

ARKY 205: ANCIENT PEOPLE AND PLACES

Spring Semester 2015

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Office Hours: by appointment

Class Location: MHF 164

Times: TR 9 – 11:45 AM



Ceremonial Olmec Mask

Course Description:

Some of the central goals of archaeology are to document and explain continuity and change in cultures, societies, and behaviours. Archaeologists are interested in the development of humanity through time and space. We are interested in *how* people lived, but more importantly, we are interested in *why* people lived the ways they did. With these goals in mind, in *ARKY 205 Ancient People and Places* we will survey of some of the world's most inspiring and fascinating archaeological discoveries: discoveries that have been invaluable for answering our questions about human evolution, the development of humanity, ancient technologies, civilizations, and movements of populations across the globe. We will track the development of humanity through time and space, beginning with the evolution of our species, moving through the spread of early hunter-gatherers, through the development of agriculture, and to the emergence of complex civilizations. Our travels begin with an overview of the tool kits archaeologists use to reconstruct the lives of ancient people and the places they lived. Approaches include material culture analyses, bioarchaeology, geoarchaeology, microarchaeology, and landscape archaeology. Applying these approaches, we will tour ancient Africa, the birth place of *Homo sapiens*, the Palaeolithic and the invention of stone tool technology, the development of Neolithic agriculture in the Fertile Crescent, the Pharaonic Dynasties of ancient Egypt, the peopling of North America, the Inca Empire of Peru, and the Empires of Mexico, including the Olmec, Aztec, and Maya.

Key Student Achievements:

- A) Students will learn fundamental techniques used to recover evidence from the archaeological record.
- B) We will become knowledgeable on the chronologies and geographies of several of the world's best documented ancient peoples and places.
- C) Students will be able to discuss key events in the development of humanity.
- D) We will participate in one of the central tenants of archaeology practice – teamwork – through a group project.

Required Text:

Chazan, Michael (2015) *World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways through Time* (Third Canadian Edition) Pearson Education, Toronto.



Course Grading:

- **Midterm: 30%** (Thursday, June 4th) Material covered up to the midterm; multiple choice.
- **Site Tour Brochure: 30%** Prepare a summary of an important site covered in class, its location, important discoveries, and its significance to world prehistory in the style of a tour brochure.
- **In Class Participation: 10%** Group participation in the project. There will be two class sessions dedicated to group work.
- **Final Exam: 30%** The final will be a multiple choice exam that covers all course materials, including readings and lectures. Emphasis will be placed materials presented after the first midterm. This exam will be scheduled by the registrar during the final exam period.
- *Note: a passing grade on any particular component is not required to pass the entire course.

Important Dates:

Midterm, Thursday, June 4th

First In-Class Group Work Session, Thursday, June 4th

Second In-Class Group Work Session, Thursday, June 11th

Site Tour Brochure Due, Thursday, June 18th

First Day of Spring Classes, Thursday, May 14th

Victoria Day, No Classes, Monday, May 18th

Last Day of Classes, Friday, June 26th

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1: The Archaeologists' Tool Box

The Goals of Archeology

The Nuts and Bolts of Archaeology Theory and Method

Archaeological Specializations

Readings: Text, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2: Human Evolution

From *Australopithecines* to *Neanderthals*

The Emergence of Modern *Homo sapiens*

Readings: Text, Chapters 3 and 4

Week 3: Populating the Globe

Peopling of the Old World and Australia

Peopling of North America

Hunter-Gatherers of the North American Arctic

Readings: Text, Chapter 6

Week 4: The Agricultural Revolution

The Fertile Crescent

Teosinte to Maize in Mesoamerica

Sonoran Agricultural Complexes of the North American Southwest

A Trinity of Crops in Eastern Woodlands of North America

Readings: Text, Chapters 7-9

Week 5: Signs of Complexity

Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Aegean
Fishers of The North West Coast, North America
Chaco Canyon Interaction Sphere
Class Stratification at Cahokia
Readings: Text, Chapters 10 and 11

Week 6: Ancient Empires

Early States in Asia
Empires of Mexico
Empires of the Andes
Readings: Text, Chapters 12 and 13

Site Tour Brochure Mechanics:

This is a group project, yay! Archaeologists don't work alone, we always work as teams. The archaeological record contains such a diversity of evidence that no one person could possibly be an expert in all of it. We bring together people with diverse specializations to extract as much evidence from the record as possible. After all, once we excavate a site, the parts we excavated are essentially destroyed. There are no do-over's. It has to be done right the first time. As such, teamwork is an integral part of archaeology.

The goal of this project is for your team to develop a summary of an important site we have covered in class using a tour brochure format. Each person in the group should bring their own specialized experience/interests to the table. Your brochure should include the following information: **site location; cultural affiliation and chronology; history of archaeology at the site; important archaeological discoveries; and significance to world prehistory.** Maps and pictures are a must, and please be creative!

Examples of Site Possibilities: Onion Portage; Manis; Meadowcroft Rockshelter; Ubeidiya; Dmanisi; Olduvai Gorge; Pueblo Bonito; Giza; Teotihuacan; Cusco; there will be many more examples you can draw from in our course text book.

You will need a bibliography with at least three sources.

Length: this will be a two sided document in pamphlet format; I will review how to do this in class.

Your assignment is due at the beginning of class on June 18th.

*******LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED*******

Overall Grading:

- A+ 95% +
- A 90-94%
- A- 85-89%
- B+ 80-84%
- B 74-79%
- B- 70-73%
- C+ 67-69%
- C 63-66%
- C- 60-62%
- D+ 57-59%
- D 50-56%
- F 0-49%