

The Archaeology of Violence
ANT4930 / 3A50 Class # 21538
Tuesday: 12:50 – 2:45 pm/ TUR 2346
Thursday: 12:50-1:40pm/TUR 2333
Academic Term: Spring 2023

Instructor:

Gabriel Prieto

Email Address: ogabriel.prietob@ufl.edu

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

Location: B350, Turlington Hall

Course Description

Credit Hours: ANT4930: 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.

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 22nd

Assignment 2: Due on January 29th

Assignment 3: Due on February 5th

Assignment 4: Due on February 12th

MIDTERM: February 21st

FINAL EXAM: May 1st

Course Schedule**Week 1****Tuesday January 10th: Introduction. The Archaeology of Violence****Required readings:**

- Ralph, Sarah (2013). Introduction: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Study of Violence
- Kitts, Margo 2018. Elements of Ritual and Violence. Cambridge Elements. Religion and Violence (pp. 1-20).

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- No readings this week.

Thursday January 12th: Discussion: Violence: an archaeological and anthropological approach**Required readings:**

- Ralph, Sarah (2013). Introduction: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Study of Violence
- Kitts, Margo 2018. Elements of Ritual and Violence. Cambridge Elements. Religion and Violence (pp. 1-20).

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- No readings this week.

Week 2**Tuesday January 17th: Human Sacrifice in ancient societies****Required readings:**

Archaeology of Ritual Violence, ANT 4930
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- 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 22nd 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 19th: Discussion: contemporary Human Sacrifice, how to interpret it?

Required readings:

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

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 22nd at midnight.

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 24th: 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 29th at midnight.

Recommended readings:

- Textbook, Chapter 9, Verano & Phillips.

Thursday January 26th: Discussion: The Motivations and Ideological/Political reasons of Moche Human Sacrifice**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 29th 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 31st: 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 February 5th 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 February 2nd: Discussion on Andean Sacrificial Practices

Invited Lecturer: TBD

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 February 5th at midnight.

Week 5

Tuesday February 7th: 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 12th 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 9th: 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 12th 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 14th: 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 16th: Discussion on North American Ritual Violence and Human Sacrifice.

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Recommended readings:

- See above.

Week 7

Tuesday February 21st:

Midterm!

Thursday February 23rd:

Film in class: The Sacred Groves

Week 8

Tuesday February 28th: 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 March 2nd: 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 7th: 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 9th: Discussion on Warfare and Ritual Violence**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 21st: 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 23rd: 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 28th: Massacres

Required readings:

- Anderson, Cheryl and Debra L. Martin 2018; Introduction to Massacres; Fleischman et al. 2018 Khmer Rouge Regime Massacres: Skeletal Evidence of Violent Trauma in Cambodia; De Vore et al. 2018 Rethinking Massacres: A Bioarchaeological and Phorensic Investigation of Prehistorioc Multiple Burilas in the Tennessee River Valley.

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Thursday March 30th: NO CLASS TODAY! TRIP TO PORTLAND, SAA ANNUAL MEETING

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 April 4th: Ritual Violence on Animals and its sacred nature

Required readings:

- Goslinga, Gillian. 2012. On Cakti-Filled Bodies and Divinities: An Ethnogrphic 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 April 6th

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 11st: 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 13th: Discussion on Sanctified Violence

Readings from Tuesday

Required Prep work:

- No assignments this week.

Week 15

Tuesday April 18th: Structural Violence

Required readings:

- Klaus, Haagen (2012) The Bioarchaeology of Structural Violence: A theoretical Model and a Case Study
- Tung, Tiffany (2021) Making and Marking Maleness and Valorizing Violence. A Bioarchaeological Analysis of Embodiment in the Andean Past.

Required Prep work:

- No assignment this week.

Thursday April 20th: Structural Violence: Discussion

Required readings:

- Same as Tuesday

Required Prep work:

- No assignment this week.

Week 16

Tuesday April 25th: Student Forum: Presentations

Instructions: Three (4) group presentations.

Themes: TBA

Thursday April 27th: Reading Day

No class.

Week 17

Tuesday May 1st: 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. 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.bluer.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