

PYRAMIDS AND PALACES ARCHAEOLOGY OF "COMPLEX" SOCIETIES



FALL 2002

CLASS PERIOD -- M, W, F 9:10 - 10:10
PROFESSOR -- Susan Kus
OFFICE -- 105 Clough

CLASSROOM-- 206 Palmer
OFFICE HOURS – M, F 1-2, Th 8:30 – 9:30
or by appointment

COURSE STATEMENT

To be a good archaeologist one must be a combination of a rigorous scientist, a clever detective and a sensitive humanist. The major challenge of archaeology is to piece together a story of past societies from minimal and often badly preserved material evidence in much the same way that Sherlock Holmes reconstructed past activities at the scene of a crime. However, rather than pursuing arch-villains, archaeologists are pursuing the roots of our cultural and social heritage. This is why an archaeologist is also motivated by a need to understand what it is to be human and to understand how it is we got to where we are today, culturally and socially speaking. As the famous British archaeologist, Sir Mortimer Wheeler said:

In a simple direct sense, archaeology is a science that must be lived, must be 'seasoned with humanity.' Dead archaeology is the driest dust that blows.

This course is intended to be an introduction to the methods and theories of anthropological archaeology. This course will also explore current explanations and available data on two classic problem foci of archaeology: the origins of plant and animal domestication and settled life in the Old and the New World, and the origins of early states and urban centers in such areas of the world as Egypt, Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica and South America.

The following love song was written in Egypt some time between 1300-1200 B.C. and is dedicated to the original city of Memphis.

My boat sails downstream
In time to the strokes of the oarsmen.

A bunch of reeds is on my shoulder,
And I am traveling to Memphis, "Life of the Two Lands."
And I shall say to the god Ptah, Lord of Truth:
"Give me my fair one tonight."

The god Ptah is her tuft of reeds,
The goddess Sekhmet is her posy of blossoms,
The goddess Earit is her budding lotus,

The god Nefertum is her blooming flower.
My love will be happy!
The dawn irradiates her beauty.

Memphis is a crop of pomegranates,
Placed before the god with the handsome countenance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance is required. Besides assigned readings, this course will require the completion of a "virtual archaeological field season of survey and excavation" (Fugawiland), the completion of a series of 7 short exercises, participation in class discussion, the possible viewing of films outside regularly scheduled class time, (possibly a field trip), a final book report and three exams.

The failure to successfully complete any of the assignments or exams will result in a failing grade for the course. Unexcused absences can significantly lower your grade and chronic absences (3 or more unexcused absences for instance) will result in a failing grade for the course.

Final report topics are to be approved by **October 23** and the final papers are to be handed in on **December 2**. You will be asked to give a brief summary of your final paper to the class.

Incompletes are not normally given in this class. In the rare case where an incomplete may be in order, the student must obtain permission from the instructor and complete all paper work for the Registrar before the day of the final exam.

GRADING

Fugawiland exercise.....	10%
7 Exercises @ 5% each.....	30%
(failure to complete any exercises is grounds for failure in the course lowest grade will be dropped)	
Exam I	10%
Exam II	10%
Final Exam	20%
Final paper.....	15%
Class Participation and Discussion	5%

REQUIRED READINGS

BASIC TEXTS

Thomas, D.H. Archaeology

Praetzellis, A. Death by Theory

Price, T. D. & A. Gebauer Adventures in Fugawiland (3rd edition)

Price, T. D. & G. Feinman Images of the Past

RESERVE READING

Lee, Richard "The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari," in *Conformity and Conflict*, 10th edition. (James. Spradley & David McCurdy eds.) Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000, pp. 103-117.

Diamond, Jared "The worst mistake in the history of the human race." Discover, May, 1987, pp. 64-66.

Snyder, Gary "Re-inhabitation" The Old Ways San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1977. pp. 57-66.

Brumfiel, Elizabeth "Weaving and Cooking: Women's Production in Aztec Mexico," Engendering Archaeology (Joan Gero & Margaret Conkey, eds.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1992, pp. 224-251.

DATE**LECTURE TOPIC ---READING AND ASSIGNMENTS**

(readings are to be completed on or before the assigned date)

- Wed Aug 28 *Introduction to the course*
 Exercise 1: Materiality and "being in the world" handed out (due Wed Sep 4)
- Fri Aug 30 *History of Prehistory*
 READ Thomas (Preface, Ch 1), Fugawiland (Intro, Chs. 1 & 2)

- Mon Sep 2 **LABOR DAY RECESS**
 Wed Sep 4 *Archaeological reasoning*
 NOTE: Exercise 1 due
 READ Thomas (Ch 2), Fugawiland (Chs.3-4),
- Fri Sep 6 *Archaeology as anthropology*
 READ Fugawiland (Chs. 5-8)

- Mon Sep 9 **CLASS DISCUSSION OF FUGAWILAND and DEATH BY THEORY**
 Bring questions about Fugawiland to class.
READ Praetzellis (1-4)
- For next class session (Wed Sep 11)** (1) complete exercises on pp. 94-102 and (2) Work out excavation strategy (102-103).

