

**ARCHAEOLOGY 325
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**

FALL 2015

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Lectures: MWF 2:00-2:50 PM; AD 142
Office hours: Monday 3:00 – 4:30 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.

Required Text:

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

Grading:

45% First mid-term exam (50 min)	Wednesday, October 14
45% Second mid-term exam (50 min)	Friday November 20
10% Final week quiz (45 min)	Monday December 7

Note: there is no final exam in this course

Description of Exams:

Exams are not cumulative.

It is not essential to pass all components to pass the course as a whole.

The use of computers in exams is not allowed.

Missed exams and quizzes require a medical certificate for rescheduling

Grading Scheme (%)

A+	90-100	A	85-89.5	A-	80-84.5
B+	76.5-79.5	B	73-76	B-	70-72.5
C+	66.5-69.5	C	63-66	C-	60-62.5
D+	55-59.5	D	50-54.5	F	49.5 and below

Lecture and reading schedule:

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

Students are responsible for their own note taking. Notes posted on Desire-to-Learn are minimal outlines and are not a substitute for in-class note-taking. Please be on time and prepared for lectures. Preparation involves completing the required readings before attending class.

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. 6, p. 246-260; 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

Week 5:

- A history of the Egyptian civilization

Week 6:

- Features of the Egyptian civilization
- 1st mid-term exam: Wednesday, October 14**

Week 7:

- Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations compared

--The Indus civilization
Reading: chap. 10

Week 8:

--The Indus civilization (continued)
--The earliest civilization in sub-Saharan Africa

Week 9:

--Development of the North Chinese civilization
--Features of the North Chinese civilization
Reading: chap. 11

Week 10:

--Background to civilization in Mesoamerica
Reading: chap. 13

Reading days

Week 11:

--Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Maya
2nd mid-term exam: Friday Nov. 20

Week 12:

--Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Aztecs.
--Background to civilization in the Andes
Reading: chap. 14

Week 13:

--Features of the Andean civilization
--Ancient civilizations: a summary

Week 14:

Final quiz: Monday December 7

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodation you need to register with Student Accessibility Services. Please contact their office at 220-8237.
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency please note that the primary assembly point shall be the Social Science Food Court.

USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

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