

**ARCHAEOLOGY 325  
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**

**Winter 2020**

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Lectures: TuTh 12:30-1:45 PM; ST 141  
Office hours: Thursday 2:00-3:30 PM or by appointment  
Prerequisite: None

***Course description:***

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.

***Course learning outcomes:***

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Define the term *primary civilization* and debate whether or not it is applicable to each of the civilizations discussed in this course.
- Explain the historical development of each civilization from simpler forms of society.
- Argue to what extent each ancient civilization could be defined as hierarchical.
- Identify and locate on maps major archaeological sites and important geographical features pertaining to each ancient civilization.
- Recognize, from illustrations, diagnostic artifacts, features and architecture that pertain to each civilization.
- Identify a work of art as the product of a specific ancient civilization on the basis of its style.

***Recommended Text:***

C. Scarre & B.M. Fagan 2016 *Ancient Civilizations* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.), Routledge.

**Grading:**

45%	First mid-term exam (50 min)	Thursday, February 13
45%	Second mid-term exam (50 min)	Tuesday, March 24
10%	Final week quiz (45 min)	Tuesday April 14

Note: there is no final exam in this course

**Description of Exams:**

Exams are drawn from the lectures, course readings, and films.

Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

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.

**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

**Lecture and reading schedule:**

This schedule is approximate. Timing may vary. Films will be shown to supplement some lectures.

**Students are responsible for their own note taking. Notes posted on Desire-to-Learn are minimal outlines and are not a substitute for in-class note-taking.** Please be on time and prepared for lectures. Preparation involves completing the required readings before attending class.

**Week 1:**

--Introduction. Ancient civilizations defined.

--Theories of states

Reading: Scarre & Fagan, chapters 1 & 2.

**Week 2:**

--Mesopotamia. Background to the civilization

--Early Mesopotamian civilization.

Reading: chap. 3

**Week 3:**

--Early Mesopotamian civilization (continued).

--A history of Mesopotamian civilization.

Reading: finish chap. 3, plus p. 185-87; chap 8 (parts).

**Week 4:**

- Features of the Mesopotamian civilization
  - Background to civilization in Egypt
- Reading: chap 4.

**Week 5:**

- A history of the Egyptian civilization
- 1st mid-term exam: Thursday, February 13.**

**Mid-Term Break****Week 6:**

- History of Egyptian civilization (ctd)
- Features of the Egyptian civilization

**Week 7:**

- Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations compared
  - The Indus civilization
- Reading: chap. 5.

**Week 8:**

- The Indus civilization (continued)
  - The earliest civilization in sub-Saharan Africa
- Reading: p. 312-13; 323-25.

**Week 9:**

- Development of the North Chinese civilization
- Reading: chap. 6.

**Week 10:**

- Features of the North Chinese civilization
  - Background to civilization in Mesoamerica
- Reading: chap. 15

**2<sup>nd</sup> mid-term exam: Tuesday March 24.**

**Week 11:**

- Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Maya
  - Civilization in Mesoamerica: the Aztecs.
- Reading: chap. 16

**Week 12:**

- Background to civilization in the Andes
  - Features of the Andean civilization
- Reading: chap. 17.

**Week 13: Final quiz: Tuesday April 14.**

### **Academic misconduct**

The University expects Students to conduct Academic Activities with integrity and intellectual honesty and to recognize the importance of pursuing and transmitting knowledge ethically. “Academic Misconduct” includes such things as Cheating, Falsification; Plagiarism, Unauthorized Assistance and failure to comply with exam regulations or an Instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments. Academic Misconduct is a serious form of intellectual dishonesty with significant consequences. Students who participate in, or encourage the commission of, Academic Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action which could include Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion from the University. For more information see the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>)

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- Any use other than that described above (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person, constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations etc.

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It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies. Students requesting an Accommodation on the basis of Disability are required to register with Student Accommodation Services (SAS) by submitting a Request for Accommodation in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). SAS will issue a Letter of Accommodation which must be presented to either designated contact person within the Department or the appropriate Instructors within 10 days of the beginning of term. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

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**Support and Resources:**

Non-course-specific related information can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

**Note:** information here includes

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk