

The Archaeology of Violence
ANT3930 / 3A40 Class # 30593
ANT3930 / 3A45 Class # 32089
Tuesday: 12:50 – 2:40 pm/ TUR 2336
Thursday: 12:50-1:40am/CSE E220
Academic Term: Spring 2022

Instructor:

Gabriel Prieto

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00 pm. / Thursday 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: B350, Turlington Hall

Course Description

Credit Hours: ANT3930: 3-3

Violence is an active part of human existence. There are multiple examples of different types of violence in the past, which have been recorded in texts and social memory. Many are still hidden in ancient sites around the world. In this class, we will discuss the different manifestations of violence in the past from an anthropological and archaeological perspective. For example, we will explore politicized violence and the social and cultural implications of violence in ancient societies. From human sacrifices or ritualized offerings of animals in a ceremonial context to warfare, this course discusses these and other examples that will help explore this difficult concept from an anthropological perspective. We will critically explore the reasons for and impacts of these practices based on each case. How should we conceive social violence in ancient societies? Should we judge these practices based on our modern 21st-century worldview?

Course Objectives

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

- Measure the degree of ritualized violence of ancient societies in a broader socio cultural context.
- Outline a general overview of ritual violence in the past.
- Distinguish the different forms of ritualized violence in ancient societies.
- Identify outstanding study cases of violence (human sacrifice, “sacred wars,” etc.)
- Analyze different cases around the world to determine social, political or religious implications of ritualized violence.

Required Textbooks :

Ritual Violence in the Ancient Andes (Edited by H. Klaus and M. Toyne). First Edition 2016.

Recommended Books:

Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East (A. Porter and G. Schwartz)

Important Dates:**Test and Writing Assignment Due Dates**

Assignment 1: Due on January 16th

Assignment 2: Due on January 23rd

Assignment 3: Due on January 30th

Assignment 4: Due on February 6th

MIDTERM: February 15th

Assignment 5: Due on April 14th

FINAL EXAM: April 26th

Course Schedule**Week 1****Thursday January 6th: Introduction. The Archaeology of Violence****Required readings:**

- No readings

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Kitts, Margo 2018. Elements of Ritual and Violence. Cambridge Elements. Religion and Violence (pp. 1-20).

Week 2

Tuesday January 11st: Human Sacrifice in ancient societies

Required readings:

- Schwartz, Glenn 2017. The Archaeological Study of Sacrifice. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 46: 223-240.
- Verano, John 2001. The Physical Evidence of Human Sacrifice in Ancient Peru. In *Ritual Sacrifice in Ancient Peru*, edited by Elizabeth Benson and Anita G. Cook, pp. 165-184. University of Texas Press.

Required Prep work:

- Assignment 1: Documentary: see course reserve (VPN connection required if you are not in Campus). *In Search of History. The Bloody History of Human Sacrifice*. (see canvas for assignment details). Due on Jan 16th at midnight.

Recommended readings:

- Benson, Elizabeth
2001 Why Sacrifice? In *Ritual Sacrifice in Ancient Peru*, edited by Elizabeth Benson and Anita G. Cook, pp. 1-20. University of Texas Press.

Thursday January 13th: Discussion: human sacrifice from a modern perspective

Required readings:

- Cordero 2008 Human Sacrifice Today. *Journal of Value Inquiry* 42: 203-216

Required Prep work:

- No

Recommended readings:

- Tatlock, Jason
2018 Debating the Legitimacy of Human Sacrifice in Modern Hinduism and Biblical Tradition. *Journal of Global South Studies* 35(1): 130-154.

Week 3

Tuesday January 18th: Human Sacrifice in the Americas. The Andes, Part 1

Required readings:

- Verano 2001 Moche Sacrificial Practices. Moche Art and Archaeology.
- Cordy-Collins, Alana 2001. Decapitation in Cupisnique and Early Moche Societies. In *Ritual Sacrifice in Ancient Peru*, edited by Elizabeth Benson and Anita G. Cook, pp. 21-33. University of Texas Press

Required Prep work:

- Assignment 2: Documentary: see course reserve (VPN connection required if you are not in Campus). *Moche Human Sacrifice* (see canvas for assignment details). Due on Jan 23rd at midnight.

