

**ARCHAEOLOGY 395
AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Mary McDonald
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Lectures: TR 12:30 PM ES 859
Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:00 PM or by appointment

Course description:

This course surveys the archaeology of Africa from the earliest times to the ethnographic present. Emphasis is placed on the last 10,000 years, especially the development and spread of food production, iron metallurgy and trade, and the emergence of complex societies. Archaeological evidence for the origins and development of a sample of state societies is presented. Archaeological evidence, supplemented by genetic research, linguistic studies and ethnoarchaeology, provides a picture of a distinctive “African pathway” in prehistory. But African archaeology also contributes to, indeed often corrects, widely held interpretations of human cultural development in general.

Required texts:

Phillipson, D.W. 2005 *African Archaeology* (3rd ed.). Cambridge.
Stahl, Ann Brower 2005 *African Archaeology*. Blackwell, Oxford.

Course evaluation:

- 20% First mid-term exam (Tuesday October 12)
- 30% Second mid-term exam (Thursday November 18)
- 10% Final quiz (Thursday December 9)
- 5% Abstract of research paper (due Tuesday, Nov. 9)
- 35% Research paper (due Thursday, November 25)

Note: there is no final exam in this course

Grading scheme (%):

A, A+ 85-100	B+, B, B- 79-70	D+, D 59-50
A- 80-84	C+, C, C- 69-60	F <50

Abstract of research paper:

A 100-word summary of your research paper in which you state your thesis or argument. Also, please provide 2 to 4 of your major references. Due Tuesday Nov. 9, and worth 5 points.

Research paper:

A 10-12 page research paper, worth 35 points, is required. It is due on Thursday November 25.

Choose a topic that is appropriate to the course. A few possible topic areas are suggested below.

A research paper should involve on average at least one source per page of text, so at least 12 substantial sources (e.g. other than textbooks, encyclopedia articles), from scholarly journals, monographs or web sources. Also, you can use individual articles in the Stahl book.

Use the referencing format found in *American Antiquity*, which you can find at www.saa.org/Publications/StyleGuide/styframe.html

No plastic binders or holders, please! Number your pages and staple them together. Also, of course, avoid plagiarism.

Sample paper topics

African iron technology: local invention or diffusion?

“Out of Africa”: the most likely route

Bantu expansion in eastern and southern Africa: why so fast?

Progress in engendering African Prehistory?

Using rock art to learn about an ancient society

A critical analysis of a major site that has been comprehensively published, e.g. Kalambo Falls, Great Zimbabwe, Jenné-jeno, Nabta Playa

Rough outline of weekly topics and readings:**Week 1:**

Introduction to African archaeology. Geography, climate, language groups.

Read: Phillipson chap 1; Stahl # 1.

Week 2:

Early Stone Age (ESA): beginning of human culture and the Acheulean.

Read: Phil. chap. 2, 3.

Week 3:

Middle Stone Age (MSA) and the emergence of modern human behavior.

Read: Phil. chap 4 (*passim*); Stahl # 4.

Week 4:

Late Stone Age (LSA): consolidation and elaboration.

Out of Africa

Read: Phil. chap. 4 (continued); Stahl #5.

Week 5:**First mid-term, Oct. 12.**

Beginnings of settlement.

Read: Phil. chap 5; Stahl # 7.

Week 6:

Origins of farming; early pastoralism.

Read: Phil. chap. 6 to p. 195; Stahl # 8.

Week 7:

Origins of domestication continued

Read: Phil. chap. 6 (ctd); Stahl # 10.

Week 8:

Iron Age: evidence for early iron working.

Read: Phil. chap 7 to p. 249; Stahl # 11.

Week 9:

Social and economic consequences of the Iron Age

Read: Phil. chap 7 (ctd); Stahl # 12.

Reading days**Week 10:**

Rise of complex societies in Africa: theoretical considerations.

Second mid-term, Nov. 18.

Read: Stahl # 13.

Week 11:

Early urbanism and trade in sub-Saharan Africa.

Read: Stahl # 15.

Weeks 12, 13:

African complex societies: Great Zimbabwe, the East Coast, Central Africa

Read: Phil. chap. 8; Stahl # 18.

Final quiz Dec. 9.**Additional readings and sources:**

Journals are good places to look for both paper topics and references. Some of the journals dealing with African archaeology:

African Archaeological Review

Azania

Journal of African Archaeology (On line)

Journal of African History

Journal of Social Archaeology

Nyame Akuma

West African Journal of Archaeology
South African Archaeological Bulletin

Useful websites for maps:

<http://www.wartoft.nu/software/seterra/exercises-2.aspx>

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa.html>

Books on reserve or in Reference:

Blench, R. & K.C. MacDonald

2000 *The origins and development of African livestock*. UCL, London.
SF55.A36 075

Churcher, C.S. & A.J. Mills

1999 *Reports from the survey of the Dakhleh Oasis, 1977-1987*. Oxbow, Oxford.
DT73 D33 R47

Connah, G.

2001 *African civilizations: an archaeological perspective*. Cambridge U. Press, Cambridge.
GN865.S87 C65

Di Lernia, S. (ed.)

1998 *Before food production in North Africa*. A.B.A.C.O. ed., Forli.
GN776.42 .N7 B43

Kent, S. (ed.)

1998 *Gender in African Prehistory*. Altamira Press, CA.
GN861.646

McIntosh, S.K. (ed.)

1999 *Beyond Chiefdoms*. Cambridge U. Press, Cambridge.
GN645 .B495

Pwiti, G. & R. Soper (eds)

1995 *Aspects of African Archaeology*. U. of Zimbabwe Publications, Harare
GN861 .P36

Robertshaw, P.

1990 *A history of African Archaeology*. J. Currey, London.
CC101 .A35 H57

Shaw, T. et al.

1993 *The archaeology of Africa: foods, metals and towns*. One World Archaeology Series,
Routledge. GN861 .A73

Stahl, A.B.
2005 *African Archaeology*. Blackwell, Oxford.
DT13 .A354

Wendorf, F.
2001 *Holocene settlement of the Egyptian Sahara*. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Pub. New York.
GN776.42 .E3 H65 v. 1.

Willoughby, P.R.
2007 *The evolution of modern humans in Africa*. AltaMira Press, CA.
GN281 .W55

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: suvpaca@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>