

Anthropology/Sociology 108
PYRAMIDS AND PALACES: ARCHAEOLOGY OF EARLY STATES
Spring 2000

CLASS PERIOD -- M, W, F 10:20 - 11:20

PROFESSOR -- Susan Kus

OFFICE -- 105 Clough *OFFICE HOURS*-- M 1-2, T & Th 2:30-3:30
or by appointment

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COURSE STATEMENT

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, Mexico and South America.

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.

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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 3 exams, the completion of a "virtual archaeological field season of survey and excavation" (Fugawiland), the completion of a series of 6 short exercises, participation in class discussion, a possible field trip, and a final book report.

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 will result in a failing grade for the course. You are asked to self-report on absences. Upon returning to class after an absence, you should sign the attendance notebook with the date of the absence(s) and the reason for the absence.

The choice of a book for a final report is to be approved by **October 25th** and the final report is to be handed in on **November 27th**. You are to be prepared to give a brief summary of your final paper in class on December 1st or 4th.

Incompletes are not given normally 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 exercises	10%
6 exercises	20%
(Ex. 1 is Pass/Fail, 5 exercises @ 5% each, lowest grade will be dropped)	
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Book Report	10%
Final Exam	20%
Class Participation and Discussion	10%

REQUIRED READINGS

Basic Texts

Thomas, D. H. Archaeology: Down to Earth

Price, T. D. & A. Gebauer Adventures in Fugawiland

Price, T. D. & G. Feinman Images of the Past (3rd edition)

Coursepak

Hill, James "A prehistoric community in Eastern Arizona." Contemporary Archaeology (Mark P. Leone, ed.) Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1972, pp. 320-332.

Nelson, Sarah "Diversity of Upper Palaeolithic 'Venus' figurines and archeological mythology." Powers of Observation: Alternative Views in Archeology (S. Nelson and A. Kehoe, eds.) Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association, 1990, Number 2.

Gero, Joan "Genderlithics: Women's roles in stone tool production." Engendering Archaeology (Joan Gero & Margaret Conkey, eds.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1992, pp. 163-193.

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

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.

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

Wed Aug 23	<i>Introduction to course</i> <u>Exercise 1</u> assigned: Materiality and a 'way of being in the world' (due Mon Aug 28)
Fri Aug 25	<i>History of prehistory</i> READ Thomas (Ch 1), Fugawiland (Intro, Chs. 1 &2)
Mon Aug 28	<i>Archaeological reasoning</i> NOTE: Exercise 1 due READ Hill*, Nelson*, Fugawiland (Chs 3 & 4)
Wed Aug 30	<i>Archaeology as anthropology</i> READ Thomas (Ch. 2), Fugawiland (Chs. 5-8)
Fri Sep 1	<i>Fugawiland -- class discussion</i> READ P&F (Ch. 1) <u>Bring questions about Fugawiland to class.</u> After this class session begin working with Fugawiland "Report of Investigations". For next class session (Wed Sep 6) complete Exercises on "Discovering sites" "Dating and Chronology" and "Radiocarbon dating". Also work out excavation strategy.