Recommended readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 9, Verano & Phillips.

Thursday January 20th: Human Sacrifice in the Americas. The Andes, Part 1

Invited Lecturer: Dr. Celeste Gagnon. Violence in the Viru Society of the North Coast of Peru.

Required readings:

- Sutter, Richard and Verano, John. 2007. Biodistance Analysis of the Moche Sacrificial Victims from Huaca de la Luna Plaza 3C: Matrix Method Test of Their Origins. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 132: 193-206.
- Textbook, Chapter 6, Gaither et al.

Required Prep work:

- Assignment 2: Documentary: see course reserve (VPN connection required if you are not in Campus). *Moche Human Sacrifice*. (see canvas for assignment details). Due on Jan 23rd at midnight.

Recommended readings:

- Nagaoka, Tomohito, Kazuhiro Uzawa, Yuji Seki and Daniel Morales Chocano 2017 Pacopampa: Early evidence of violence at a ceremonial site in the northern Peruvian highlands. *PLoS ONE* 12(9): e0185421. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0185421>

Week 4**Tuesday January 25th: Human Sacrifice in the Americas. The Andes, Part 2****Required readings:**

- Prieto, Gabriel, John W. Verano, Nicolas Goepfert, Douglas Kennett, Jeffrey Quilter, Steven LeBlanc, Lars Fehren-Schmitz, Jannine Forst, Mellisa Lund, Brittany Dement, Elise Dufour, Olivier Tombret, Melina Calmon, Davette Gadison and Khristyne Tschinkel. 2019 A mass sacrifice of children and camelids at the Huanchaquito-Las Llamas site, Moche Valley, Peru. *PLOS ONE* 14(3):e0211691

- Reinhard, Johan and Constanza Ceruti 2005. Sacred Mountains, Ceremonial Sites, and Human Sacrifice Among the Incas. *Archaeoastronomy* XIX: 1-43.

Required Prep work:

- Assignment 3: Documentary: see course reserve (VPN connection required if you are not in Campus). *Inca mummies, secrets of a lost world* (see canvas for assignment details). Due on Jan 30th at midnight.

Recommended readings:

- Klaus, Haagen and Izumi Shimada 2016. Bodies and Blood: Middle Sican Human Sacrifice in the Lambayeque Valley Complex (AD 900-1100). In *Ritual Violence in the Ancient Andes. Reconstructing Sacrifice on the North Coast of Peru*, edited by Haagen D. Klaus and J. Marla Toyne, pp. 120-149. University of Texas Press.
- Andrushko, Valerie, Michele R. Buzon, Arminda M. Gibaja, Gordon F. McEwan, Antonio Simonetti, and Robert A. Creaser. 2011. Investigating a child sacrifice event from the Inca heartland. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 38: 323-333

Thursday January 27th: Discussion on Andean Sacrificial Practices

Discussion will focus on the readings from week 3 and Tuesday, January 25th.

Required Prep work:

- Assignment 3: Documentary: see course reserve (VPN connection required if you are not in Campus). *Inca mummies, secrets of a lost world* (see canvas for assignment details). Due on Jan 30th at midnight.

Week 5

Tuesday February 1st: Human Sacrifice in the Americas: Mesoamerica

Required readings:

- De Anda, Guillermo. 2007. Sacrifice and Ritual Body Mutilation in Postclassical Maya Society: Taphonomy of the Human Remains from Chichén Itzá's Cenote Sagrado 190. In *New Perspectives on Human Sacrifice and Ritual Body Treatments in Ancient Maya Society*, edited by Vera Tiesler, and Andrea Cucina, pp. 190-208. Springer.
- Wade 2018. Feeding the Gods. *Science* 360(6395): 1288-1292.

Required Prep work:

- Assignment 4: Documentary: see course reserve (VPN connection required if you are not in Campus). *In Search of History. Mexico's Great Pyramids* (see canvas for assignment details). Due on Feb 6th at midnight.

