina, 1587 to 1589 & Jamestown colony, Virginia, 1607 CE

and prepare a neatly written list of group members and the topic you have chosen.

This will be accomplished during the mentor session. It is a good idea to outline the research you need to do and delegate responsibility (see assignment 8, below) as soon as possible. Eventually, you will merge all of your team's work together into one final report and presentation. When you compile your final report, indicate who was responsible for what research.

Assignment 3b: annotated bibliography

You will need to find and read several independent sources of information for your research project. You may use scientific journal articles, textbooks, dated and referenced websites maintained by professional scientists and historians, as well as popular books and media reports.

Your assignment here is to find at least six references for your group's research project and to write an annotated bibliography of them. Four of the resources must be scholarly. Each research group is asked to turn in one complete bibliography but to demonstrate that everybody in each group participated in the work, please identify who wrote each annotation. The bibliographies are due in lecture as noted in the course syllabus.

The Purdue Online Writing Laboratory offers an introduction to annotated bibliographies: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_annotatedbib.html
From that source: "An annotation is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an annotated bibliography includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources."

Librarians at Portland State's Millar Library have created a very good "Research Survival" guide that you can read online:
<http://www.lib.pdx.edu/instruction/survivalguide/index.htm>
You are strongly encouraged to read the materials at this site before you start assembling your bibliography.

Your annotated bibliography should be in alphabetical order (by author last name or website title if no author is available) and should use a standard reference format. Millar Library's research survival guide includes guidelines for reference style. A web reference must include the URL and the date you accessed it, a title, and, if available, the author of the article. If no author is cited, indicate "no author."

Each annotation should be three or four sentences long and written in your own words (that is, not copied from the source). The annotation should explain what the reference is about and how it will be useful to your report. Your annotation should make it clear that you have reviewed the source in enough detail to determine that it will be useful to you.

Please indicate at the end of each annotation if the source is **scholarly** or **popular** media and if it is **print** or **electronic** media. *This is important, if you fail to classify each source in this way you will lose points.*

- **Print media** means anything that has been published in print form. This can be a newspaper or news magazine, book, or journal article. Electronic versions, such as pdf files, of materials that have been published in print media are considered print media.
- **Electronic media** means anything that is available only in electronic format, such as a website.
- A **scholarly** reference is one that has a clearly defined date and authorship, and reports on research performed by the author (“primary research”) or is a synthesis, with conclusions, of research performed by others (“secondary research”). Any reference that has undergone a peer-review process is considered scholarly. Millar Library’s survival guide offers some good advice for evaluating references. The wikipedia entry for scholarly method is also worth reading. Examples of scholarly references include all journal articles, some books, and some web sources. You need to find at least 4 scholarly references, which can be in either the print or electronic media.
- A **popular media** reference is everything else. Popular resources are intended for a general, non-specialist, audience and are either reviews of research conducted by others or opinion articles. Examples include most of the material available on the web, books written for a general audience (unless they are well sourced, as is the case for our textbook, *The Worst Hard Time*), news magazines, and newspapers. Some of this material can be very useful but because it represents either opinion or is not written by a specialist in a relevant field, it is a less reliable source of information than scholarly research.

Assignment 8: research report & presentation

Your research should cover four topics

1. Describe the present-day geography and climate of the region.
2. Describe the cultural group (or groups) who was (were) living in your geographic region in the time period of interest.
3. The cultural groups/locations listed above experienced cultural change at the indicated times. In all cases, there is paleoclimatological evidence for environmental disruption at the indicated times. Anthropologists and archaeologists consider both climate and social stresses to be driving factors in major cultural reorganizations, with different weight given to each by different scholars at different times. It seems likely that climate and social stresses act in concert, not in isolation, and that different groups have different capacities for response to stresses of any origin. Explain the climate stress encountered by the group you are studying and how the group responded to it. Were social and political factors important in that response? What do you think are the relative roles of environment and culture in the story you have discovered?
4. How is climate projected to change in the 21st century in the region you are studying? What, if any, are the projected cultural impacts of that change? Do you think the people living in the region will be able to adapt to the projected climate change?

Report Style

Your report must be typed, in 12-point type, with 1-inch margins. The report should have a title page that includes a list of group members indicating who worked on the various parts of the project, a reference list, figures and tables to illustrate your findings, and page numbers. Please do not encase the report in a folder, binder or other device. If you wish to submit the report as a pdf, that is great. Please don't send documents in any other proprietary format.

Organize the report in a logical way. Research papers follow a standard format: introduction (statement of the problem), body (argument and evidence), and conclusion. Please use section headings where appropriate. Pay attention to spelling, grammar, and punctuation. When working with several authors, it is often helpful to ask the others to proofread your work. Write in as concise a style as possible but remember that while research papers are not works of fiction, they can be written in an interesting and engaging way. It is OK for

your personality to peek through, but it should not dominate what you write.

References

Your report should reference the materials you used to investigate climate change in your region. You have already developed a group of core reference materials for your annotated bibliography. You may add references if you have found more materials since that assignment was completed. If you are having trouble finding adequate reference material or have questions about using a web resource, talk with your mentor or with Professor Hulbe.

A reference list is not a bibliography. Only items cited in your paper should appear in the reference list, and every item in your list should be cited in the paper. References are used within the text of a document to indicate the source of an idea, interpretation, or data that is not your own. Use a clear, consistent, and comprehensive system for citing references within the body of your report. Author and year of publication is typical. If a reference article is written by more than two authors, list only the first author and use et al. or and others to indicate that other authors are included in the full reference list at the end of the report.

Figures and Tables

Carefully constructed figures (maps, graphs) and summary data tables are often the most compelling way to demonstrate a scientific finding. Please use as many figures as you need in your report and in your classroom presentation. Figures derived from another source should reference the source (in the caption) and easy to read. Original figures should be neatly drawn by hand in ink or using a computer graphics program. Both figures and tables should be numbered sequentially, accompanied by descriptive captions, cited in the text of the report, and should include adequate citations of information sources.

Class Presentations

During the last few lecture sections, each group will give a presentation about their research project and we will discuss the findings as a class. The presentations should last about 15 minutes and should employ Powerpoint, overhead transparencies, posters, or similar visual aids. You will be graded on your presentation and discussion, as well as on the report.

You will not be able to present everything from your report in 15 minutes so you will need to decide what information will be most interesting for the class. It is up to your group to decide which topics to present.