Welcome to History 11
Political & Social History of the United States I
Prof. Valadez
Topics

• Theories explaining origins of Native Americans
• Diversity of Native Americans
• Similarities of Native Americans

True or false

• The horse existed in the western hemisphere before 1492.
• Columbus introduced the horse in the western hemisphere.
• Agriculture first emerged in the Southwest.
The First Americans

• Origins
  – Short Chronology
  – Long Chronology
  – Native beliefs

• Diversity

• Similarities
  – Kinship
  – Spirituality
• **Paleo-Indians 13,000 B.C.E. to 8,000 B.C.E.**
  – Small bands of nomadic hunters
  – Diet consisted of big game species
  – Tradition of sharing scarce resources

• **Archaic peoples 8,000 B.C.E. to 2500 B.C.E.**
  – Experienced tremendous environmental change: sea levels rise
  – Diet: small mammals, fish, wild plants, berries
  – Beginnings of agriculture
Cultural Diversity, 2500 B.C.E.-C.E.1500

• Mesoamerica
  – In Mesoamerica maize-cultivating societies emerge.
  – **Olmecs** first writing system
  – Trade networks and city-states follow: earliest is **Teotihuacan** 100-600 C.E.
  – Teotihuacan declines, Mayan city-states spread through southern Mexico and Central America: calendar, number and writing systems.
  – 1400s, Aztecs
Cultural Diversity, 2500 B.C.E.-C.E.1500

• The Southwest
  – **Hohokam** and Anasazi cultures emerge.
  – Hohokams build extensive canal systems for irrigation: villages with several hundred people.
  – Anasazis dominate for 600 years: **Chaco Canyon**.
  – Droughts 12\textsuperscript{th}-13\textsuperscript{th} cultures decline.