

**ARCHAEOLOGY 325
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**

FALL 2010

Instructor: Dr Mary McDonald
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Lectures: TR 9:30 – 10:45 AM; CHC 119
Office hours: Tuesday 2:30 – 4:00 PM or by appointment

What is civilization? Why did it arise not once but several times in the Old and New Worlds? What do the earliest civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, sub-Saharan Africa, China, Mesoamerica and the Andes have in common? Did they develop along similar or different lines? What is the role of religion, of agricultural intensification, of cities, of trade? Why are all but one of these civilizations characterized by works of art that still are reckoned among humanity's greatest achievements?

These and other questions will be treated in this survey of the earliest civilizations in both hemispheres, in lectures illustrated by films and slides. Along the way, we will also touch upon the discipline of archaeology itself – its techniques, its strengths, and its limitations in the study of ancient civilizations.

Grading:

40%	First mid-term exam (60 min)	Thursday, October 14
50%	Second mid-term exam (70 min)	Tuesday November 23
10%	Final week quiz	Thursday December 9

Required Text:

R.J. Wenke & D.I. Olszewski 2007 *Patterns in Prehistory* (5th ed.), Oxford

You are also encouraged to browse in the MAIN LIBRARY where there are many other accessible texts on ancient civilizations throughout the world.

Grading Scheme (%)

A, A+	85-100	B+, B, B-	79-70	D+, D, D-	59-50
A-	80-84	C+, C, C-	69-60	F	<50

Lecture and reading schedule:

This schedule is approximate. Timing may vary. Films will be shown to supplement some lectures.

Week 1:

- Introduction. Ancient civilizations defined.
- Approaches to the study of ancient civilizations.
Reading: Wenke & Olszewski chapter 7

Week 2:

- Mesopotamia. Background to the civilization
- The study of ancient civilization: an archaeological approach.
Reading: chap 8 to p. 341

Week 3:

- Early Mesopotamian civilization.
- A history of Mesopotamian civilization.
Reading: chap. 8, p. 341 ff.

Week 4:

- Features of the Mesopotamian civilization
- Background to civilization in Egypt.
Reading: chap. 9 to p. 377

Week 5:

- A history of the Egyptian civilization
- 1st **mid-term exam**: Thursday October 14
Reading: chap 9, p. 377 ff.

Week 6:

- Features of the Egyptian civilization
- Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations compared

Week 7:

- The Indus civilization
Reading: chap. 10

Week 8:

- The earliest civilization in sub-Saharan Africa
- Development of the North Chinese civilization
Reading: chap. 11

Week 9:

- Features of the North Chinese civilization

Reading days

Week 10:

- Background to civilization in Mesoamerica
- Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Maya
- Reading: chap. 13

Week 11:

- Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Axtecs
- 2nd mid-term exam:** Tuesday November 23.

Week 12:

- Background to civilization in the Andes
- Features of the Andean civilization
- Reading: chap. 14

Week 13:

- Ancient civilizations: a summary
- Final quiz:** Thursday December 9

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Academic Accommodation Policy

The purpose of academic accommodation is to provide students with documented disabilities equal opportunity to master the essentials of a post-secondary education. Students with disabilities at the University of Calgary have met all admission requirements but may have done so with the use of accommodations. Similarly, they are expected to meet all academic and non-academic requirements. Adaptive technology and other academic accommodations do not relieve students of their responsibility to develop the essential skills and abilities expected of all students.

Please refer to the following web link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/71>

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403)220-8237.

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

- 1) Presenting another student's work as your own
- 2) Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk Information

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

Student Union Vice President – Academic
Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representative

Phone: (403) 220-3913

Email: socilscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/students-rights.html>