Mon Sep 4	LABOR DAY <i>Space, time and form</i> Be prepared to discuss excavation strategy in class NOTE: hand in first series of exercises from Fugawiland, For next class session complete exercises on "Data Analysis", The Final report for Fugawiland is due Fri Sep 15
Wed Sep 6	
Fri Sep 8	<i>Archaeological fieldwork</i> FILM: "Other peoples' garbage" NOTE: Hand in exercises on "Data Analysis" READ Thomas (Ch. 5)
Mon Sep 11	<i>Archaeological fieldwork (cont.)</i> READ Thomas (Chs. 3 & 4)
Wed Sep 13	<i>Chronological control</i> READ Thomas (Ch 6) <u>Exercises 2 & 3 assigned:</u> "Seriation" (due Mon Sep 18) "Analysis of Material culture" (due Wed Sep 20)
Fri Sep 15	<i>Archaeological analysis</i> READ Thomas (Ch 7) NOTE: Fugawiland final report due today
Mon Sep 18	<i>Archaeological analysis (cont.)</i> NOTE: Exercise 2 due, potential exam questions handed out READ Thomas (Ch 8)
Wed Sep 20	<i>Archaeological Analysis (cont.)</i> NOTE: Exercise 3 due -- be prepared to discuss your article in class
Fri Sep 22	<i>Archaeological Analysis (cont.)</i> READ: P&F (pp. 478-480) FILM: Iceman
Mon Sep 25	Exam I <i>What it is to be human.</i> READ P&F (2)
Wed Sep 27	
Fri Sep 29	<i>High points of early human prehistory</i> READ P&F (3) <u>Exercise 4 assigned</u> "Archaeology on the Web" (due Fri Oct 6)
Mon Oct 2	<i>Upper Palaeolithic</i> READ P&F (4)
Wed Oct 4	<i>Post-Pleistocene adaptations</i> READ P&F (5), Snyder* NOTE: Film to be shown in the evening, "The Search for the First Americans"
Fri Oct 6	<i>Domestication, sedentism, social organization</i> READ Lee*, Diamond* NOTE: Exercise 4 due Arrange an appointment time to discuss book report selection for Final Report (choice to be made by Fri Oct 20)
Mon Oct 9	<i>Old World - Early food production</i> READ P&F (pp. 196-235)
Wed Oct 11	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Fri Oct 13	<i>OW (cont.)</i> <u>Exercise 5 assigned</u> "Archaeological Illustration"

(due Mon Oct 23)

Mon Oct 16	FALL RECESS
Wed Oct 18	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Fri Oct 20	<i>New World - Early food production</i> READ P&F (pp. 236-255)
Mon Oct 23	<i>NW (cont.)</i> NOTE Exercise 5 due
Wed Oct 25	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ P&F (Ch. 7) NOTE: potential exam questions handed out
Fri Oct 27	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ Thomas (Ch 9 and pp. 271-299), P&F (pp. 486-494)
Mon Oct 30	<i>Controlling Space and Time</i>
Wed Nov 1	Exam II
Fri Nov 3	<i>State origins</i> READ Thomas (pp. 287-299)
Mon Nov 6	<i>State Origins (cont.)</i> READ Snyder* <u>Exercise 6</u> assigned "Archaeology (ab)use in the present" (Due Fri Nov 17)
Wed Nov 8	<i>Old World - Civilizations</i> READ P&F (10)
Fri Nov 10	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Mon Nov 13	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Wed Nov 15	<i>New World - Civilizations</i> READ P&F (8), Thomas (Ch 11)
Fri Nov 17	<i>NW (cont.)</i> NOTE Exercise 6 due READ Brumfiel* FILM "Maya Lords of the Jungle"
Mon Nov 20	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ Thomas (Ch. 12)
Wed Nov 22	THANKSGIVING
Fri Nov 24	THANKSGIVING
Mon Nov 27	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ P&F (9) NOTE: Final Book report due
Wed Nov 29	<i>NW (cont.)</i> FILM "The Incas"
Fri Dec 1	<i>Book reports</i> -- class presentations
Mon Dec 4	<i>Book reports</i> -- class presentations
Wed Dec 6	<i>Concluding remarks</i>

FINAL PAPERS

A/S 108 Palaces and Pyramids: Archaeology of Early States
Fall 2000

This paper should be minimally 8-10 pages in length. The core of the paper will focus on a recent book-length professional publications 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 discussion of the individual articles in the book.

III Recent Journal Article(s): This section should include some additional research on your part involving the central or related themes of your report as discussed in a recent article(s) in a **professional journal(s)** such as American Antiquity, American Anthropologist, World Archaeology or Current Anthropology.

IV Extended Conclusion: 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 Friday Oct 20th.

The papers and their class presentation are due Monday Nov 27th. Keep a copy of your paper for use in class presentations beginning Friday, December 1st.