

Archaeology 439: African Complex Societies Winter 2021

Dr. Diane Lyons

Email: dlyons@ucalgary.ca

Lectures: Tues/Thurs 12:30PM-1:45 PM **Web based course (synchronous delivery)**

Office Hours:

I can be contacted by email. I am usually available Monday-Friday online from 8:30 am to 4:30pm (Calgary time). I will answer your questions sometimes immediately or within a few hours depending on when the email is received and if I am actively involved in other work or teaching. **Label your email subject line: ARKY 439** so that I will recognize course-based emails for priority. I can also be reached by email in the evenings and on weekends but response times will be sporadic. Please note that I also teach Tuesday evenings from 6-9pm and will not respond on Tuesday evenings.

I am not holding regular office hours, but if you need to talk to me directly rather than by email I will set up a zoom session with you. I will not be meeting with students in person on campus.

Course Description:

Ancient African complex societies with an emphasis on state development south of the Sahara. Topics include why these states developed, their participation in internal and international systems of exchange, technological developments, belief systems that supported power structures, and the reasons for their collapse.

Course Objectives

Ancient African civilizations, with the exception of Ancient Egypt, are rarely explored in introductory courses of world archaeology. This silence continues to support colonial perceptions that Africa is without civilizations. The primary objective of this course is to forefront the development of African civilizations across the continent and to explore their contributions to world history.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes to which they contribute, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Students will be able to critically evaluate Western and colonial perceptions of African civilizations that have silenced and distorted the understanding of African peoples' histories and accomplishments	DK1,3 SC1,2 E10	2,3

Students will demonstrate an understanding of contemporary archaeological methods and interpretations used to understand the history of Africa's premodern states	A1,2,3	2,3
Students will be able to conduct individual research and develop written and oral skills in a paper and/or oral presentation and discussion of peer research in lightning sessions	CM7,8	3
Students will develop an appreciation of the range of Africa's complex societies	A1,3	2

***PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes:** **Disciplinary Knowledge (DK):** 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts, history, terminology, methods, theoretical perspectives, issues, and contemporary concerns in their respective field. 3. Think critically about how the knowledge and skills acquired in their program can be applied to major issues in contemporary society and the student's own life. **Communication (CM):** 7. Write a clear, well-organized, research paper that is informed by a critical evaluation of academic literature in the field and/or based on original research. 8. Present and discuss ideas and information in a format appropriate for a specific audience. **Ethics (E):** 9. Demonstrate an understanding of, and commitment to, ethical conduct within the field 10. To think holistically, emically, comparatively, and with cultural sensitivity. **Archaeology (A):** 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the archaeological record of several world regions. 3. Develop cross-cultural sensitivity with regard to the management of, and research into, material remains and cultural heritage. **Socio-Cultural anthropology (SC):** 1. Understand how colonization has impacted Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world. 2. Value the diversity as well as the commonalities of human cultures.

****Levels:** 1. Foundation, 2. Intermediate, 3. Advanced

Course Prerequisites: None

Learning Resources: Graham Connah. 2016. *African Civilizations an Archaeological Perspective 3rd edition*. Cambridge University Press.

E-book for purchase and download available from the following vendors; Apps available in Android and Apple devices

[Amazon Kindle](#) ; [BookShelf \(VitalSource\)](#) ; [Kobo](#)

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in this course, you are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates
- A current and updated web browser
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled
- Stable internet connection

During the lecture, please mute your speaker and do not use electronic backgrounds for your image as these take up a lot of band width. But it is good to see your faces!

Assessment schedule

Map quiz	Thursday January 28	10% of final grade
Exam 1	Thursday February 11	25% of final grade
Exam 2	Thursday March 25	25% of final grade

Final Quiz	Thursday April 15	10% of final grade
Paper Assignment (2 options see below)*		30% of final grade
Paper topic approval	Tuesday February 2	no grade/compulsory
All papers due	Thursday March 4	
Paper/presentation*	March 4/March 9	25% of final grade
Participation grade both options		5% of final grade

There is no final exam for this course.

***Paper Assignments: Options 1 and 2 (total 30% of final grade)**

There are 2 options for this assignment.

Paper topics and half of the required sources for the paper must be submitted for approval by the instructor no later than February 2. Submit your material in a word file into the d2l dropbox for this course. Papers for both options are due on Thursday March 4 before the start of the class and are to be submitted in d2l dropbox. The instructor will draw names randomly for presentations so everyone who is doing OPTION 1 must be ready to present beginning on Thursday March 4.

Option 1.

Paper with presentation: A shorter paper 10 pages double-spaced 12pt font normal margins followed by a bibliography (minimum 9-10 approved paper sources) (20%).

With a Lightning session presentation: You have 2.5 minutes to tell us what you researched, what was interesting, surprising or fabulous about this topic! Presentations are followed by 5 minutes of questions about your topic. (5%)

OR

Option 2

Paper without presentation: 12-13 pages double-spaced 12pt font normal margins followed by bibliography (minimum 12 approved paper sources) (25%)

BOTH ASSIGNMENT OPTIONS REQUIRE THIS:

All students must participate by asking the presenter questions on their lightning presentation. 5% of the assignment grade is based on participation in the two lightning sessions, e.g., you must ask at least one question per presentation class (but not for each presentation) regardless of which assignment option you have chosen.

