

**Early Complex Societies**  
ANT4930 / 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: 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:**

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

Wednesday, January 12<sup>nd</sup>: The 19<sup>th</sup> century approach: Morgan and Lubbock

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

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

Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mesopotamia: cities, accounts, and laws  
Urbanism and territoriality

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

Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>: 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 23<sup>rd</sup>: Erlitou and Shang: oracles, monumental burials and the power of written bones.  
The importance of craft production.  
Food production

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

Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>: SPRING BREAK!

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>: 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 20<sup>th</sup>: Moche & Nasca: cities? Ceremonial centers, art and ritualized violence.  
Moche cities and Nasca ceremonial centers  
Craft production  
Political terror? and sanctified violence

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>: 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/](http://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](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**