Recommended readings:

- Sugiyama, Saburo and Leonardo Lopez-Lujan. 2007. Dedicatory Burial/Offering Complexes at The Moon Pyramid, Teotihuacan. A Preliminary Report of 1998-2004 explorations. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 18: 127-146.

- Graulich, Michael. 2000. Aztec Human Sacrifice as Expiation. *History of Religions* 39(4): 352-371.

Thursday February 3th: Discussion on Mesoamerican Sacrificial Practices

Prepare the discussion based on readings from Tuesday.

Required Prep work:

- Assignment 4: Documentary: see course reserve (VPN connection required if you are not in Campus). *In Search of History. Mexico's Great Pyramids* (see canvas for assignment details). Due on Feb 6th at midnight.

Recommended readings:

- Schele, Linda 1984. Human Sacrifice Among the Ancient Maya. In *Ritual Human Sacrifice in Mesoamerica*, Elizabeth Benson and Elizabeth Boone, editors, pp. 7-48. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections. Washington, D.C.

Week 6

Tuesday February 8th: Human Sacrifice and Ritual Violence in the Americas: North America

Required readings:

- Ambrose, S., Jane Buikstra and Harold Krueger. 2003. Status and gender differences in diet at Mound 72, Cahokia, revealed by isotopic analysis of bone. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 22: 217-226.
- Claassen, Cheryl. 2013. Infanticide and sacrifices among Archaic babies of the central United States. *World Archaeology* 45(2): 298-313.

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Thompson, Andrew R., Kristin Hedman, and Philip A. Slater. 2015. New Dental and Isotope Evidence of Biological Distance and Place of Origin for Mass Burial Groups at Cahokia's Mound 72. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 158:341-357.

Thursday February 10th: Discussion on North American Ritual Violence and Human Sacrifice.

Invited Lecturer: Dr. Richard Chacon on North American ritual violence.

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- See above.

Week 7

Tuesday February 15th:

Midterm!

Thursday February 17th:

Film in class: The Sacred Groves

Week 8

Tuesday February 22nd: Human Sacrifice: The Old World, a synthesis

Required readings:

- Baadsgaard, Aubrey, Janet Monge and Richard L. Zettler. 2012. Bludgeoned, Burned, and Beautified: Reevaluating Mortuary Practices in the Royal Cemetery of Ur. In *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Anne Porter and Glenn Schwartz, pp. 125-158. Eisenbrauns.
- Campbell, Roderick. 2012. On Sacrifice: An Archaeology of Shang Sacrifice. In *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Anne Porter and Glenn Schwartz, pp. 305-324. Eisenbrauns.

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Pongratz-Leisten 2012. Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East: Offering and Ritual Killing. In *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Anne Porter and Glenn Schwartz, pp. 291-304. Eisenbrauns.
- Rundin, John 2004. Pozo Moro, Child Sacrifice and the Greek Legendary Tradition. JBL 123(3): 425-447.

Thursday February 24th: Discussion on Ritual Violence and Human Sacrifice in the Old World

Use readings from Tuesday.

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Bonfante, Larissa 2016. Human Sacrifices and Taboos in Antiquity: Notes on an Etruscan Funerary Urn.

Week 9

Tuesday March 1st: Warfare and Ritual Violence

Required readings:

- Chacon, R. and R. Mendoza (2007). Introduction. In North American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence.
- Nielsen, Axel and W. Walker. 2009. Introduction. In Warfare in Cultural Context.

Required Prep work:

No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Chacon, Richard and Ruben Mendoza. 2007. Ethical Considerations and Conclusions Regarding Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence in Latin America,

Thursday March 3th: Discussion on Warfare and Ritual Violence in the Andean Region

Invited Lecturer: Mg. Jordi A. Rivera (UFL). From the trenches: current studies on warfare, the North Coast of Peru. Video conference from the University of Trujillo Lab, livestream via Zoom of Rivera's current analysis on human bones.

Required Prep work:

No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Same as Tuesday.

Week 10

NO CLASSES THIS WEEK! SPRING BREAK, ENJOY!

