

# Archaeology 325.01: Ancient Civilizations

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology  
University of Calgary

**Time:** Asynchronous

**Location:** Online via D2L

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

**TA:** TBA on D2L

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**Email:**

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Office:** via Zoom

**Office:** via Zoom

**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 1500 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.
- 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 asynchronously online with lectures posted to D2L twice a week, usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Learning Technologies and Requirements:** In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer/laptop with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updated web browser
- Webcam (built in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone
- **Stable broadband internet connection.** This is especially critical for examinations. I.e. students must ensure that they are writing in a location that has stable broadband internet. Knowing these requirements, a faulty internet connection is not a valid excuse for missing a test, failing to complete it in the allotted time, or for a second attempt.

**Required Textbook –**

Mathisen, Ralph W. 2021 *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations: From Prehistory to 640 CE*. Third Edition. Oxford University Press, New York.

**Readings:**

The textbook is meant to complement the lectures and is not a substitute for information presented in class. While the lectures and textbook are not always closely tied to one another, they are related and occasionally overlap, and knowledge of both will be necessary to do well in the class. The readings are required and therefore constitute valid material for the exams. In order to keep up with lectures students should complete readings by date set on the course outline. I.e. course readings will be posted to D2L under content with the lectures they pertain to and will be posted after each lecture is complete.

**Timely engagement with the Course Material:** Keeping up with the course material is critical since students who fail to do so will miss lectures, find that material “piles up”, and not have the opportunity to fully absorb the material, thus adversely affecting their potential to do well in the class. Hence, although the course asynchronous, viewing the lectures is important and there is a well-established relationship between course engagement and student performance. As engagement is a matter of personal responsibility (see below) students will not be evaluated on their ability, or lack thereof, to access and learn 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 engagement and strong student performance in the course (and vice versa).

**Grades and Evaluation Criteria:**

Evaluation will be based on two midterm tests (and possibly one cumulative final exam, see below). Final grades will be calculated as follows

Exam 1:	33.3%	(July 12 <sup>th</sup> )
Exam 2:	33.3%	(July 29 <sup>th</sup> )
Final Exam:	33.3%	(Consult Registrar's Exam Schedule when posted)

It is essential to complete **all components** in order to pass the course, but only two need to be passed. I.e. all students must complete all tests, but need only pass two tests to pass the course.

**Exams:** Students will have to complete two exams and a final exam (to be held **July 12<sup>th</sup>, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 **July 12**, while the second exam will cover the material from **July 12 to July 29**. Each exam is worth 33.3% of the final grade in the course. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions (10), fill-in-the-blanks (10), and written answer questions (6). Students will have **1 hour to complete each exam**.

Tests are administered via D2L and will be available for 24 hrs starting at noon (12:00 pm) on the day of the test. In order to allow for any unforeseen technology issues that may arise during the test, an additional 50% time allowance will be allocated to all tests. I.e. the midterms are each 60 minutes, but will include an additional 30 minutes (50%) grace period to account for any unforeseen technological issues. Note that this time extension is allocated precisely for the event of any unpredictable technological issues, it is not meant as free extra time, and as such it is students' responsibility to communicate about and/or resolve any issue within that allotted time. Note also that should a technological issue occur within the extra time allotted, the full time for the test has already been obtained and as such no additional time and/or attempts will be offered. In short, the 50% extra time is for the unlikely event of any technical issue, not merely extra time for taking the course online.

Students will be allowed **one attempt** to write the test. The instructor or TA will be available to answer questions during the test **only during the first two hours that the test is available**.

**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 33.3% of the final grade in the course.

**Exam Security and Academic Misconduct:** Exam security is taken very seriously (see below). 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 will result in a score of zero on the test and may also include a charge of academic misconduct. 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.** Note also that only the course material should appear on the test **as covered in the course.** Answers that include information not covered in the course will either not count, or may result in a score of zero on the question and/or the entire test.

It is further expected that each student complete work individually and that all answers are written in their own words. As such **students are responsible for ensuring that any notes shared among classmates not result in similar answers on examinations.** Please make sure to err on the side of caution here, and if you choose to do so, be extremely mindful of who you study with online. If unable or unsure of how to prevent notes being copied or paraphrased on exams, students should refrain from sharing their notes online, on social media platforms, or chat platforms such as Discords. **Academic misconduct, even if unintentional, is still treated as academic misconduct.** Copying text directly from the Powerpoint slides or the textbook, is also not allowed and students need to ensure that their answers are entirely written in their own words. This includes copying transcripts of the recorded lectures, which will constitute academic misconduct.

Any collaboration on the tests is strictly prohibited, including sharing answers, communicating about the test while the test is still available to other students, taking the test together, or posting the test/answers/questions to online platforms or 3<sup>rd</sup> party sources.

**Note also that the person(s) who creates an online forum or “study group” (such as a Discord) is responsible for ensuring that the forum is not used for academic or non-academic misconduct and will be held accountable should members or users of the group engage in such. This includes posting or contributing copyrighted material such as the textbook to online platforms.**

**Deferred Exams:** A student who is absent from a test for **legitimate** reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor and must 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. 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	Fail.

**Exam Reporting:** Marks for exams and tests will be posted to D2L and marked tests will be available for review on D2L following the publication of the grades. Students have the opportunity to view and discuss their exam with the instructor or TA during scheduled office hours or by appointment, **but should have thoroughly reviewed the tests themselves before doing so.**

### Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism:

The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html). Students should also familiarize themselves with University policies regarding non-academic misconduct: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

### Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html). 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 your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

### **Academic Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students may find information on accommodations at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>. Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

**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 removed from lecture 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 using online chat forums during lecture, interrupting lecture unnecessarily, "Zoom-bombing", or any other behavior that may be disruptive or considered disrespectful to other students or the instructor. Such behaviors will also result in the student being removed from lecture and may result in disciplinary action.

### **Additional Class Policies and Expectations:**

- Students should arrive to lecture in a timely manner. In the unlikely event of tardy arrival, please do not disrupt lecture with e.g. questions about what was missed. Or directing questions about topics already covered during the missed portion of lecture. If unsure, wait until lecture is over and field any questions or concerns at that time. Note that students are responsible for any material they miss as a result of being absent or tardy and it is not the instructor's or the TA's responsibility to make up the missed information.
- **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.** Also refrain from "dogpiling" or bombarding the TA or the instructor with emails in attempts to prompt a desired response. **The instructor and TA reserve the right to not respond to communication they deem inappropriate, disrespectful, excessively cavalier, or that indicates a coordinated email effort with other classmates.**

- 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.

### **Wellness and Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, [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)
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/)

### **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 Evacuation

**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)

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