

ARCHAEOLOGY 401

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NEAR EAST

Fall 2011

Instructor: Dr. Mary McDonald
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Office hours: Tuesday 11:00 – 12:30 PM or by appointment
Lectures: TR 3:30 PM; ST 059

Course description

This course is a survey of the prehistory of the Near East, starting with the earliest traces of human activity up to the Bronze Age. Geographically, the focus will be on the Levant and Greater Mesopotamia, although occasionally we will range from Egypt through Arabia to the Indus. We will examine current controversies such as the “Out of Africa” debate, and that surrounding the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition. For the latter part of the sequence, the emphasis will be on the beginnings of agriculture and village life, and the rise of cities and the state. Related topics to be touched upon include the history of archaeological research in the area, and the quality of evidence available for different times and places.

Course material will consist of formal lectures, a few films, and assigned readings from a prepared reading package and from other sources.

Required text:

ARKY 401 Reading Package.

Course evaluation:

- 20% First mid-term exam (Tuesday October 11)
- 30% Second mid-term exam (Thursday November 17)
- 10% Final quiz (Thursday December 8)
- 5% Abstract of research paper (due Tuesday November 8)
- 35% Research paper (due Thursday November 24)

Note: there is no final exam in this course

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

Abstract of research paper:

A 100-word summary of your research paper in which you state your thesis or argument. Also, please provide 2 to 4 of your major references. Due Tuesday November 8, and worth 5 points.

Research paper:

A 10-12 page research paper, worth 35 points, is required. It is due on Thursday November 24.

Choose a topic that is appropriate to the course. A few possible topic areas are suggested below.

A research paper should involve on average at least one source per page of text, so at least 12 substantial sources (e.g. other than textbooks, encyclopedia articles), from scholarly journals, monographs or web sources. Also, you can use individual articles from the reading package

Use the referencing format found in *American Antiquity*, which you can find at www.saa.org/Publications/StyleGuide/styframe.html

No plastic binders or holders, please! Number your pages and staple them together. Also, of course, avoid plagiarism.

Suggested topic areas:

- A critical analysis of a major site that has been comprehensively published, such as ‘Ubeidiya, Tabun Cave, Boker Tachtit, Nabta Playa or Çatalhöyük.
- New approaches to the study of stone tools in Near Eastern Prehistory.
- Burials in the Middle Palaeolithic.
- Problems surrounding the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition.
- Role of environmental change in the switch to food production.
- Disease and/or dietary consequences of the Neolithic Revolution.

Rough outline of weekly topics and readings:

Week 1: Introduction. Modern climates and environments, time scales and frameworks.
Read: Reading package #1 (Sherratt in *Antiquity* 71 [1997]:271-87).

Week 2: The Lower Palaeolithic and the initial spread out of Africa.
Read: #2 (Bar-Yosef in *Journal of World Prehistory* 8 [1994]:211-265.)

Week 3: The Middle Palaeolithic.
Read: #3 (Bar-Yosef et al. in *Current Anthropology* 33 [1992]:497-550)

Week 4: The rise of *Homo sapiens sapiens* and the Neanderthal controversy.
Read: #4 (Shea in *Evolutionary Anthropology* 12 [2003]:173-187);
#5 (Marks in *Advances in World Archaeology* 2 [1982]:51-98)
Various items in *Current Anthropology* 39 (Supplement), June 1998.

Week 5: Upper Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers: linear evolution or parallel cultures.

Read: #6 (Gilead in *Journal of World Prehistory* 5 [1991]:105-154)

1st mid-term exam: Tuesday, October 11

Week 6: The Epipalaeolithic and the Natufian: precursors to agriculture.

Read: #7 (Neeley); #8 (Bar-Yosef)

Week 7: The Neolithic: definitions; explanations; methodology in its study.

Read: #9 (Zeder)

Various items on the Neolithic in each of 2 recent special editions of *Current Anthropology* (available online from the library):

--*Current Anthropology* 50 (5), October 2009.

--*Current Anthropology* 52 (# S4), October 2011.

Week 8: The Neolithic: the early stages.

Read: #10 (Bar-Yosef & Meadow); #11 (Curry); #12 (Schirmer)

Week 9: The Later Neolithic; Neolithic innovations: architecture; ritual; ceramics; pastoral nomadism.

Read: #13 (Kuijt); #14 (Voigt); #15 (Moore)

Reading days

Week 10: Neolithic developments in the borderlands: Egypt, South East Europe, Arabia, India.

Read: #16 (Wendorf & Schild)

2nd mid-term exam: Thursday November 17

Week 11: The Chalcolithic; the earliest metallurgy; moving towards complexity.

Read: #17 (Bernbeck)

Week 12: Early Bronze Age. Mesopotamia: development of the earliest cities and states.

Read: #18 (Hole); #19 (Algaze); #20 (Oates et al.)

Week 13: Mesopotamia: features of the civilization.

Final quiz: Thursday, December 8

Additional readings and sources:

Journals are good places to look for both paper topics and references. Some of the journals carrying Near Eastern Prehistory include *Anatolian Studies*, *Antiquity*, *Archaeologia*, *Archaeology*, *Biblical Archaeologist*, *Current Anthropology*, *Expedition*, *Iran*, *Iraq*, *J. of Anthropological Archaeology*, *J. of Mediterranean Archaeology*, *J. of Near Eastern Studies*, *J. of World Prehistory*, *Levant*, *Paléorient*, *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, *World Archaeology*.

A few search engines, web sites:

A good website for maps:

<http://www.wartoft.nu/software/seterra/exercises-2.aspx>

ArchAtlas [great visual discussions via satellite imagery & GIS, compiled by A. Sherratt & students; very good references].

<http://www.archatlas.dept.shef.ac.uk/>

EARTH [excellent resource for origins of agriculture & locations of early sites].

<http://acl.arts.usyd.edu.au/projects/earth/>

Çatalhöyük (Anatolia [Turkey])

<http://catal.arch.cam.ac.uk/Catal/catal.html>

ADDITIONAL CONTENT OF THE COURSE OUTLINE

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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

arts4@su.ucalgary.ca