

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS
ARCHAEOLOGY 325 (ARKY 305)-L03

FALL 2010

Saturdays 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

Location: PF 128

Instructor: Alejandro Patiño Contreras

Office: ES (Earth Sciences) 744

Office hours: By appointment

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Course Description: The course is an overview of the **earliest** hierarchical socio-political formations in the Near East, East and South Asia, Europe, Mesoamerica and South America. Lectures will focus on the development of social and economical differences around the ancient world, as well as the rise, establishment, and fall of regional and local polities in each area.

The course begins with a brief exploration of social transformations around the world at the time when domestication of plants and animals became widespread. This section presents general trends in the interplay between population growth, status competition, technological development, religion and social complexity. Then, the course focuses on the development of selected early hierarchical societies around the globe.

The course consists of a series of lectures presented every week on Saturdays. The program do no include field trips or experimental assignments, particularly studies involving with human subjects. Students are required to read the chapter assigned to each module in the program before the lecture takes place.

Text book (required):

Scarre, Chris (editor)

2009 *The Human Past: World Prehistory and the Development of Human Societies*. Second Edition. Thames and Hudson. New York.

Objectives:

By the end of the course students are expected to:

- a) Understand the factors involved in the development of socio-economical hierarchies in early polities.
- b) Become familiar with key characteristics of the development of ancient social formations.
- c) Be acquainted with key locations, chronologies and archaeological cultures.
- d) Develop critical thinking to assess information on ancient societies presented in popular media.

Course grading:

First exam (25%): October 2nd. Content: 20 questions.

Second exam (25%): November 6th. Content: 30 questions.

Third exam (25%): December 4th. Content: 30 questions.

Fourth exam (25%): Scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Statement on the use of computers and other electronic devices in class:

Students are allowed to use their computers to take notes during the lectures. However, it is not allowed to check Facebook, My Space or any other online social network during class. Online chatting is also prohibited during the lectures.

The use of I-pods and other portable music devices are also not permitted during class time. Cell phones must be turned off during lectures.

If a person is found breaking any of these requirements by the instructor, he or she will be asked to leave the classroom.

Description of exams:

The evaluations of this course are not comprehensive. Exams are multiple choice questions.

Questions come from both the lecture and the readings. Therefore, class attendance is critical to obtain a high mark. All grades are important to pass the course.

I do not give make-up exams without a written medical excuse. Computers, i-pods or any other electric device are not allowed during exams.

Grading Scale:

A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Schedule of Lectures and Readings (Schedule subject to change)

Session 1 (September 18): Social transformations after the advent of domestication. Readings: Chapter 5.

Session 2 (September 25): The development of “Complex” Societies in Southwest Asia. Readings: Chapter 6.

Session 3 (October 2): The trend towards social hierarchies and economic specialization in East Asia. Readings: Chapter 7.

Session 4 (October 9): Early political formations in West and Central Europe. Readings: Chapter 11

Session 5 (October 16): Early hierarchical societies in Mesoamerica Readings: Chapter 16.

Session 6 (October 23): The first polities of South America: Chapter 17.

Session 7 (October 30): The Ancient Egyptian State. Readings: Chapter 10.

Session 8 (November 6): The Ancient Mesopotamian State. Readings: Chapter 12.

Reading week (November 11-14)

Session 10 (November 20): Statehood and Empire in East Asia. Readings: Chapter 15.

Session 11 (November 27): Early state formations in Mediterranean Europe. Readings: Chapter 13.

Session 12 (December 4): World systems in the ancient world: The case of Central and Western Europe.

Session 13 (December 11): Cities, laws and administration: South Asia from the 4th Millennium BC to the Fourth Century BC. Readings: Chapter 14.

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught

how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Academic Accommodation Policy

The purpose of academic accommodation is to provide students with documented disabilities equal opportunity to master the essentials of a post-secondary education. Students with disabilities at the University of Calgary have met all admission requirements but may have done so with the use of accommodations. Similarly, they are expected to meet all academic and non-academic requirements. Adaptive technology and other academic accommodations do not relieve students of their responsibility to develop the essential skills and abilities expected of all students.

Please refer to the following web link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/71>

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403)220-8237.

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

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.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite 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 you own without proper referencing
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk Information

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

Student Union Vice President – Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representative

Phone: (403) 220-3913

Email: socilscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/students-rights.html>