

ANT4930/ ANG6930  
Fall 2007  
Steven A. Brandt

## INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

### Course Description

Spanning some 2.6 million years, Africa provides the longest archaeological record in the world. It also furnishes evidence for the earliest representatives of the human family (and for that matter the earliest evidence of every major stage of human evolution), the most complete account of the development of hunting/gathering; some of the world's earliest rock art, probably the earliest evidence of the establishment of a pastoral way of life, the domestication of a number of unique plants; the development of some of the world's most complex civilizations; the staging area for the African Diaspora; and a living laboratory for the archaeological study of contemporary societies (i.e. ethnoarchaeology). This course will provide students with a general survey of the vast sweep of African human cultural evolution through lectures, readings, films, and other forms of multi-media.

### Prerequisites

You are expected to have taken a course equivalent to ANT 2000 (General Anthropology), and/or ANT 2140 (World Archaeology), and/or another Upper Division archaeology course. If you have not had at least one of these courses, you can still take the course, but I **strongly advise** you to read at least one introductory archaeology text such (e.g. Thomas, D.H. and R. Kelly 2007. *Archaeology: Down to Earth*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. NY. Thomsen) as I will expect you to be familiar with the basics of archaeological method and theory and world prehistory.

### Lectures, Office Hours and Contacts:

- Lectures: T Period 7 (1:55 – 2:45 pm) and Th, Period 6-7 (12:50 – 2:45 pm)
- Office hours: T and Th 3:00-4:00pm, B358 Turlington Hall (or by appointment)
- Office: 392-2253 x234; email: sbrandt@ufl.edu; web: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sbrandt/>

### Required Texts (available at Orange and Blue Textbooks on 13<sup>th</sup> St near 4<sup>th</sup> Ave)

- Stahl, A.B. (ed.) 2005. *African Archaeology: A Critical Introduction*. Maiden: Blackwell
- Connah, G. and D. Hobs. 2001. *African Civilizations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

### Required Additional Readings

In addition to the texts, there will be an additional article (or two at the most for undergraduates (while graduates will have 2-5 articles) to supplement some of the weeks' text readings. These will be sent to you by email and/or posted on my web page at least a week before I discuss the topic in class. They will be sent in pdf format, so be sure to have access to an up-to-date version of Adobe Reader.

### Recommended Texts (On Reserve)

- Connah, G. 2004. *Forgotten Africa: An Introduction to its Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Deacon, H.J. and J. Deacon 1999. *Human Beginnings in South Africa: Uncovering the Secrets of the Stone Age*. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press.
- Phillipson, D. 2005. *African Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.
- Schmidt, P. and R. McIntosh 1996. *The Plundering of Africa's Past..* Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Schmidt, P. 2006. *Historical Archaeology in Africa*. Lanham: Altamira Press.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

### Undergraduates

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at lectures, and points assigned as follows:

- 2 or less total unexcused absences: 100 points
- 3 total unexcused absences: 90 points
- 4 total unexcused absences: 80 points
- 5 total unexcused absences: 70 points
- 7 total unexcused absences: 60 points
- 7 total unexcused absences: 50 points
- 8 total unexcused absences: 40 points
- 9 or more total unexcused absences: 0 points

Exams: Each of the 3 exams will be non-cumulative and cover about one-third of the class. All exams will be based on multiple-choice, fill-in and short (half to one page) essay questions, plus a small map section where you are to identify the location of important places and names. A study guide with key terms from which the exam will be drawn, will be posted on my web page one week before each exam.

Make Up Exams, Absences, and Cheating: Except for medical/disability reasons, religious reasons or official university business, there will be **no** makeup exams or excused absences. A letter signed by a physician or a university official must be obtained **before** a makeup exam will be scheduled or an absence excused. Likewise, any religious reason for missing an exam or section must also be discussed with the professor and/or TA **before** a makeup exam will be scheduled or an absence excused. If you have a disability that could affect your class performance, please discuss this with the professor during the first week of class. Needless to say, cheating in any way (e.g. looking at another person's exam, having someone else sign the attendance sheets) will not be tolerated and could very likely result in an automatic E for the course.

