

A/S 107
Becoming Human: Archaeology and the Origins of Culture
Fall 1988

Lecture: MWF 12:40-1:40

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Office Hours: Wed. 2-4pm,

Thurs. 12:50-2:30 or by appt.

How did humans and humanity evolve? What were the lifeways of peoples in the prehistoric past – 5000, 12,000, 100,000, several million years ago? In this course we explore these questions through an examination of the coevolution of humans and culture, as evidenced through the archaeological record.

In the first section (5 weeks) we will explore the theoretical and methodological approaches used in anthropological archaeology. In the second half of the course, we will study how these approaches have been applied to understanding the past, beginning with the first evidence of culture approximately five million years ago up to the beginnings of plant and animal domestication, sedentarization and the beginnings of complex society.

Archaeology is of great interest to the general public and recent discoveries and new interpretations (whether scientifically grounded or not) appear frequently in the news on TV, as well as in magazines, films, newspapers, tabloids, etc. We will begin class every **Friday** with a discussion of recent media coverage of archaeology, both what has been presented and whether or not it accords well with our scientific understandings of archaeology. Please bring materials with you and be prepared to present them!

Course Requirements

Class attendance is required. You are responsible for completing all assigned readings, several short exercises, and participating in class discussions. In addition, there are three exams throughout the semester, and a research paper.

Book Review/ Research Paper

You may pursue one of two options for your research paper this semester. Either you may write a formal book review or a research paper on a specific topic of interest to you that falls within the scope of this course. We will discuss both of these options in class, as well as potential ideas for papers. The final product should be between 12-20 pages long.

Grading:

Exercises 25%

Exam I	15%
Exam II	15%
Exam III	15%
Review/ Paper	20%
<u>Class Participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

You must complete all assignments to pass the course. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission. If you must reschedule exams, etc. for religious or personal reasons, you must make arrangements with me in advance. (Please Note that participation counts for 10% of your grade – you therefore cannot earn an ‘A’ in this course without regularly participating in discussion.)

Required Readings

All assigned readings are required and should be read by class time on the date listed on the class schedule below. These include two textbooks, one workbook and a collection of reserve articles.

Textbooks

David H. Thomas, 1991, Archaeology: Down To Earth. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

T. Douglas Price and Gary M. Feinman, 1997, Images of the Past, (second edition). Mountain View, CA.:Mayfield Publishing Company.

T. Douglas Price and Ann Birgitte Gebauer, 1997, Adventures in Fugawiland: A Computer Simulation in Archaeology, (second edition). Mountain View, CA.: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Coursepack Readings

Bates, Marston

“On Being Human,” in *Gluttons and Libertines*, Chapter 1, pp. 3-17.

Binford, Sally R. & Lewis R. Binford

“Stone Tools and Human Behavior,” in *Scientific American*, April 1969, Vol. 220, #4, pp. 70-84.

Glassie, Henry

“Vernacular Architecture and Society,” in *Mirror & Metaphor* by D.W. Ingersoll, Jr. & G. Bronitsky, Chapter 11, pp. 229-245.

Deetz, James F. & E.S. Dethlefsen

“Death’s Head, Cherub, Urn and Willow.”

Diamond, Jared

“The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race,” in *Discover*, May 1987, pp. 64-66.

Early, Ann M.

“Profiteers and Public Archaeology: Antiquities Trafficking in Arkansas,” in *The Ethics of Collecting Cultural Property*, pp. 39-50.

Fowler, Melvin

“A Pre-Columbian Urban Center on the Mississippi.”

Gero, Joan

“Genderlithics: Women’s Roles in Stone Tool Production.”

Gladkih, M.I. & N.L. Kornietz & O. Soffer

“Mammoth-Bone Dwellings on the Russian Plain,” in *Scientific American*, Nov. , 1984, Vol. 251, #5, pp. 164-175.

Hill, James

“A Prehistoric Community in Eastern Arizona,” in *Contemporary Archaeology* by Mark P. Leone, pp. 320-332.

Lancaster, J.B. & P. Whitten

“Sharing in Human Evolution ,” in *Anthropology: Contemporary Perspectives*, Chapter 8, pp. 51-55.

Lee, Richard B.

“What Hunters Do for a Living, or, How to Make Out on Scarce Resources,” pp. 30-47.

Nelson, Sarah M.

“Diversity of the Upper Paleolithic “Venus” Figurines and Archeological Mythology,” in *Powers of Observation: Alternative Views in Archeology*, pp. 11-22.

Sharp, Lauriston

“Steel Axes for Stone-Age Australians,” pp. 272-279.

Snyder, Gary

“Re-Inhabitation,” in *The Old Ways* by Gary Snyder, pp. 57-66.

Trinkaus, Erik & Pat Shipman

“Created in Our Own Image 1984-1991,” in *The Neanderthals: Changing the Image of Mankind*, Chapter 10, pp. 384-410.

