

ARCHAEOLOGY 395  
AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Mary McDonald  
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Lectures: MWF 2:00-2:50 PM SA013  
Office hours: Wednesday 3:00-4:30 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.

Source on reserve in Library:

Mitchell, P. & Lane, P. 2013 *The Oxford Handbook of African Archaeology*. Oxford

Course evaluation:

- 20% First mid-term exam (Wednesday October 12)
- 25% Second mid-term exam (Monday November 21)
- 10% Final quiz (Friday December 9)
- 5% Abstract of research paper (Friday November 4)
- 35% Research paper (due Friday November 25)
- 5% Class participation

Note: there is no final exam in this course

Grading Scheme (%)

A+	90-100	A	85-89.5	A-	80-84.5
B+	76.5-79.5	B	73-76	B-	70-72.5
C+	66.5-69.5	C	63-66	C-	60-62.5
D+	55-59.5	D	50-54.5	F	49.5 and below

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 Friday November 4 and worth 5 points.

Research paper:

A 10-12 page research paper, worth 35 points, is required. It is due on Friday 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. Articles from your textbook Stahl are acceptable.

Use the referencing format found in *American Antiquity*, which you can find at [www.saa.org/Publications/StyleGuide/styframe.html](http://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, Jenne-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.

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:**

Reading days

Social and economic consequences of the Iron Age

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

**Week 10:**

Rise of complex societies in Africa: theoretical considerations.

Read: Stahl # 13.

**Week 11:**

Second mid-term, Nov. 21

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, December 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
- The South African Archaeological Newsletter

Useful websites for maps:

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

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

### Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's policy on intellectual honesty.

### Deferred Exams:

Deferral of a mid-term exam must be cleared with the instructor. Deferral will be granted only in cases of personal injury, illness, or immediate family emergency. An official note or other documentation explaining the reason for the absence is required. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

### Academic Accommodations:

The academic accommodations policy can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students that have not registered with the SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about the academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>.

### Emergency Evacuation:

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/home/evacuation-assembly-points/assembly-points>

### USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback furnished by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating

instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)).

Your responses are appreciated - please participate in USRI Surveys.

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology Office (ES 620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

#### 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>

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#### 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 helpline, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

#### Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:  
arts1@su.ucalgary.ca                      arts2@su.ucalgary.ca  
arts3@su.ucalgary.ca                      arts4@su.ucalgary.ca