Week 11**Tuesday March 15th: Warfare and Ritual Violence in the Old World****Required readings:**

- The Archaeology of Violence, Chapter 2
- The Archaeology of Violence, Chapter 3
- The Archaeology of Violence, Chapter 5

Required Prep work:

- No assignment this week

Recommended readings:

- The Archaeology of Violence, Chapter 6
- The Archaeology of Violence, Chapter 8.

Thursday March 17th: Discussion on Ritual Violence and Old World Warfare

Open discussion on warfare and ritual violence in the Old World

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Recommended Textbook, Chapter 9.

Week 12

Tuesday March 22nd: Warfare and Ritual Violence in the Americas

Required readings:

- Arkush, Elizabeth (2009). Warfare, space and identity in the South-Central Andes: constraints and choices. In *Warfare in Cultural Context*.
- Cobb, Charles and Bretton Giles. 2009. War is Shell: The Ideology and Embodiment of Mississippian Conflict. In *Warfare in Cultural Context*.

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Thursday March 24th: Discussion on Warfare and Ritual Violence in the Americas

Readings from Tuesday and recommended readings

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Billman, Brian, Patricia M. Lambert and Banks L. Leonard. 2000. Cannibalism, Warfare, and Drought in the Mesa Verde Region during the Twelfth Century. *American Antiquity* 65(1): 145-178.
- Turner, Christy and Nancy T. Morris. 1970. A Massacre at Hopi. *American Antiquity* 35(3): 320-331

Week 13

Tuesday March 29th: Ritual Violence on Animals and its sacred nature

Required readings:

- Goslinga, Gillian. 2012. On Cakti-Filled Bodies and Divinities: An Ethnographic Perspective on Animal Sacrifice and Ritual in Contemporary South India. In *The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Anne Porter and Glenn Schwartz, pp. 33-56. Eisenbrauns.

- Bowker, John. 1986. Introduction: Religions and the Rights of Animals. In *Animal Sacrifices: Religious Perspectives on the Use of Animals in Science*. Edited by Tom Regan, pp. 3-14. Philadelphia, Temple University Press.

Required Prep work:

No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- Ekroth, Gunnel. 2017. Bare Bones: Zooarchaeology and Greek Sacrifice. In *Animal Sacrifice in the Ancient Greek World*, edited by Sarah Hitch, pp. 15-47. Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Ian Rutherford, University of Reading. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Thursday March 31st

No class today: Annual Meeting, Society for American Archaeology (Chicago, March 30th – April 3rd)

Required Prep work:

No assignments this week.

Week 14

Tuesday April 5th: Sanctified Violence

Required readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 2, Hamilton
- Textbook, Chapter 4, Chicoine
- Textbook, Chapter 14, Tung

Required Prep work:

- No assignment this week.

Recommended readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 12, Szpak et al.

Thursday April 7th: Discussion on Sanctified Violence

Readings from Tuesday

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Week 15

Tuesday April 12th: Student Forum: Presentations. Violence in the Past

Instructions: Three (3) group presentations.

Themes: TBA

Thursday April 14th: Student Forum: Presentations. Violence in the Past

Instructions: One (1) group presentation.

Themes: TBA

Week 16

Tuesday April 19th: Final Class: A Violent Past?

Final discussion What is the best way to understand violence in ancient societies? Why it matters?

Thursday April 21st: Reading Day

No class.

Week 17

Tuesday April 26th: Final Exam

Final Exam.

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.

To learn more, please visit: <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.

- Grading in this class is consistent with UF policies available at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/> (Links to an external site.)
- *Assignment Values: Point values/percentages for each assignment are available in the List of Graded Work page*
- Policy on Late and Make-up Work: All grades in this course are earned throughout the semester. They are 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.
- Grade Return Timing: Grades will be available within two weeks of submission (assignments and exams)
- Point Range for this Class:

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%

For more information, please visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grade weights:

Attendance: 20%

Assignments: 20%

Midterm: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Online Course Evaluation Process:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. 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 <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601.

Career assistance and counseling services. Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138.

Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information. On-Line Students.