

**ARCHAEOLOGY 325
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**

FALL 2009

Instructor: Dr Mary McDonald
Office: ES 828
Phone: 220-6018; e-mail: mmcdona@ucalgary.ca
Lectures: TR 9:30 – 10:45 AM; ICT 102*
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 8
50%	Second mid-term exam (70 min)	Thursday November 19
10%	Final week quiz	Tuesday December 8

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

* In case of emergency, assembly point is Social Sciences Food Court.

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. Development of the civilization
Reading: chap 8 to p. 341

Week 3:

- The study of ancient civilization: an archaeological approach.
- Early Mesopotamian civilization. A history of Mesopotamian civilization.
Reading: chap. 8, p. 341 ff.

Week 4:

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

Week 5:

- A history of the Egyptian civilization
- 1st mid-term exam:** Thursday October 8
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
- The development of civilization in Mesoamerica
Reading: chap. 13

Week 10:

- Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Maya
- Reading week break

Week 11:

- Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Maya (cont'd)
- 2nd mid-term exam**: Thursday November 19.

Week 12:

- Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Aztecs.
- The development of civilization in the Andes
Reading: chap. 14

Week 13:

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

Week 14:

- Final quiz**: Tuesday December 8