



Anthropology/Sociology 208
FALL 2004



PYRAMIDS AND PALACES
ARCHAEOLOGY OF "COMPLEX" SOCIETIES

CLASS PERIOD -- M, W, F 1 – 1:50
PROFESSOR -- Susan Kus
OFFICE -- 105 Clough

CLASSROOM-- 102 Clough
OFFICE HOURS – M, F 2-3, Th 10:45 – 11:30,
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.

Absences and/or failure to participate in class can lower your grade significantly. In the case of 3 absences, your grade will be lowered by a 3rd (i.e., from a B+ to a B) and will continue to drop with each additional absence. However, in the case of 6 or more absences a failing grade will be normally be assigned for the course.

Final report topics are to be approved by **October 20** 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 Down to Earth, 2nd edition

Praetzellis, A. Death by Theory

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

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

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	TOPIC --- READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS
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Wed Aug 25 *Introduction to the course*
 Exercise 1: Materiality and "being in the world" handed out (due Mon Aug 30)

Fri Aug 27 *History of Prehistory*
 READ Thomas (Preface, Ch 1), Fugawiland (Intro, Chs. 1 & 2)

Mon Aug 30 *Archaeological reasoning*
 READ Thomas (Ch 2), Fugawiland (Chs.3-4)
 NOTE: Exercise 1 due

Wed Sep 1 *Archaeology as anthropology*
 READ Fugawiland (Chs. 5-8)

Fri Sep 8 **CLASS DISCUSSION OF FUGAWILAND and DEATH BY THEORY**
 Bring questions about Fugawiland to class.
 READ Praetzellis (1-4)
 For next class session (Wed Sep 8) (1) complete exercises on pp. 94-102 and (2) Work out excavation strategy (102-103).

Mon Sep 6 **LABOR DAY**

Wed Sep 8 *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 10 *Archaeological fieldwork*
 NOTE: discuss Fugawiland exercise pp. 103-112; **final report on Fugawiland is due Mon. Sept 13**

Mon Sep 13 *Archaeological Fieldwork (cont.)*
 FILM: Other peoples' garbage
 NOTE: Fugawiland final report due;
 Exercise 2 Seriation handed out (due Fri Sept 17)

Wed Sep 15 *Chronological control*
 READ Thomas (Chs 3 & 4), P&F (pp. 42-43)
 NOTE: Exercise 3 "Forensic Anthropology" handed out and will be completed in class on Friday Sept 17

Fri Sept 17 *In class completion of Exercise 3*
 READ Praetzellis (5-6)
 NOTE: Exercise 2 due

Mon Sep 20 *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 27)

Wed Sep 22 *Death by Theory Discussion*

READ Praetzellis (7-9)

Fri Sep 24 *Analysis of Material culture*
 READ Thomas (7 & 8)

Sat Sept 25 POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP TO CHUCALISSA (or Oct. 9th depending on scheduling possibilities)

Mon Sep 27 *Archaeological Analysis*
NOTE: Exercise 4 will be presented in class

Wed Sept 29 *Archaeological Analysis (cont.)*
FILM: The Iceman

Fri Oct 1 **Exam I (take home, due Wednesday Oct 6)**

Mon Oct 4 *What it is to be human and High points of early human prehistory*
READ P&F (2,3) (you are to read the chapters but you will not be responsible for this material on the next exam)

Wed Oct 6 *Upper Palaeolithic*
READ P&F (4) (you are to read the chapter but you will not be responsible for this material on the next exam)
Exercise 5: 'Archaeology on the Web' handed out (due Fri Oct 15)

Fri Oct 8 *Post-Pleistocene adaptations*
READ P&F (5)

Sat Oct 9th POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP TO CHUCALISSA

Mon Oct 11 *Domestication, sedentism, social organization*
READ Lee*, Diamond*
NOTE Film to be shown in the evening, "The Search for the First Americans"

Wed Oct 13 *Old World – Early food production*
READ P&F (pp. 196-235)

Fri Oct 15 *OW (cont.)*
NOTE: Exercise 5 due; Exercise 6 assigned "Archaeological Illustration" (due Wed Oct 27);

Mon Oct 18 **FALL RECESS**

Wed Oct 20 *OW (cont.)* **FINAL BOOK REPORT TOPIC APPROVED BY TODAY**

Fri Oct 22 *OW (cont.)*

Mon Oct 25 *New World – Early food production*
READ P&F (pp. 236-255) and Thomas (pp. 271-289)

Wed Oct 27 *NW (cont.)*
NOTE **Exercise 6** due, **Exercise 7** handed out (due Mon Nov. 22)

Fri Oct 29 *NW (cont.)*

READ P&F (7)

**HALLOWEEN FUN –
 come to class dressed as
 your favorite artifact or favorite archaeologist**



Mon Nov 1 *NW (cont.)*
READ Thomas (Ch 9)

Wed Nov 3 *State origins*
READ Thomas (pp. 287-299)

Fri Nov 5 *State Origins (cont.)*
READ Snyder*

Mon Nov 8	EXAM 2- in class (covers transition to post-Pleistocene foraging, domestication and sedentism)
Wed Nov 10	<i>Old World - Civilizations</i> READ P&F (10)
Fri Nov 12	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Mon Nov 15	<i>OW (cont.)</i>
Wed Nov 17	<i>New World - Civilizations</i> READ P&F (8); Thomas (Ch 11)
Fri Nov 19	Film : "Maya Lords of the Jungle"
Mon Nov 22	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ Thomas (Ch. 12), Brumfiel* NOTE Exercise 7 due
Wed Nov 24	THANKSGIVING RECESS
Fri Nov 26	THANKSGIVING RECESS
Mon Nov 29	<i>NW (cont.)</i> READ P&F (9) NOTE Final Book report due
Wed Dec 1	<i>NW (cont.)</i> Film "The Incas"
Fri Dec 3	<i>Book reports – class presentations</i>
Mon Dec 6	<i>Book reports – class discussion</i>
Wed Dec 10	<i>Concluding remarks</i>

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



FINAL PAPERS

A/S 208 Palaces and Pyramids: Archaeology of "Complex" Societies
Fall 2004

Suggested length for this paper is 8-10 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. Be clear on how to cite information and quotes in the body of the paper. **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 20th**.

The papers are **due Monday Nov 29th**. Keep a copy of your paper for use in class presentations beginning **Friday, December 3rd**.