

ANT 2140: Sec 5181, 5182, 5184.
Introduction to World Archaeology

Summer 2012, M,T,W,Th,F. Period 5. Turlington Room L005.

Summer B 2012

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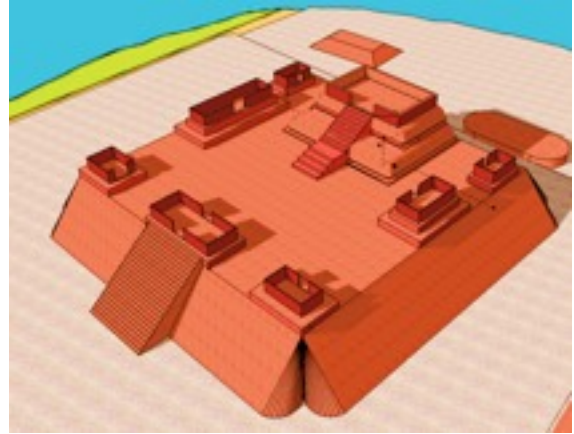


Image: "3d Reconstruction of Structure 6: Cerros, Belize." 2012. J. R. Vadala

Course description and goals:

The course is an introduction to world archaeology and situates archaeology as a methodologically distinct but topically integrated subfield of anthropology. Goals of the course are to increase your knowledge and understanding of archaeological research, ancient cultures, and historical trends, particularly as they become visible through focused case studies of real archaeological sites and ongoing research. In doing so, we will explore how archaeologists have analyzed and interpreted remains of past cultures, and how approaches to interpretation have changed over time. The emphasis is on basic archaeological principles, but these will not be studied abstractly---instead, each week we will explore a new site like the pyramids of Giza, Teotihuacan, or Stonehenge, (for example), rather than memorizing details of hundreds of artifact types or all sites from given time periods. Topics addressed include basic archaeological methods, new 3 dimensional digital methods used by archaeologists, pseudo-archaeology on television and popular culture, the rise and fall of select ancient civilizations, and the ethical dimensions of archaeological work. Class sessions will be devoted to lecture, video excerpts, and hands-on examination of archaeology resources at UF (such as the Florida Museum of Natural History).

Learning objectives: Students completing this course should be able to:

- distinguish between scientific and non-scientific approaches to archaeology;
- describe key sites and explain how they changed over time
- describe the directions archaeology is taking with regard to new digital technologies
- identify key terms and concepts in archaeology;
- describe several ways that archaeology has contributed to broader anthropological questions.

Required text: Chazan, Michael. *World Prehistory and Archaeology*. Pearson Education Inc, 2011.

Supplemental readings will occasionally be assigned. These will be made available in pdf format on the course E-Learning site.

E-learning site:

This course will make use of the Sakai environment in E-learning for posting the syllabus, assignments, taking exams, and posting supplementary readings (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>)

GRADING:

Grades will be based on lecture and lab section attendance, performance on two exams, an individual project, and performance on discussion section exercises. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 400 points. Final grades will be based on how many points are earned with the following point breakdown:

A note on grades: All grades in this course are earned throughout the semester, not negotiated individually at the end of the semester. Do not request a grade adjustment based on work other than what is described in this syllabus. Grading is based on mastery of the course material.

Exam 1- 100 points

Exam 2-100 points

Individual Class Project-50 points

Discussion exercises-100 points

Attendance-50 points

A note on attendance: Given the amount of information each day's class will involve, regular (and punctual) attendance is required. Attendance will be taken. You are expected to have completed the reading before coming to class. There will be no makeup exams, makeup exercises, or makeup assignments without an excused absence. Per University of Florida policy, excused absences include medical appointments and illness (with doctor's note), deaths in the family (with documentation) and school events (with documentation on school letterhead). If you miss more than two classes without an excused absence you will be docked one letter grade.

Make-up Policy: Missed exams may be made up only if you have a valid excuse for an involuntary absence (e.g., documented illness, religious holiday) during the scheduled exam period AND if you (or someone on your behalf) inform the Professor or the TA before the exam begins that you have a valid excuse. Missed exams should be made up within one week of the original exam period at the instructor's convenience. See exam rules on the E-Learning site for hints about studying and taking the exams.

Letter grades will be calculated as follows:

A 372-400 points

A- 360-371 points

B+ 348-359 points

B 332-349 points

B- 320-331 points

C+ 308-319 points

C 292-307 points

C- 280-291 points

D+ 268-279 points

D 252-267 points

D- 240-251 points

In Class Project:

The in-class project will allow students to explore contemporary work being completed by UF archaeology graduate students. For this assignment, students can elect to visit, discuss, and critique an archaeological exhibit at the Florida Museum of Natural History. If students are not able to visit the Florida Museum of Natural History an alternative topic of study will be assigned. Students will be expected to use concepts and skills developed throughout the class in their short-answer questions and their engaged participation in a class-led discussion

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Class	Topic
Week 1	1	Course Introduction and Summary: Anthropology, Archaeology, History, and Methods (Space, Time, and Context)
	2	Anthropology and Archaeology,
	3	Archaeological Methods (Space, Time, and Context
	4	A brief history of the Cosmos and Evolution: Human Origins
	5	Homo Sapiens and the Paleolithic Period
Week 2	6	From Hunting and Gathering to Sedentism and Domestication
	7	A Brief History of New World/Old World Archaeology
	8	Prehistoric North America: Hunters and Gatherers
	9	Prehistoric North America Part 2: Mound Builders
	10	Ancient Mesoamerica Part I: the Olmec, the Zapotec
Week 3	11	Ancient Mesoamerica Part II: The Preclassic Maya
	12	Ancient Mesoamerica Part III: The Classic and Postclassic Maya
	13	Ancient Mesoamerica Part IV: The Aztecs
	14	Ancient South America Part 1: Early People
	15	-EXAM 1
Week 4	16	Ancient South America Part 2: The Inca
	17	Mesopotamia
	18	Prehistoric Europe
	19	Ancient European States
	20	-Class Project Discussion and Due Date
Week 5	21	The Rise of Egypt
	22	The Dynastic Egyptian Empire Part 1
	23	The Dynastic Egyptian Empire Part 2
	24	Great Zimbabwe
	25	Ancient Japan
Week 6	26	Ancient China
	27	Ancient Asia
	28	The Past as a Tool: Lessons from the Past
	29	The Ethics of Archaeology
	30	-EXAM 2