

# ARCHAEOLOGY 627

## SEMINAR ON THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE

FALL 2008

Instructors: J. Scott Raymond  
Office: ES 824  
Office Hours: M-W 11-12 or by appointment  
Class Hours: Wednesdays 1-4

This course is a seminar. You will be expected to participate in the discussion, lead at least one discussion session, complete weekly reading assignments, write an original research paper and present an oral critique of the research paper of a classmate. The Origins of Agriculture is a broad subject with an extensive literature. Following discussion of the first set of readings, we will discuss whether we wish to narrow our focus on the subject, and if so, how.

### Readings

Each week for the first 7-8 weeks, you will be given a list of readings which you will be expected to read for discussion the following week. One or more of you may be asked to lead the discussion on the weekly topic; however, each of you will be expected to be prepared for and to contribute to the discussion.

### Research Paper

Your paper should be thoroughly researched, well organized, and well written. You should select a topic during the first two weeks. The sooner you start the better. You will probably find that you will need to order some sources through Interlibrary Loans. You will be given a time schedule indicating when your paper will be discussed. Your paper is to be duplicated (at your cost) and distributed to the members of the class at least one week before it is scheduled for discussion. (It is particularly important that the critic receive a copy as early as possible).

### Critique

Your critique should be a careful, thorough analysis and examination of the merits of the paper. You should concentrate on substantive issues, e.g. on use of data, methodology, thoroughness of the use of resources, logic of argument, and clarity of the presentation. Avoid personal and picky criticism but be frank. If you disagree, say so and be prepared to support your disagreement. If important sources have been overlooked, find them and mention them. By the same token, don't be afraid to praise. If you think a paper has been brilliantly researched and written, let us know and tell us why.

### Grading

Research Paper	50%
Critique	20%
Leading Discussion	15%
Class Participation	15%