

# Archaeology 325.01: Ancient Civilizations

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

University of Calgary

**Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-14:45

**Location:** Online via Zoom

**Instructor:** Dr. Erik G. Johannesson

**TA:** Elisa Fernandez-Leon

**Email:** [erik.johannesson@ucalgary.ca](mailto:erik.johannesson@ucalgary.ca)

**Email:** emfernd@ucalgary.ca

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Office:** via Zoom

**Office:**

**Telephone:** N/A

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** This class explores societies typically classified as “civilizations”, what is meant by that term, how archaeological research contributes to the study of ancient societies, and how our contemporary understanding of the world influences how we think about the past. Using archaeological case studies, we will examine the origins and fates of civilizations, from Ancient Egypt to India, to the Inca, and through to approximately 1800 AD. We will study the emergence of politically complex agrarian states such as Egypt, China, and Rome and examine the relationship between ecology, subsistence, social stratification, and political organization. Throughout the course we will pay particular attention to how material culture was used in the past to facilitate military and territorial expansion as well as to legitimize authority and discourage dissent. We will also assess how archaeological data can be used to interpret the past, and how archaeological research contextualizes and contributes to contemporary historical and cultural narratives of the past.

**Course Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of the course, students will be expected to:

- Be knowledgeable of the practices and methods archaeologists use to study ancient civilizations.
- Appreciate some of the major accomplishments and contributions of ancient states.
- Understand and be knowledgeable of how the present shapes our understanding and outlook on the past, especially in regard to acknowledging the contributions of some societies over others.
- Appreciate the interconnectedness of ancient societies before modern globalization and industrialization.
- Be knowledgeable of the contributions of ancient societies to our modern world.

**Online Delivery:**

This course will be delivered online synchronously via Zoom, meaning that lectures will be held “live” at the regularly scheduled times for the course. Students will be provided with a Zoom meeting reference number and password with which to access and participate in the lecture meetings. Recorded lectures **may** be posted to D2L barring prohibitively large file sizes or irresponsible use thereof. I.e. lectures are meant to assist in learning the course material, not to serve as a shortcut or to facilitate absences.

**Optional Textbook** – Scarre, Christopher and Brian Fagan. 2016. *Ancient Civilizations*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Routledge, New York.

**Readings:**

The textbook is optional and is listed as an additional resource for students who find they prefer or need an additional resource to engage with the course material. This optional textbook, however, complements and does not replace the lectures and is not a substitute for information presented in class.

**Lecture Outlines:** A pdf of the Powerpoint presentations used during lecture will be posted to D2L when each lecture is given. These are outlines and do not constitute the totality of material students are responsible for. Note that due to intellectual property rights and copyright regulation, some images may be removed from the posted pdfs. Being an outline of material covered in the course, the lecture slides can be used as a study guide for the tests.

**Attendance:** Attendance is critical since students who fail to attend class will miss lectures and opportunities for classroom participation, thus adversely affecting their potential to do well in the class. Hence, although the course will be administered online via Zoom, attending these lectures is important and there is a well-established relationship between course engagement and student performance. As attendance is a matter of personal responsibility (see below) students will not be evaluated on their ability, or lack thereof, to access and participate in online lectures. That being said, students are strongly cautioned against missing any portion of the course as there is a clear relationship between regular attendance and strong student performance in the course (and vice versa). In the event that students are absent they are responsible for the material they missed and should not expect the instructor to provide them with notes. I suggest students find a classmate at the beginning of class who is willing to share their notes in the event that you do miss a class (and vice versa).

**Grades and Evaluation Criteria:**

Evaluation will be based on two exams and one cumulative final exam. Final grades will be calculated as follows.

Exam 1:	30%
Exam 2:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

**Exams:** Students will have to complete two exams and a final exam (to be held **May 21, June 4,** and **on the final examination date of the course (TBA)** respectively). The in-class examinations are not cumulative, so the first exam will test materials covered from the beginning of the class up to **May 21**, while the second exam will cover the material from **May 21 to June 4**. Each exam is worth 30% of the final grade in the course. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blanks, IDs, and short answer questions. Students will have **1 hour and 15 minutes to complete each exam**.

**Final Exam:** A cumulative exam, covering all lectures, readings, and materials in the course will be given on the final exam date set by the Registrar (TBA, consult Registrar’s schedule when available) the final exam will be worth 30% of the final grade in the course.

