Evaluate theoretical models for the colonization of the Americas by reference to changes in the physical societies on the verge of contact with European’s.

Prerequisites
RDG 090 and ENGL 090 or qualifying scores on accepted placement tests.

Course Description
This course is designed to provide a thorough introduction to the diversity of cultures found in eastern North America from the initial Native American occupation to the early Euro American settlement using the unique perspective that archaeology provides. Students are exposed to cultures whose belief systems, methods of enculturation and socialization, and styles of living are vastly different from their own. The course emphasizes the effect of culture, culture change, and cultural ethnogenesis on societies across time and space. Finally, it seeks to provide an understanding of the need for careful analysis and interpretation of finds and an appreciation of the fragile nature of our cultural heritage.

Course Outcomes
In order to evidence success in this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe archaeological concepts relating to cultures including functions of basic cultural institutions and culture change as well as basic archaeological methods
2. Explain the need for conservation of cultural sites and materials
3. Evaluate theoretical models for the colonization of the America’s by reference to changes in the physical environment and the properties of Ice Age cultures
4. Assess human responses to changing physical and social environments and evaluate the differences in cultures that led to these responses
5. Evaluate various social/cultural models archaeologists have developed to understand cultural change and the diversity of cultural responses to change
6. Consider the effects of increasing culture contact, demographic shifts, and technological complexity on societies on the verge of contact with European’s
7. Contemplate the devastating impact of European colonization on many Native American societies and evaluate the varied responses of these groups to European colonization and to each other

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