

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

ANT-2140 (8605)

Spring 2012 (Little 109)

Class Time: T (7): 1:55-2:45; TH (7/8): 1:55-3:50

Instructor: Michael Heckenberger

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Office Hours: T:12:30-1:30; TH: 11:45-1:45;

TA: Meghann O'Brien (mco75e@ufl.edu): office hours : tba

TA : Scott McCrae (smacrae@ufl.edu); office hours : tba

Summary Description: Discussion of archaeological evidence for the development of civilization in its regional variants from the earliest beginning to the dawn of written history. Course analyzes causes of cultural development in Old and New World Centers.

Course Objectives: This course is about the global study of human culture from its origins to the recent times through the recovery, description, and analysis of archaeological remains. The main focus of the course will be to understand the richness of human societies in the context of their spatial variation in the landscape and depth of time that the study of the archaeological record offers. The course examines the expansion of human beings in their appropriation of space and territories until they colonized every niche of the globe. It then addresses how the inventions and innovations of technologies had and have a direct effect on the rise of civilizations and territorial expansion of humans. First, it explores what the domestication of plants and animals meant for different societies around the planet, and the consequence of food production or agriculture in terms of the demographics of the world. Secondly, it examines pre-Industrial complex societies, which sometimes developed into full-blown early states with fully developed writing systems, standing armies, taxation, state-related religions (such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, Mesoamerica and Peru), and in other places represent socio-historical formations with only weakly developed states, small-scale urbanism and lacking writing or state-related religions (such as in the Pacific, North America, temperate Europe, and North America). The course will pay special attention to the meaning of human population growth in relation to the planet's resources, and what is the relationship between humans and the environment in the process of colonization and appropriation of spaces in time. This basic knowledge will be built by using cases that illustrate the arguments presented, and these will give the general basis to more detailed studies of the meaning of our actions on a global scale in the past and in the present. As actors in the past and present, we shape the environment and transform the ways that we live and continue changing the world.

Required Reading:

Douglas Price and Gary Feinman. 2009. *Images of the Past*, 6th Edition; McGraw-Hill (ISBN-10: 0073531057)

Course Outline:

01/10: Introduction

01/12: Anthropological Archaeology 1

01/17: Anthropological Archaeology 2 (chapter 1)
 01/19: Earliest Humans (chapter 2 & 3)
 01/24: Cultural Transformations (chapter 4 & 5)
 01/26: Agricultural Origins: SW Asia (Chapter 6)
 01/31: Agricultural Origins: Asia, America, and the Tropics (Chapter 6)
 02/02: Review
 02/07: FIRST EXAM

02/09: Rise of Social Complexity (pp. 501-505)
 02/14: Holocene Europe (Chapter 11:511-528)
 02/16: Pacific, SE Asia and Africa (10:488-500)
 02/21: North America (Chapter 7)
 02/23: Amazon (no readings)
 02/28: Review
 03/01: SECOND EXAM

03/03-10 Spring Break

03/13: SW Asia (Chapter 10: 437-461)
 03/15: Egypt (Chapter 10:462-474)
 03/20: East Asia (Chapter 10:475-487)
 03/22: Film: China
 03/27: The Mediterranean World (Chapter 11:532-560)
 03/29: Mesoamerica (Chapter 8)
 04/03: Film: Peru
 04/05: South America (Chapter 9)
 04/10: Film: Amazon
 04/12: Tropical Urbanism (no readings)
 04/17: Conclusions: Archaeologies of the Future (no readings; not on exam)
 04/19: Review
 04/24: THIRD EXAM

Evaluation: Course grades are based on three non-cumulative on-line exams (there is no final exam), each worth a total of 100 points. Exams are composed of 40 multiple choice questions. Exam questions are drawn from instructor lectures and sections AND readings. One exam question will be related to each film shown and commented on in class. Make-up exams will be allowed only with signed documentation of medical or other emergency situations only. Attendance is expected.

Grades assigned as follows:

A	≥ 90%
A-	87-89.9%
B+	85-86.9%
B	80-84.9%
B-	77-79.9%
C+	75-76.9%

C	70-74.9%
C-	67-69.9%
D+	65-66.9%
D	60-64.9%
D-	57-59.9%
E	< 56.9%

Please note that there are new policies for calculating grade point averages. See <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> for details. Also note that a grade of C- does not count for credit in major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or college basic distribution credit (for further information regarding minus grades go to: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>).

Academic Honesty, Student Responsibilities, Student Conduct Code: Students are required to do their own work on exams. The penalty for cheating is to receive no points for that exam and the incident will be reported to the Student Honor Court. The student is responsible to review the UF Student Responsibilities Guidelines, available online.

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who then must provide this documentation to the instructor.