

Early Complex Societies
ANG6186 / 3A51 Class # 30583
Wednesday: 5:10 – 8:00 pm
Classroom: **DAU 0342 Academic Term:** Spring 2022

Instructor:

Gabriel Prieto

Email Address: ogabriel.prietob@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 – 10:00 am. / Thursday 3:00–4:00 pm

Office location: B350, Turlington Hall. Also via ZOOM meetings.

Course Description

Credit Hours: ANG6186: 3-3

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to:

- Distinguish the main characteristics of early complex societies.
- Identify the role played by social, ideological, and economic systems in early complex societies.
- Explore the different theoretical anthropological approaches for early social complexity around the world.
- Outline a methodological approach to study early complex societies.
- Measure the impact of social complexity in the so-called “cradles” of early civilization.
- Appreciate the importance played by ideology and religion in the constitution, maintenance and endurance of power in early complex societies.

Required Textbooks:

Understanding Early Civilizations (Bruce Trigger).

Myths of the Archaic States. Evolution of the Earliest Cities, States and Civilization (Norman Yoffee).

Recommended Books:

Archaic States (Edited by Gary M. Feinman and Joyce Marcus)

Important Dates:
Test and Writing Assignment Due Dates

MIDTERM PAPER: February 16th
FINAL PAPER: April 27th

Course Schedule:

Wednesday, January 5th: Introduction of the course and first thoughts on early social complexity.

Wednesday, January 12nd: The 19th century approach: Morgan and Lubbock

Wednesday, January 19th: The “classic” approach: inquiring on Gordon V. Childe

Wednesday, January 26th: A contemporary perspective on early complex societies: Trigger vs Yoffee

Wednesday, February 2nd: Mesopotamia: cities, accounts, and laws
Urbanism and territoriality

Wednesday, February 9th: Egypt: Monuments and the power of death: the great Nile river and trade
Funerary rituals
Trade

Wednesday, February 16th: Midterm paper due.
Africa: of mounds and floods: the ancient middle Niger.
Paleoclimate and the “pulse model”
Heterogeneity in early complex societies
Invited lecturer: Dr. R. McIntosh (Yale University)

Wednesday, February 23rd: Erlitou and Shang: oracles, monumental burials and the power of written bones.
The importance of craft production.
Food production

Wednesday, March 2nd: How Chiefs come to power? – a “rational” approach
Sources of economic power
Military Power
Ideology as a source of power

Wednesday, March 9th: SPRING BREAK!

Wednesday, March 16th: Mother Culture? The Olmec
Trade
Craft production
The role of domestic and community-based rituals

Wednesday, March 23rd: The power of writing and powerful lords (and queens): the Maya
Types of Maya polities
Maya cities
Maya elites

Wednesday, March 30th: No class. I will be at the Annual Meeting of the SAA (Chicago, IL).

Wednesday, April 6th: The role of tribute and warfare: the Aztecs
Aztec tribute
Aztec art and cosmology

Wednesday, April 13th: From the Late Preceramic through the Early Horizon in the Central Andes:
4000 years of a formative? social complexity.
The role of monumental architecture
Religion and spheres of interaction
Subsistence patterns

Wednesday, April 20th: Moche & Nasca: cities? Ceremonial centers, art and ritualized violence.
Moche cities and Nasca ceremonial centers
Craft production
Political terror? and sanctified violence

Wednesday, April 27th: Final Paper due.
Almighty ancestors, insidious kinships. The perfect empire?
Agriculture and irrigation
Kinship and the constitution of power

(Readings posted in Canvas)

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Absences count from the first class meeting. In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g. judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligations, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g. jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found in Attendance Policies.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center (see link below). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with me and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester
Please, visit: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>

Grading in this course takes place within the following parameters.

For more information, please visit: [UF Graduate Catalog](#) / [Grades and Grading Policies](#)

Letter Grade	Range:	
A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%

Letter Grade	Range:	
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 %	to 61.0%
F	< 61.0 %	to 0.0%

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

Library Support, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints Campus

On-Line Students Complaints