

ARCHAEOLOGY 401

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NEAR EAST

Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Mary McDonald
Office: ES 828
Telephone: 220 6018; e-mail: mmcdona@ucalgary.ca
Office hours: Monday 3:00 – 4:30 PM or by appointment
Lectures: MWF 10:00-10:50 AM; EDC 264



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 the accompanying list.

Course evaluation:

- 20% First mid-term exam (Friday October 9)
- 30% Second mid-term exam (Monday November 16)
- 10% Final quiz (Monday December 7)
- 5% Abstract of research paper (due Wednesday November 4)
- 35% Research paper (due Friday November 20)

Note: there is no final exam in this course

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

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

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 Wednesday November 4, and worth 5 points.

Research paper:

A 10-12 page research paper, worth 35 points, is required. It is due on Friday November 20.
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 list.

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, Göbekli 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: Sherratt 1997.

Week 2: Stone tool classification.
The Lower Palaeolithic.
Read: Ambrose 2001; Bower 2015; Bar-Yosef 1994; Stiner et al. 2011.

Week 3: The initial spread out of Africa (Out of Africa 1).
The Middle Palaeolithic.
Read: Bar-Yosef & Belfer-Cohen 2001; Gabunia et al. 2000.
Bar-Yosef et al. 1992; Jelinek 1982.

Week 4: Emergence of modern human behavior.

Out of Africa 2

Read: Shea 2003; Bower 2012; Goebel 2007; Lawler 2014.

Week 5: Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition.

Read: Marks 1983.

1st mid-term exam: Friday, October

Week 6: Upper Palaeolithic

The Epipalaeolithic.

Read: Gilead 1991; Olszewski & Dibble 1994; Mayer et al. 2012; Rosen & Rivera-Collazo 2012.

Week 7: The Natufian.

The Neolithic: introduction.

Read: Bar-Yosef 1998; Byrd 2005; Fuller 2010; Zeder 2011.

Week 8: The Neolithic: the early stages. PPNA

Read: Goring-Morris & Belfer-Cohen 2011; Curry 2008; Finlayson et al. 2011.

Week 9: The Later Neolithic in the Levant: PPNB

Read: Carleton et al. 2013; Kuijt 2000; Twist 2007; Watkins 2008

Week 10: The Later Neolithic (continued)

Reading days.

Week 11: The Neolithic beyond the Levant: the Taurus area, the Zagros, and elsewhere.

Read: Starkovich & Stiner 2009; Riehl et al. 2013; Zeder & Hesse 2000; Zeder 2008.

2nd mid-term exam: Monday November 16

Week 12: The Neolithic in Egypt.

Mesopotamia: moving towards complexity.

Read: McDonald 2009; Wendorf & Schild 1994; Bernbeck 1994.

Week 13: Mesopotamia: features of the civilization.

Read: Algaze 2001; Oates et al. 2007.

Week 14:

Final quiz: Monday, December 7

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.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at:

<https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

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 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 situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the Scurfield Hall Atrium.

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.

The Department of Anthropology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology Office (SS 854) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

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>

Arky 401: Basic Reading list

All these items are from journals available to you online through the university library. Additional readings may be assigned from time to time.

- Algaze, G. 2001. Initial social complexity in Southwestern Asia: the Mesopotamian advantage. *Current Anthropology* 42:199-233.
- Ambrose, S.H. 2001 Paleolithic technology and human evolution. *Science* 291:1748-1753.
- Bar-Yosef, O. 1994. The Lower Paleolithic of the Near East. *Journal of World Prehistory* 8:211-265.
- Bar-Yosef, O. 1998. The Natufian culture in the Levant, threshold to the origins of agriculture. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 6:159-177.
- Bar-Yosef, O. & A. Belfer-Cohen 2001. From Africa to Eurasia – early dispersals. *Quaternary International* 75:19-28.
- Bar-Yosef, O. et al. 1992. The excavations in Kebara Cave, Mt. Carmel. *Current Anthropology* 33:497-550.
- Bernbeck, R. 1995. Lasting alliances and emerging competition: economic developments in Early Mesopotamia. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 14:1-25.
- Bower, B. 2012. Tangled roots. *Science News* August 25:22-26.
- Bower, B. 2015. Reading the stones. *Science News* April 4:16-21.
- Byrd, B.F. 2005. Reassessing the emergence of village life in the Near East. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 13:231-290.
- Carleton, W.C. et al. 2013. Corporate kin-groups, social memory, and “history houses”? A quantitative test of recent reconstructions of social organization and building function at Catalhöyük during the PPNB. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 40:1816-1822.
- Curry, A. 2008. Seeking the roots of ritual. *Science* 319:278-280.
- Finlayson, B. et al. 2011. Architecture, sedentism, and social complexity at Pre-Pottery Neolithic A WF16, Southern Jordan. *PNAS* 108:8183-8188.
- Fuller, D.Q. 2010. Origins of agriculture. *General Anthropology* 17, No. 2:1, 8-12.
- Gabunia, L. et al. 2000. Earliest Pleistocene hominid cranial remains from Dmanisi, Republic of Georgia: taxonomy, geological setting, and age. *Science* 288:1019-1025.

