

ARCHAEOLOGY 401

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NEAR EAST

Winter 2020

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Office hours: Thursday 2:00-3:30 PM or by appointment
Lectures: TuTh 9:30-10:45 AM; ES 859.

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 outcomes

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

- Summarize the major chronological events that occurred in the Near East throughout Prehistory.
- Summarize debates surrounding successive migrations out of Africa, the nature of the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition, the beginnings of agriculture and village life, and the rise of cities and the state.
- Discuss features of the Near Eastern natural environment that may have helped shape the often precocious cultural developments occurring in the region throughout Prehistory.
- Identify (and locate on maps) major Near Eastern prehistoric sites, and recognize, from illustrations, diagnostic artifacts, features and architecture in the archaeological record.
- Outline the changes that occurred in chipped stone tools and technology throughout the prehistory of the Near East.
- Outline and critically evaluate some of the methods and techniques used by archaeologists in studying the Near Eastern prehistoric record.
- Evaluate the findings of academic articles on Near Eastern Prehistory.
- Write a research paper on some aspect of the Near Eastern prehistoric record.

Required Text:

There is no required text.

Instead, you will be assigned readings each week from a list (see below). All are from journals available to you online through the university library.

Course evaluation:

20%	First mid-term exam (Tuesday February 25)
30%	Second mid-term exam (Thursday March 26)
10%	Final quiz (Tuesday April 14)
5%	Class participation
5%	Abstract of research paper (due Tuesday March 3)
30%	Research paper (due Tuesday March 17)

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.

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 Tuesday March 3, and worth 5 points.

Research paper:

A 10-12 page research paper, worth 30 points, is required. It is due on Tuesday March 17.

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 For a quick guide, check out the referencing format I use below in the **Basic Reading List**.

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: Bower 2012; Groucutt et al. 2015; Gibbons 2017.

Week 5: Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition.
Read: Hershkovitz et al. 2015.

Mid-Term Break

Week 6: Upper Palaeolithic
The Epipalaeolithic.
Read: Gilead 1991; Mayer et al. 2012; Rosen & Rivera-Collazo 2012.
1st mid-term exam: Tuesday February 25.

Week 7: The Natufian.
The Neolithic: introduction.
Read: Bar-Yosef 1998; Fuller 2010; Zeder 2011, Gibbons 2019.

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: Hodder 2007; Kuijt 2000; Twist 2007; Watkins 2008

Week 10: The Later Neolithic (continued).

Read: Arbuckle 2019.

2nd mid-term exam: Thursday March 26

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.

Week 12: Mesopotamia: moving towards complexity.

Mesopotamia: features of the civilization.

Read: Algaze 2001; Oates et al. 2007; Lawrence & Wilkinson 2015.

Week 13: Final quiz: Tuesday April 14.

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*.

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.

- Arbuckle, B.S. & E.L. Hammer 2019. The rise of pastoralism in the Ancient Near East. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 27: 391-449.
- 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.
- 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.
- Gibbons, A. 2017. Oldest members of our species discovered in Morocco. *Science* 356: 993-994.
- Gibbons, A. 2019. How farming reshaped our smiles and our speech. *Science* 363: 1131.
- Gilead, I. 1991. The Upper Paleolithic period in the Levant. *Journal of World Prehistory* 5:105-154.
- Goring-Morris, A.N. & A. Belfer-Cohen 2011. Neolithization processes in the Levant: the outer envelope. *Current Anthropology* 52, Suppl. 4:S195-S208.
- Groucutt, H.S. et al. 2015. Rethinking the dispersal of *Homo sapiens* out of Africa. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 24:149-164.
- Hershkovitz, I. et al. 2015. Levantine cranium from Manot Cave (Israel) foreshadows the first European modern humans. *Nature* 520: 216-219.

- Hodder, I. 2007. Çatalhöyük in the context of the Middle Eastern Neolithic. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 36:105-120.
- 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.
- Lawrence, D. & T.J. Wilkinson 2015. Hubs and upstarts: pathways to urbanism in the northern Fertile Crescent. *Antiquity* 89: 328-344.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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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- With the permission of the instructor, students without a formal accommodation may audio record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered. Any audio recording by students is permitted only for the purposes of private study by the individual student. Students may not distribute, email or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person.
- For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed.
- 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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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. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology keeps exams and any term work not picked up for a minimum of one year after which it is destroyed. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

Academic Accommodations

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