

Ancient Civilizations
ARKY 325
Winter 2010 (January 16 – April 10)
Saturday, 8:00am-12:00pm Room: ST027

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Office Hours: Saturday, 12:00-1:00 or by appointment

Description:

In this course we will focus on the rise and achievements of the earliest civilizations in both the Old and New Worlds. Emphasis will be placed on the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Mesoamerica and the Andes. Questions and topics will concern: What is civilization? How are these ancient civilizations organized? What makes these civilizations similar and different? In addition to the text listed below, course themes will be examined through lectures, films and in-class discussion.

Required Text:

- *Patterns in Prehistory: Humankind's First Three Million Years (5th Edition)*. (2007). Robert J. Wenke & Deborah J. Olszewski, Oxford University Press.

Note: any additional readings will be distributed in class or via Blackboard.

Grading:

The course grade will be calculated as indicated below:

Class Participation	10%
Midterm 1 (February 13)	30%
Midterm 2 (March 13)	30%
Final examination (April 17)	30%

Midterms and the final examination are primarily non-cumulative and will be based on material drawn from lectures, films shown in class, and assigned readings.

Grading scheme:

96-100	A+	80-84	B+	67-69	C+	55-59	D+	49 or lower = F
90-95	A	75-79	B	64-66	C	50-54	D	
85-89	A-	70-74	B-	60-63	C-			

Students who miss an exam or hand in a late assignment without legitimate documentation for medical reasons or a family emergency will receive a grade of 0% for that exam.

Class Schedule (subject to revision based on class progress during the term):

DATES	ASSIGNED READINGS
Week 1 (January 16)	Intro to Course, Archaeology and Ancient Civilizations (Chapters 1 to 5)
Week 2 (January 23)	Origins of Agriculture & Evolution of Complex Societies (Wenke, Chapters 6 & 7)
Week 3 (January 30)	Complex Societies in Ancient Mesopotamia (Wenke, Ch. 8)
Week 4 (February 6)	Complex Societies in Egypt (Wenke, Ch. 9)
Week 5 (February 13)	Midterm 1 , Indus Valley Civilization (Wenke, Ch. 10)
Week 6 (February 20)	Reading Week, No Class
Week 7 (February 27)	Complex Societies in China (Wenke, Ch. 11)
Week 8 (March 6)	Later Complex Societies of the Old World, Africa & Pacific (Wenke, Ch. 12)
Week 9 (March 13)	Midterm 2 , Ancient Mesoamerica (Wenke, Ch. 13)
Week 10 (March 20)	Andean Civilization (Wenke, Ch.14)
Week 11(March 27)	Early Cultural Complexity in North America (Ch. 15)
Week 12 (April 3)	Easter Weekend, No Class
Week 13 (April 10)	Course Conclusions – (Wenke, Ch. 16)
April 17	Final Exam