- Gilead, I. 1991. The Upper Paleolithic period in the Levant. *Journal of World Prehistory* 5:105-154.
- Goebel, T. 2007. The missing years for modern humans. *Science* 315:194-196.
- Goring-Morris, A.N. & A. Belfer-Cohen 2011. Neolithization processes in the Levant: the outer envelope. *Current Anthropology* 52, Suppl. 4:S195-S208.
- Jelinek, A.J. 1982. The Tabun Cave and Paleolithic man in the Levant. *Science* 216:1369-1375.
- Kuijt, I. 2000. People and space in early agricultural villages: exploring daily lives, community size, and architecture in the Late Pre-Pottery Neolithic. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 19:75-102.
- Lawler, A. 2014. In search of Green Arabia. *Science* 345 (6200):994-997.
- Marks, A.E. 1983. The Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in the Levant. *Advances in World Archaeology* 2:51-98.
- Mayer, L.A. et al. 2012. The Pre-Natufian Epipalaeolithic: long-term behavioural trends in the Levant. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 21:69-81.
- McDonald, M.M.A. 2009. Increased sedentism in the Central Oases of the Egyptian Western Desert in the Early to Mid-Holocene: evidence from the peripheries. *African Archaeological Review* 26:3-43.
- Oates, J. et al. 2007. Early Mesopotamian urbanism: a view from the north. *Antiquity* 81:585-600.
- Olszewski, D.I. & H.L. Dibble 1994. The Zagros Aurignacian. *Current Anthropology* 35:68-75.
- Riehl, S. et al. 2013. Emergence of agriculture in the foothills of the Zagros Mountains of Iran. *Science* 341:65-67.
- Rozen, A.M. & I. Rivera-Collazo 2012. Climate change, adaptive cycles, and the persistence of foraging economies during the late Pleistocene/Holocene transition in the Levant. *PNAS* 109 (10):3640-3645.
- Shea, J.J. 2003. Neandertals, competition, and the origin of modern human behaviour in the Levant. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 12:173-187.
- Sherratt, A. 1997. Climatic cycles and behavioural revolutions: the emergence of modern humans and the beginning of farming. *Antiquity* 71:271-287.

- Starkovich, B.M. & M.C. Stiner 2009. Hallan Çemi Tepesi: high-ranked game exploitation alongside intensive seed processing at the Epipaleolithic-Neolithic transition in Southeastern Turkey. *Anthropozoologica* 44:41-61.
- Stiner, M.C. et al. 2011. Hearth-side socioeconomics, hunting and paleoecology during the late Lower Paleolithic at Qesem Cave, Israel. *Journal of Human Evolution* 60:213-233.
- Twist, K.C. 2007. The Neolithic of the Southern Levant. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 16:24-35.
- Watkins, T. 2008. Supra-regional networks in the Neolithic of Southwest Asia. *Journal of World Prehistory* 21:139-171.
- Wendorf, F. & R. Schild 1994. Are the Early Holocene cattle in the Eastern Sahara domestic or wild? *Evolutionary Anthropology* 4:118-128.
- Zeder, M.A. 2008. Domestication and early agriculture in the Mediterranean Basin: origins, diffusion, and impact. *PNAS* 105:11597-11604.
- Zeder, M.A. 2011. The origins of agriculture in the Near East. *Current Anthropology* 52, Suppl. 4: S221-S235.
- Zeder, M.A. & B. Hesse. 2000. The initial domestication of goats (*Capra hircus*) in the Zagros Mountains 10,000 years ago. *Science* 287:2254-2257.