

SOUTHEASTERN U.S. PREHISTORY

THIRD EXAM

TAKE-HOME ESSAYS

Write essays of approximately five double-spaced/typed pages each in response to any **two** of the following questions. Type your essays as if you were writing essays in an exam setting. Formal bibliographic citations are not necessary. (25 points each, due by 5:00PM on December 12...please send your essays as email attachments to crodning@tulane.edu)

1. Compare and contrast the developmental trajectories of the regional chiefdoms centered at Moundville, Etowah, and Cahokia during the Mississippi period. Discuss evidence relevant to such topics as political economy, the relative degrees of political centralization and consolidation in these different areas, and the timing of the emergence and collapse of the chiefdoms centered at these sites.
2. Pick any two of the following areas of the Mississippian world, and compare and contrast the nature of Mississippian societies present in each: Caddoan Mississippian, Middle Mississippian, Plaquemine Mississippian, and South Appalachian Mississippian. Discuss evidence of settlement patterns, mound construction, mortuary practices, subsistence practices, and (where relevant) iconography.
3. Compare and contrast the nature of earthworks at Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian sites in the Southeast.
4. Mississippian societies are generally thought of as chiefdoms, characterized by inherited status differences between elites and commoners. The Middle Woodland societies of the Southeast were participants in Hopewell-related exchange networks and ritual practices, and they are generally thought of as more egalitarian, but with achieved status differences akin to those in big-man societies. Evaluate these characterizations of native societies in the Middle Woodland and Mississippian Southeast.