



A Nonprofit Education Corporation
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HUMAN MIGRATION REDUX

Presenter: Don O'Dowd

Two Wednesdays

January 12 & 19

1:30 to 4:30PM

Valle Verde Theater

900 Calle de los Amigos

In 2005 and 2006 a VISTAS course was offered on Human Migrations. Over 100 VISTAS members participated in the course. A principal focus of the sessions was the understanding of migrations that has resulted from the emerging technology for sequencing DNA.

This course will report on the new developments that have been published since 2006. We know more about our African forebears, the Neanderthal peoples, the Flores Islanders and even a new hominid species which lived along side the Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal peoples, we think. There are new findings concerning the peopling of the Americas and the possible ties of the South Americans to the colonization of Polynesia. The importance of climate change in the movement and development of modern humans seems to be receiving greater emphasis by the professional commentators. There are of course anomalies and contradictions everywhere in the record of migrations. We will look at some of these.

For those who have not followed these topics closely in recent years we will spend a little time looking at some of the underlying technology which this topics draws upon. For example we will look at how DNA gives us an understanding of human movements. We will examine some of the climate proxies that tell us what climate was

like in the distant past. Perhaps we will have time to look at carbon dating and newer dating techniques that allow us to place archaeological finds in an historic context.

If you have any family heirlooms that date back to 10,000, 30,000 or 50,000 years ago please feel free to bring them to the class.



ENROLLMENT FORM: *Human Migration*

VISTAS Members \$20 per person — Non-members \$30 per person

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc., P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

Deadline for registration: December 31, 2010

BIOGRAPHY:

Don O’Dowd has a Ph.D. in social psychology and cognitive science. During his career he was a teacher, researcher and administrator at several universities. He brings a lively interest, extensive reading and limited expertise to this topic.

RECOMMENDED READING

Cro-Magnon: How The Ice Age Gave Birth To The First Modern Humans by Brian Fagan, Bloomsbury Press, 2010.

Fagan is a masterful interpreter of archaeological and anthropological information for the nontechnical reader.

In this book he presents considerable informed speculation about the experiences of our ancestors in the transitional period when modern humans were gradually replacing our Neanderthal relatives and the following millennia.



VISTAS Winter 2011 Calendar

Seminar/Event	Date	Time	Venue
Documentary Film Club	Thurs, Dec 16	2:00PM	Maravilla Theater
Theater in the Making: <i>Biederman's Match</i> (3)	Tues: Jan 4,	5:45PM	UCSB
World Economy in Crisis (3)	Tues, Jan 11	9:30-12:30	Goleta Library
Documentary Club	Thurs, Jan 27	2:00PM	Maravilla Theater
Models of Democracy (2))	Wed, Feb 9	9:30AM	Valle Verde Social Rm
Documentary Club	Thurs, Feb 24	2:00PM	Maravilla Theater
Mao to Now (4)	Mon, Feb 28, Mar 7, 14, 21	1:30-4:30PM	Valle Verde Theater



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