




# ARCL324: Archaeological Foundations of South America

## The Inca and their Ancestors

**Instructor: Prof. Aleksa Alaica**

**Term 2: Tues/Thurs, 2:00–3:30PM**

**Andean** communities shaped global history through their contribution to worldwide diet, economy, and culture in the Columbian Exchange as a result of the clash between the invading Spanish, the Inca, and other contemporaneous groups. Anthropologists often draw on examples from the Andes to explore the development of states and other sociopolitical organizations. Pre-colonial societies of South America are essential to examine to fully grasp early domestication, the development of irrigation technology, artisanship in ceramics, textiles, metallurgy, and scales of interregional interaction.



This course explores key cultures of the Andes region including Chavin, Moche, Nasca, Tiwanaku, Wari, Chimu, Chachapoyas, and Inca among others. Drawing on archaeological and ethnohistoric records, students will investigate the diversity of Andean monumental architecture, material culture, households, religions, economics, and historical ecologies. This course will serve as an introduction to the way that kinship, gender, technologies, ritual, and identity variably manifested in the Andes. By highlighting key debates, seminal research, emerging scholarships, and innovative interpretive paradigms, students will gain an appreciation of the Andes region for its role in South American history and archaeology but also importantly for global heritage.