- Wed Sep 11 *Space, time and form*
 READ Thomas (Ch 5)
 NOTE: discuss Fugawiland exercises pp. 94-102 and excavation strategy, do exercises on pp. 103-112 for next time.
- Fri Sep 13 *Archaeological fieldwork*
 NOTE: discuss Fugawiland exercise pp. 103-112; final report on Fugawiland is due Mon. Sept 16

- Mon Sep 16 *Archaeological Fieldwork (cont.)*
 FILM: Other peoples' garbage
 NOTE: Fugawiland final report due;
 Exercise 2 Seriation handed out (due Fri Sept 20)
- Wed Sep 18 *Chronological control*
 READ Thomas (Chs 3 & 4)
 NOTE: Exercise 3 "Forensic Anthropology" handed out and will be completed in class on Friday Sept 20
- Fri Sept 20 *In class completion of Exercise 3*
 READ Thomas (Chs. 3 & 4), Praetzellis (5-6)
 NOTE: Exercise 2 due

- Mon Sep 23 *Archaeological Analysis and MIDDLE RANGE THEORY; continue discussion of Death by Theory*
 READ Thomas (Ch 6) -- please be sure to read this chapter with your full attention
 NOTE: Exercise 4 "Analysis of material culture" handed out (Due Mon Sep 30)
- Wed Sep 25 *Death by Theory Discussion*
 READ Praetzellis (7-9)
- Fri Sep 27 *Analysis of Material culture*
 READ Thomas (7 & 8)

Mon Sep 30	<i>Archaeological Analysis</i> NOTE: <u>Exercise 4</u> will be presented in class
Wed Oct 2	<i>Archaeological Analysis (cont.)</i> FILM: The Iceman
Fri Oct 4	Exam I (take home, due Wednesday Oct 9)
Mon Oct 7	<i>What it is to be human and High points of early human prehistory</i> READ P&F (2,3) (you are to read the chapters but you will <u>not</u> be responsible for this material on the next exam)
Wed Oct 9	<i>Upper Palaeolithic</i> READ P&F (4) (you are to read the chapter but you will <u>not</u> be responsible for this material on the next exam) <u>Exercise 5:</u> 'Archaeology on the Web' handed out (due Fri Oct 18)
Fri Oct 11	<i>Post-Pleistocene adaptations</i> READ P&F (5)
Mon Oct 14	<i>Domestication, sedentism, social organization</i> READ Lee*, Diamond* NOTE Film to be shown in the evening, "The Search for the First Americans"
Wed Oct 16	<i>Old World – Early food production</i> READ P&F (pp. 196-235)
Fri Oct 18	<i>OW (cont.)</i> NOTE: <u>Exercise 5</u> due; <u>Exercise 6</u> assigned "Archaeological Illustration" (due Mon Oct 28);
Mon Oct 21	FALL RECESS
Wed Oct 23	<i>OW (cont.)</i> FINAL BOOK REPORT TOPIC APPROVED BY TODAY
Fri Oct 25	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Mon Oct 28	<i>New World – Early food production</i> READ P&F (pp. 236-255) and Thomas (pp. 271-289)
Wed Oct 30	<i>NW (cont.)</i> NOTE <u>Exercise 6</u> due, <u>Exercise 7</u> handed out (due Mon Nov. 25)
Fri Nov 1	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ P&F (7)
Mon Nov 4	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ Thomas (Ch 9)
Wed Nov 6	<i>State origins</i> READ Thomas (pp. 287-299)
Fri Nov 8	<i>State Origins (cont.)</i> READ Snyder*
Mon Nov 11	<i>Exam 2- in class (covers transition to post-Pleistocene foraging, domestication and sedentism)</i>
Wed Nov 13	<i>Old World - Civilizations</i> READ P&F (10)
Fri Nov 15	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Mon Nov 18	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Wed Nov 20	<i>New World - Civilizations</i> READ P&F (8); Thomas (Ch 11)
Fri Nov 22	(American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings) Film: "Maya Lords of the Jungle"

Mon Nov 25	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ Thomas (Ch. 12), Brumfiel* NOTE <u>Exercise 7</u> due
Wed Nov 27	THANKSGIVING RECESS
Fri Nov 29	THANKSGIVING RECESS
Mon Dec 2	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ P&F (9) NOTE Final Book report due
Wed Dec 4	<i>NW (cont.)</i> Film "The Incas"
Fri Dec 6	<i>Book reports – class presentations</i>
Mon Dec 9	<i>Book reports – class discussion</i>
Wed Dec 11	<i>Concluding remarks</i>

FINAL EXAM -- Saturday December 14, 8:30-11 a.m.

FINAL PAPERS

A/S 208 Palaces and Pyramids: Archaeology of Early States
Fall 2000

Suggested length for this paper is 6-8 pages. The core of the paper will focus on a recent book-length professional publication in archaeology and should concern a topic, a culture and/or a region that is of personal interest to you. The book should be chosen in consultation with me. The paper should follow the style guide for the journal, American Antiquity, which is to be found in Volume 57, no. 4, October 1992 at the end of the issue. You can also find the American Anthropological Association Style Guide (in most cases this is virtually identical to the American Antiquity style guide) on the Web site of the Writing Center of Rhodes College. **You will be penalized if you do not conform to such style guidelines.**

Papers should conform roughly to the following outline:

I Introduction: What is the question or issue in prehistory that you are addressing? Why is the question or issue of interest in terms of our understanding of human development and/or the nature of cultural behavior and/or the nature of archaeological research? If applicable, what is the way researchers have gone about trying to answer or study the question or issue (e.g., methods, information sources, basic assumptions)?

II Book Report: This section should be a lengthy resume and critical discussion of the book upon which you have focused your attention. If you are reading a book written by a single author or a co-authored book, you should discuss the thesis, organization, etc. of the work. If you are reading an edited volume you should include both a discussion of the overarching and unifying theme of the book as well as a brief discussion of the individual articles in the book.

III Extended Conclusion (several paragraphs): As part of your final remarks add some personal statement on what you learned in researching your topic. That is, have you learned anything interesting about archaeology and archaeologists while doing this paper?

* Your ability to integrate into this discussion what you have learned in class from lectures, discussions and readings will play a critical role in the grading of this paper.

You should have a topic chosen and **approved by Wed Oct 23rd**.

The papers are **due Monday Dec 2**. Keep a copy of your paper for use in class presentations beginning **Friday, December 9th**.