I will make sure that no one monopolizes the question times. If you are in a time zone that makes attendance in the synchronous lecture impossible then email your questions to me before the next class after watching the lecture on d2l and formulating questions that have not already been answered. I will have the presenters answer these questions in the next lecture if time allows but it is preferable if you attend (and a lot more fun).

Presenters must present in the class times allocated. If there is a problem you must contact me in advance of the class.

Mark Distributions are determined as follows:

Grading Scheme

95.0-100	A+	67.0-70.9	C+
90.0-94.9	A	63.0-66.9	C
85.0-89.9	A-	59.0-62.9	C-
80.0-84.9	B+	55.0-58.9	D+
75.0-79.9	B	50.0-54.9	D
71.0-74.9	B-	below 50.0	F

Students do not need to pass every course component in order to pass the course, however, students must complete all elements of the course in a diligent manner in order to complete the course.

Students are responsible for their own note taking. Zoom sessions are live in the scheduled class time. **Zoom sessions are recorded and will be posted on D2L but these cannot be downloaded or video recorded with other devices.** Please respect the instructor's intellectual property. Zoom recordings will be available until the morning of the exam/quiz that tests that set of lectures. Recordings will be shared again after all students have completed the exams/quiz. **PowerPoint presentations and notes will not be provided.**

Please note that exams and quizzes on d2l can fail if you try to do them on your cell phone. To avoid unnecessary technical problems, exams and quizzes must be done on a computer. **You must be able to view the lectures either when presented live in scheduled class time or as posted on d2l.**

Missed exams and quizzes. In the event that a student misses a midterm or any course work due to illness, the student should contact the instructor with their excuse within 24 hours. Note that makeup exams may not have the same format as the original exams.

If a technical issue occurs, contact the instructor immediately by email (dlyons@ucalgary.ca) and we will find a means to resolve the issue.

Exam/final quiz format and exam protocols

Exams are cumulative and the format for Exam 1 and 2 are match-up short answer and essay questions. **These exams will be written in 24 hour windows.** Lectures will not be held on these 2 days. The exams will open at the beginning of the synchronous lecture time at 12:30 pm. The exams are 75 minutes in duration. **I will NOT be adding 50% extra technical time following the guidelines laid out for the winter 2021 semester.** However, I will be available online if technical or other problems arise during your exam. I will monitor the exams from 12:30pm until 4:30pm and again every hour until midnight. I will be back online to monitor the exam from 6:30 am until the exam closes at 12:30pm. Please do not panic, we will work something out if there is a problem.

The map quiz and the final quiz are each worth 10%. These will be completed in the designated synchronous time periods. The map quiz involves a series of maps with numbers for places, countries, features that you will identify. The final quiz will be

multiple choice. **I will provide 50 minutes at the end of the lecture time for you to enter and complete the quiz (the quiz will open at 1:05pm and close at 1:45 pm. Note that the map quiz time is 30 minutes in length.**

The final quiz is multiple choice. The quiz time is 45 minutes and you can enter the quiz between 12:30pm and 1:45pm. There will be no lecture as this is the last class.

I will be online and monitoring any problems that arise during the map quiz and the final exam. Contact me immediately by email dlyons@ucalgary.ca if problems arise.

If you have problems writing in the synchronous times for these 2 quizzes (e.g. you live in a time zone that makes the writing times impossible), then contact me and I will make an arrangement with you, but the quizzes must be completed within the same 24 hours as designated.

Each exam covers the materials in each section e.g., exam 1 covers all materials from the first lecture to the one prior to exam 1, exam 2 covers the materials from the lectures following the first exam to the lecture prior to the 2nd exam. The same approach applies to the questions in the final quiz.

Exams are **NOT** open book. Please respect the integrity of the examination process.

Study for the exam prior to the examination date. Students cannot use any internet sources while writing the exam/quiz including but not restricted to cutting and pasting information from any electronic/digital sources as answers to examination questions (including their own notes). Do not communicate or work with any other person during the exam/quiz, either on the computer, using cell phone apps, texting or calls, landlines, or in person. Do not use notes, books or other imagery during the exam/quiz including class notes, videos or audio files, screen shots or other forms of digital or hardcopy media both visual and audio.

Sharing quiz/exam questions with other students by taking and sharing screen shots or other digital or hardcopy recordings of all or parts of exam/quiz components during the exam, during the entire period in which the quiz/exam is open (24 hours), or on other digital platforms during and after the quiz/exam time is a breach of the instructor's intellectual property and is academic misconduct.

Preliminary Course Outline

Readings should be viewed prior to the lectures and provide background material and specific examples of lecture topics. Films assigned can be viewed online from the Taylor Digital Library. Instructions for each film will be provided on the d2l course content page.

