

**Early Complex Societies**  
ANT 4930 / GP49 Class # 28950  
Monday: 9:35 – 11:30 am  
Wednesday: 10:40 – 11:30 am  
Classrooms: **LEI 0142** (Mondays) / **FLI 0119** (Wednesdays)  
Fall 2024

***Instructor:***

Gabriel Prieto

Email Address: [ogabriel.prietob@ufl.edu](mailto:ogabriel.prietob@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Monday 3:00 – 4:00 pm. / Tuesday 11:40 am – 12:40 pm / Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 pm

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

***Course Description***

Credit Hours: ANT4930: 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 16<sup>th</sup>

FINAL PAPER: April 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Course Schedule:**

Week 1, August 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Introduction of the course and first thoughts on early social complexity.

Week 2, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> (Monday is Holiday). The 19<sup>th</sup> century approach: Morgan and Lubbock

Week 3, September 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> The “classic” approach: inquiring on Gordon V. Childe

Week 4, September 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> A contemporary perspective on early complex societies: Trigger vs Yoffee

Week 5, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Mesopotamia: cities, accounts, and laws Urbanism and territoriality

Week 6, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Monuments and the power of death: the great Nile river and trade  
Funerary rituals Trade

Week 7 October 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>: MIDTERM PAPER DUE (October 7<sup>th</sup>).  
Africa: of mounds and floods: the ancient middle Niger.  
Paleoclimate and the “pulse model”  
Heterogeneity in early complex societies

Week 8 October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: Erlitou and Shang: oracles, monumental burials and the power of written bones. The importance of craft production. Food production

Week 9 October 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>: How Chiefs come to power? – a “rational” approach. Sources of economic power. Military Power. Ideology as a source of power

Week 10 October 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>: Mother Culture? The Olmec Trade. Craft production. The role of domestic and community-based rituals.

Week 11 November 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>: The power of writing and powerful lords (and queens): the Maya. Types of Maya polities. Maya cities. Maya elites

Week 12 November 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>: (Monday holiday). The role of tribute and warfare: the Aztecs. Aztec tribute. Aztec art and cosmology

Week 13 November 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>: Early Monumentality in the Central Andes. The Role of Monumental Architecture in the configuration of power. Religion and Spheres of Interaction.

THANKSGIVING BREAK ! (November 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>)

Week 14 December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>: FINAL PAPER DUE (December 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Moche & Nasca: cities? Ceremonial centers, art and ritualized violence.

Craft production.

Political terror? and sanctified violence

**(Readings posted in Canvas)**

*Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy*

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/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](#)

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Range:</b>	
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%

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Range:</b>	
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/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

### **Plagiarism and AI use:**

Writing assignments will be subject to and in accordance with the student conduct code and academic honesty. Assignments will use the tool Turnitin to assess plagiarism and are subject to [ChatGPT/AI](#) detection. If there is any evidence of violation of the [Student Honor Code](#), the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and be reported to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) Office. All assignments should have the following statement: *“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

### **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://police.ufl.edu).

### *Academic Resources*

**[E-learning technical support](#)**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto: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](#)**