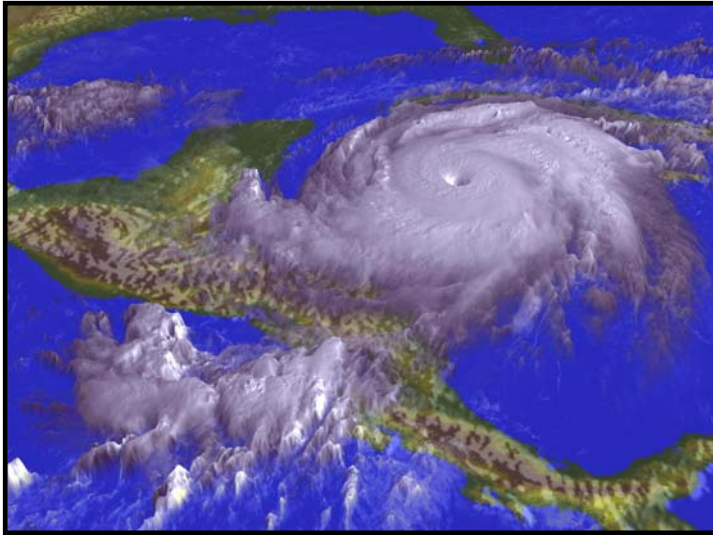
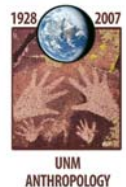


Spring 2010 ANTH 570-002 HUMAN BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Natural and social processes simultaneously operate on a multitude of timescales, from the millennium to the minute. Climate studies operate spatially at the [hemispheric and] global scales and temporally at the decennial scale or longer. Archaeology operates at the local spatial scale and has a hard time reducing its temporal resolution beyond the century. Social sciences operate at the local or regional scale and temporally have resolutions down to the year or the season (S. van der Leeuw 2008).

Human responses remain an insufficiently studied part of the subject of climate change, in part because of issues of scale. In this seminar we will examine adaptive strategies of humans to deal with climate change at levels from agents to complex polities. We will explore these strategies from the perspectives of resilience theory, self organizing systems, and human behavioral ecology. Though we will primarily focus on archaeological examples, we will also examine a number of new studies looking at contemporary responses to climate change in varying societies. Seminar discussions and readings will focus on (a) examining what climate change is and potential ecological impacts; (b) identifying new and old proxies for measuring climate change in the past, and the means we have to evaluate their efficacy for informing studies of human decision making; (c) resolving issues of scale and temporality, and; (d) exploring human responses, including proximate and cascading effects. Case studies will be drawn from North, Central, and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Time-scales will range from early hominins to pre-industrial agrarian states, but focus primarily on late Pleistocene and Holocene periods.



Tentative Schedule and 1st meeting: Wednesday 4:15 PM – 7:00 PM, ANNEX 120.
Prerequisites: graduate standing in Anthropology or prior permission.
For more information contact Dr. Keith Prufer at kmp@unm.edu or 505.277.1608