NOTE: Zoom lectures are recorded and will be uploaded onto d2l. Do not share passwords to the lectures with other people. Note that **zoom also records the participant list and chat**. I will disable the private chat function. I encourage students to use the raised hand function in class to ask questions and I will try to reserve some

time at the end of the lectures for questions. Remember to unmute to ask your question then mute after you are finished – this will reduce background noise in the lecture. I prefer to see your faces so that I will recognize you once COVID is over, but I recognize that some of you may not want to be recorded. We will discuss this in the first class. We all have different problems working from home, so we should anticipate occasional problems with internet, cats running across screens, dogs barking so, we need to practice patience in the current situation.

If my internet connection crashes, wait briefly and if I don't return within 10 minutes I will complete the zoom lecture and post it on d2l when I am back online.

Students must adhere to the following protocols for Zoom classes. A poster of Netiquette from the University of Arizona (prepared by Stephen Valdivia), will be discussed in the first class. The basic principles of the poster are to act in a **scholarly manner** (use correct language and spelling, back opinions with data, cite other people's research properly, respect other people's intellectual property). **Be respectful of others:** obscene or disrespectful language is unacceptable. It is important to listen to other people's perspectives, and then engage thoughtfully and respectfully in discussions of diverse ideas. This does not mean that every perspective is correct but there are different and valid perspectives that need to be considered as social scientists. **Be professional**, and represent your ideas truthfully and respectfully in conversation. **Be polite** in the manner that you address the instructor and your peers.

Class schedule

Note: the following schedule may be modified with the pace of the class, but exams, quizzes, and assignment dates remain as posted. [All Zoom classes are recorded and posted to d2l](#)

Section 1: Introduction

Week 1: January 12, 14

Lecture: Course Introduction and Introduction to the Continent

Section 2: Northeast Africa: Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia

Week 2: January 19, 21

Lecture: Background to the study of African Complex societies

Historical perspective on African Complex Society

Readings: Chapter 1

Week 3: January 26, 28

Lecture: Pre-Dynastic Egypt and Old Kingdom

Readings: Chapter 2

Map quiz in Thursday class January 28 (10% of final grade written in synchronous class time – 30 minutes open between 1:05 pm and 1:45pm-- there is a 30 minute lecture on Thursday prior to the quiz)

Week 4: February 2, 4

Lecture: Ancient Egypt: Middle and New Kingdoms; Ancient Nubia

Reading: Chapter 4

Term paper topic, resource outline, option declaration is due by Tuesday class February 2 (submitted by dropbox)

Week 5: February 9, 11

Lecture: Ancient Nubia continued

Reading: Chapter 4

Exam 1 on Thursday class (25%) February 11 (75 minutes 24-hour window beginning 12:30pm Thursday - no lecture on Thursday)

No Classes Spring Break: February 14-20

Week 6: February 23, 25

Lecture: Ancient Ethiopia, North Africa

Readings: Chapters 3, 5

Film: Africa's Great Civilizations: Empires of Gold (Films on Demand)

Section 3: North Africa, the Sahara and West Africa

Week 7: March 2, 4

Lecture: North Africa and the Sahara

Lightning Sessions: Begin on Thursday March 4; Participation required (2.5% of grade)

Reading: Chapter 3

Term Papers Due Thursday March 4 (30% of final grade)

Week 8: March 9, 11

Lightning Sessions: Tuesday March 9; Participation required (2.5% of grade)

Lecture: West African savannah kingdoms and empires

Reading: Chapter 6

Week 9: March 16, 18

Lecture: West African savanna and Forest States

Reading: Chapter 7

Section 4: Eastern, Southern, and Central Africa

Week 10: March 23, 25

East Africa: Swahili

Reading: Chapter 8

Exam 2 on Thursday March 25 (25% of final grade) (75 minutes 24-hour window beginning 12:30pm on Thursday - no lecture on Thursday)

Week 11: March 30, April 1

Lecture: East Africa: Zambezia

Reading: Chapter 9

Film: Africa's Great Civilizations: Part 4 Cities (films on demand)

Week 12: April 6,8

Lecture: Central Africa

Reading: Chapter 10

Week 13: April 13, 15

Lecture: South Africa

Reading: Chapter 11,12

Final quiz April 15 (10% of final grade written in synchronous class time – 45 minutes open between 12:30pm and 1:45pm)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Principles of Conduct

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.

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

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

Information on the acceptable use of electronic resources can be found here: <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Human subjects

Students will not directly participate in nor conduct research of human subjects in this course.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published with the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class

explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Accessibility

Students need to see the lecture (visually) in order to get most of the information in this course. There is no captioning of the text in zoom.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor to the student through d2l. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's main office. Grades will appear in d2l for exams and quizzes. Exam assessments *will only be available after make-up exams are completed. Students can view exam evaluations on d2l for a 48 hour period after grades are published on d2l. A class email will alert students when the evaluations are open.*

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar. 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>.

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: pcdawson@ucalgary.ca).

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright: <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>

and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

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/>).

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email the Student at Risk line if they or others appear to need wellness assistance: sar@ucalgary.ca. For more immediate response, please call: 403-210-9355 and select option #2.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus, including the LRT station, parking lots, bus zones, and university residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your campus destination.