**Deferred Exams:** A student who is absent from a test for **legitimate** reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor and may be required to provide written documentation or statutory declaration as to why they were absent for the test. The instructor at **their discretion** may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. In the event that an instructor feels that they cannot judge the veracity of the information provided, Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

### Grade Breakdown

A+ 100 - 94.9%	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
A 94.8 - 89.9%	
A- 89.8 - 84.9%	
B+ 84.8 – 79.9%	Good: Clearly above average with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B 79.8 - 74.9%	
B- 74.8 – 70.9%	
C+ 70.8– 66.9%	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of subject matter.
C 66.8 – 62.9%	
C- 62.8 – 58.9%	
D+ 58.8 – 54.9%	Marginal performance: Generally not sufficient to demonstrate a firm grasp of the course material.
D 54.8 – 49.9%	
F 49.8% and below	

**Exam Security:** Exam security is taken very seriously. Since tests will be administered online where students have access to the internet, other devices, access to classmates, etc., please be aware that only material provided in the course is to be used on an examination. Any indication that other sources such as the internet, classmates, or chat platforms have been consulted may result in a charge of academic misconduct, a score of 0 for the question or on the entire test. This includes relying on the internet and search engines as a source of notes instead of content provided in the course. I.e. copying information from the internet into your notes prior to an

exam and including that in your answers constitutes both plagiarism and illicit use of the internet, and should not occur.

**Exam Reporting:** Marks for exams and tests will be posted to D2L. Students have the opportunity to view and discuss their exam with the instructor or TA during scheduled office hours or by appointment.

**Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism:** University expectations are that students will not cheat or plagiarize, and that they will not condone these behaviors or assist others who plagiarize. **Please make sure to read over the University's Policy on Academic Misconduct** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> Academic misconduct not only jeopardizes the career of the individual student involved, but also undermines the scholastic achievements of all University of Calgary students and attacks the mission of this institution. Students are inherently responsible to do their own work, thereby insuring the integrity of their academic records. In accordance with the university's code of conduct, evidence of cheating on an exam, or plagiarism (copying or paraphrasing someone else's work and presenting it as your own) will result in the registration of the offense with the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs.

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

**Academic Accommodations and Accessibility** - It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) will not be eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students with documented disability who may require academic accommodation should register with SAS. Please call 220-8237, stop by MSC 452 or email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca) to register.

**Personal Integrity and Responsibility:** Students are expected to conduct their studies as a matter of personal responsibility and integrity. Therefore, no extra credit assignments will be offered at any time during the semester as it is unfair to offer an opportunity to any student that is not available to all. Students should attend class consistently (see above) and should take note of important dates and deadlines. Excuses for failing to complete/comply with course requirements are redundant as they still represent failure to fulfill the expectations of the course. Note that **if** personal, vocational, or academic problems are interfering with a student's course work there are proper and official resources to consult.

**Decorum:**

Students will treat each other and me with respect at all times. No opinions or speech that discriminates against or is derogatory towards others on the basis of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability will be tolerated. Students

who express such opinions will be asked to leave the classroom and repeated offences may result in further disciplinary actions or the behavior registered and forwarded to the appropriate University unit for review. Students should refrain from unacceptable behavior such as sleeping, using their cell-phones, or talking with classmates at inappropriate times. Such behaviors will also result in the student being asked to leave the classroom.

**Additional Class Policies and Expectations:**

- No disruptive behavior or “zoombombing” will be tolerated. Participants who are disruptive, rude, or abusive towards other students or the instructor will be removed from the meeting.
- Do not share the password for the Zoom meeting with anyone not registered in the course. This still applies in the event that a student chooses to withdraw from the course.
- Students should log on to Zoom meetings in a timely manner. If departure from a meeting before lecture is over is necessary, please log out and leave the meeting discreetly.
- Cell phones are not permitted and should be turned off during class. Students may use tablets or laptops to take notes, but must refrain from using these devices for activities not related to the class.
- Communication with the instructor or TA is welcome and should follow etiquette appropriate for a university. I.e., be professional. Use proper salutations and titles in both written and verbal communication. This will be further discussed in class. The instructor and TA reserve the right to not respond to communication they deem inappropriate, disrespectful, or excessively cavalier.
- Students can expect that the instructor and TA will respond to email in a timely manner, and can typically expect a response between 24-48 hours, excluding holidays and weekends.
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**Course Outline and Schedule:** The following is a tentative schedule and may get altered and/or shifted as the course progresses, and some lectures may overlap. Nevertheless, it serves as a guide to what is to be covered and when/what students should be reading. Note that the test dates will **NOT** change.

**Additional Information:**

**Teaching Evaluations:** Feedback from students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) provides valuable information to assist evaluating the quality of instruction, enhance learning and teaching experiences, and assess course outcomes. Your responses matter, please participate! Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

**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, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

**Emergency Protocol and 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>

**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/legalservices/foip>  
The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology'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 and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

**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? Arts Students' Centre, The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require. In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102 Phone: 403.220.3580 Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/)

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.  
Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Ombudsman`s office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>