Watson, P.J. & M.C. Kennedy

“The Development of Horticulture in the Eastern Woodlands of North America: Women’s Role,” in *Engendering Archaeology* by J.M.Gero & M.W. Conkey, pp. 255-275

Course Schedule

I. Theories and Methods in Anthropological Archaeology

Aug	26	Introduction	
	28	Historical background: the development of Archaeology in Read: Thomas, Prologue and Ch.1, pp. 1-32 Adventures in Fugawiland, Introduction and Ch. 1 & 2	
Aug	31	Archaeology and Anthropology: some basic concepts and Read: *Hill, *Nelson Adventures in Fugawiland, Ch. 3 & 4	goals
Sept	2	Archaeology and Anthropology: some basic concepts and Read: Thomas, Ch. 2, pp. 33-58, Adventures in Fugawiland, Ch. 5–8.	goals,
	4	Meet in the Computer Center for class (212 Buckman Hall). Read: Thomas Ch. 3, *Sharp Complete exercises on pp. 84-92 in Adventures in Fugawiland; work out research strategy with your research partner.	
Sept	7	No Class – Labor Day	
	9	Space, time and form: discuss excavation in class Read: Thomas Ch. 4 & 5	
	11	Archaeological Fieldwork	
Sept	14	Archaeological Fieldwork, continued. Film: “Other People’s Garbage” Read: *Deetz and Dethlefsen	
	16	How old is it? Fugawiland Final report due today!	
	18	Archaeological analysis Read: Thomas Ch. 6, *Glassie	

- Sept 21 **Film “Iceman”**
Seriation exercise due today!
 23 Archaeological analysis, cont.
 25 Archaeological analysis, cont.
“Material Culture” exercise due today!

- Sept 28 **EXAM I**
 29 Reconstructing past lifeways: diet and environment

Read: Thomas, Ch. 7, *Bates

FILM in Media Center – 6 – 7pm (Leakey #1)

- Oct 2 Reconstructing past lifeways: social organization

Read: Thomas, Ch. 8

Research or Review Proposal due Today.

II. The Human Past: Highlights in World History

- Oct 5 The Pleistocene

FILM in Media Center – 6 – 8pm (Leakey #2-3)

- 7 Lower Pleistocene: Human origins

Read: *Lancaster and Whitten

- 9 Lower Pleistocene: Human origins, cont.

Read: Price and Feinman, Ch. 1

- Oct 12 Lower Pleistocene: Human origins, cont.

“Archaeology and the Web” exercise due Today!

FILM in Media Center – 6 – 7pm (Leakey #4)

- 14 Middle Pleistocene: Homo erectus expansion

[Begin Armchair archaeology project with “Reindeer Moon”: Due Nov. 2]

- 16 Middle Pleistocene, cont.

Read: Price and Feinman, Ch. 2, *Binford and Binford

- Oct 19 No Class – Fall Recess

- 21 Upper Pleistocene: Neanderthals and the emergence of modern humans

Read: Ch. 3, pp. 74-97, *Trinkaus and Shipman

- 23 Upper Pleistocene: Subsistence and Settlement

Read: Price and Feinman, Ch.3, pp.98-105, 114-115, 122-134,

- Oct 26 **Film in class: Leakey #5**

Read: Price and Feinman, Ch. 3, pp. 106-113, 116-121.

*Gladkih, et al.

- 28 Upper Pleistocene: Symbolic behavior

Bibliography for Book Review/Term Paper due Today!

- 30 Post-Pleistocene

Read: Price and Feinman, Ch. 4

- Nov 2 Modern Gatherers and Hunters Post-Pleistocene
Read: *Lee, *Diamond
Armchair Archaeological analysis due Today!
- 4 Occupation of the New World Read Price and Feinman, pp. 248-253
Film: "Seeking the First Americans"
- 6 **EXAM II**
FIELD TRIP THIS WEEKEND
- Nov 9 Review of field trip, Achaic
11 Archaic, cont.
Read: Price and Feinman, Ch. 5, *Gero
13 Archaic
- Nov 16 Woodland and Hopewell
Read: Thomas, Ch.9, Price and Feinman, Ch. 6, pp. 234-247
17 Woodland and Hopewell, cont.
Read: *Snyder, *Watson and Kennedy
20 **Film:** "Myth of the Moundbuilders"
- Nov 23 Beginning of the Mississippian
Read: Thomas, Ch. 10
25 - 27 No Class - Thanks giving Recess
- Nov 30 Mississippian
Read: Price and Feinman, Ch. 6, pp. 248-279, *Fowler
BOOK REVIEW/TERM PAPER DUE TODAY
- Dec 2 Decline of the Mississippian; old world states and empires
Read: Feinman and Price, Ch. 9
4 **Film:** "Pyramid"
Read: Thomas, Epilogue
- Dec 7 Final remarks, review
Read: *Early, *Kus
9 **EXAM III**