Final Grade: The Final Grade for Undergraduates will be based on your total accumulation of points from **three** exams each worth 100 points, plus attendance points worth a maximum of 100 points, for a total of 400 points, as follows:

A	90-100% (358-400 points)
B+	87-85% (346-357 points)
B	80-86% (318-345 points)
C+	77-79% (306-317 points)
C	65-76% (258-305 points)
D+	60-64% (238-257 points)
D	50-59% (198-237 points)
E	<50% (<198 points)

Graduate students will be required to:

- Take three in-class essay-based exams (incorporating any additional graduate readings and graded separately from undergraduates): 300 points
- Do a ~20 page research paper on some aspect of African Archaeology, to be cleared with the professor at least one month before the end of the semester: 80 points
- Meet separately with the professor once a week or every other week to discuss the additional graduate readings, and to prepare review notes (3-4 pages maximum) summarizing and critiquing the weekly/bi-

weekly readings. We will decide the time and place of the extra meetings on 8/28. Notes and participation in extra class discussion are worth 20 points.

*Final Grade* for Graduates will be based on points from three exams each worth 100 points, plus the research paper and discussions/notes for a total of 400 points (same as undergrad grade chart).

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, READINGS, AND EXAMS**  
**(ADDITIONAL READINGS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEB SITE)**

Week 1: 8/23: Introductory Remarks; Requirements of the Course.

Week 2: 8/28-30: A Brief History of African Archaeology; Chronology and Terminology; Background to Modern and Paleo-Environments:

*Stahl Ch 1      Grads Only: Stahl Ch 2*

Week 3: 9/4-6: Fossil and Behavioral Evidence of Our Earliest Ancestors; The Earliest Archaeological Record: Early Stone Age/Lower Paleolithic and the Oldowan Technocomplex

*Stahl Ch 3*

Week 4: 9/11-13: The Oldowan and Acheulian Technocomplexes

*Stahl Ch 3*

Week 5: 9/18-20 The Emergence of Modern Humans; The Middle Stone Age/Middle Paleolithic

*Stahl Ch 4,5*

**9/25: First Exam**

Week 6: 9/27 Modern Human Behavior and the Later Stone Age/Upper Paleolithic

*Grads Only: Stahl Ch 6*

Week 7: 10/2-4: Terminal Pleistocene and Early Holocene LSA/Epi-Paleolithic/Mesolithic Adaptations; Rock Art, Symbolism and Ideology in the LSA/Epi-Paleolithic/Mesolithic

*Stahl Ch 7*

Week 8: 10/9-11: The Development of Food Production and the Neolithic in Northern and Western Africa

*Stahl Ch 8: 187-206 up to "East African Evidence"; Ch 9; Ch 10*

Week 9: 10/16 Food Production and the Neolithic of Eastern Africa

**10/18 No Class (at the African Studies Association Meetings, New York City)**

**10/23: Second Exam**

Week 10: 10/23-25 The Development of Complex Societies; Egypt and Northern Africa

Week 11: 10/30-11/1 Complex Societies of Sudan and the Horn

Week 12: 11/6-8 Food Production, the "Iron Age" and Complex Societies of Western and Central Africa

*Stahl Ch 11-12; Ch 13 to 336 "The Zimbabwe plateau, Ch 17-18*

Week 13: 11/13-15 Food Production, the “Iron Age” and Complex Societies of Eastern and Southern Africa  
*Stahl Ch 13, 336-352, Ch 15 Grads Only: Stahl Ch 14*

**Week 14: 11/20-22 Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15: 11/27-29 The Archaeology of European Colonization: Cultural Heritage Management in Africa  
*Stahl Ch 6,*

**12/4: Third Exam**