

Fall 2007

ANT 2140 (sections 6964, 6968, 6970, 6976, 6979, 6980)
Introduction to World Archaeology

Lecturer: Dr. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo

Lecture sessions: Tuesday (12:50-2:45) and Thursday (1:55-2:45)
Meeting Location: L005

Office: Turlington B131

Office hours: T: 10 am-12 a.m. and by appointment.

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TA: Jeremy Pye

TA Office:

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TA: Erika Sabine Roberts

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Office hours: 12:50-2:50 Monday

12:50-1:50 Wednesday

<i>Lab sessions</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>period</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>TA</i>
<i>Tur (B357)</i>			<i>Begins</i>	<i>Ends</i>	
6964	Monday	5	11:45	12:35	Roberts
6968	Monday	8	3:00	3:50	Roberts
6970	Wednesday	5	11:45	12:35	Roberts
6976	Thursday	4	10:40	11:30	Pye
6979	Thursday	5	11:45	12:35	Pye
6980	Thursday	6	12:50	1:40	Pye

This course is about the global study of human culture from its origins to the present-day 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. We will explore the expansion of human beings in their appropriation of space and territories until they colonized every niche of the globe. We will examine how the inventions and innovations of technologies had and have a direct effect on the rise of civilizations and territorial expansion of humans. We will answer what the domestication of plants and animals meant for different societies around the planet, and what was the consequence of food production or agriculture in terms of the demographics of the world. We will explore 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 way that we live and continue changing the world.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To understand some of the basic principles of human evolutionary change in terms of its social, political, economic and material diversification on a global scale.
- 2) To learn of the richness of the world's archaeological record in order to help us understand our past history.
- 3) To understand the structural significance of the archaeological record that allows for the comparative study of past global changes.
- 4) To recognize the structural similarities and differences that shaped the development of major civilizations around the world.
- 5) To understand some of the explanations on the causes of the development of complex societies involved in issues like the origins of food production, the invention of technology, the rise of the urban way of life, and other topics that are relevant for comprehending our place on the planet.
- 6) To gain a perspective on the archaeological past and the dynamics of change of societies toward the future.
- 7) To learn the basic principles of archaeological research.
- 8) To learn how to collect and evaluate basic archaeological data.
- 9) To built interpretations and testing of hypotheses of past societies.

Textbooks:

Chazan, Michael. 2007. *World Prehistory and Archaeology*. Allyn and Bacon.

EVALUATION: Class attendance (10%), lab attendance (10%), class lab assignments (20%), two exams (each 20%), final exam (20%).

GRADE SYSTEM:

A= 90-100 %

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

F= Below 59

Assignments: You are expected to do the following:

- 1) Read the assigned material BEFORE coming to class. Many students have difficulty understanding the lectures because they do not familiarize themselves with the material prior to class. Do NOT be one of these students.

- 2) Participate actively in the discussions of the reading material.
- 3) Participate actively in the lab discussions.
- 4) Write reports of the lab assignments.

Disclaimer: Some adjustments may be made in the schedule and class requirements during the course of the semester. All changes will be announced.

ATTENDANCE is required. Final grades will be reduced one grade level for two unjustified absences from the class, **or** one from the lab. Students who are unable to come to class or the lab on a regular basis due to special circumstances should see the instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss such circumstances. Finally, please avoid at all costs coming in or walking out of the classroom or the lab in the middle of lectures. This is most rude and disruptive.

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Week 1. Introduction to the course

Week 2. Introduction to archaeology . Read chapter 1

Week 3. History of archaeology. Read chapter 2

PART II: HUMAN EVOLUTION

Week 4. Early Hominids and the origins of humans. Read chapters 3 and 4

Week 5. Modern Humans. Read chapter 5

Week 6. The Human Diaspora. Read chapter 6

First Exam, Class on Thursday

Week 7. The rise of sedentism, villages and the origins of agriculture in the Middle East. Read chapter 7

**Week 8. The origins of sedentism, agriculture and complexity in the Americas.
Read chapter 8**

Week 9. Complexity around the world. Read chapter 9

Week 10. Complexity without the state. Read chapter 10

Week 11. Urban states. Read chapter 11

Second Exam, Class on Thursday.

Week 12. Enigmatic states. Read chapter 12

Week 13. Empires. Read chapter 13

Week 14. Conclusion

Week 15. Classes end.

Week 16. Final exam