

# ARCHAEOLOGY 401

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NEAR EAST

Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Mary McDonald  
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Office hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 2:30 PM or by appointment  
Lectures: TR11:00 AM; ST 057

### Course description

This course is a survey of the prehistory of the Near East, starting with the earliest traces of human activity up to the Bronze Age. Geographically, the focus will be on the Levant and Greater Mesopotamia, although occasionally we will range from Egypt through Arabia to the Indus. We will examine current controversies such as the “Out of Africa” debate, and that surrounding the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition. For the latter part of the sequence, the emphasis will be on the beginnings of agriculture and village life, and the rise of cities and the state. Related topics to be touched upon include the history of archaeological research in the area, and the quality of evidence available for different times and places.

Course material will consist of formal lectures, a few films, and assigned readings from the accompanying list.

### Course evaluation:

- 20% First mid-term exam (Tuesday October 8)
- 30% Second mid-term exam (Thursday November 14)
- 10% Final quiz (Thursday December 5)
- 5% Abstract of research paper (due Tuesday November 5)
- 35% Research paper (due Thursday November 21)

Note: there is no final exam in this course

### Grading scheme (%):

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

No particular course component need be passed in order to pass the course as a whole.

**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 November 5, and worth 5 points.

**Research paper:**

A 10-12 page research paper, worth 35 points, is required. It is due on Thursday November 21.  
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 from the reading list.

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.

Suggested topic areas:

- A critical analysis of a major site that has been comprehensively published, such as 'Ubeidiya, Tabun Cave, Boker Tachtit, Nabta Playa, Göbekli or Çatalhöyük.
- New approaches to the study of stone tools in Near Eastern Prehistory.
- Burials in the Middle Palaeolithic.
- Problems surrounding the Middle-Upper Palaeolithic transition.
- Role of environmental change in the switch to food production.
- Disease and/or dietary consequences of the Neolithic Revolution.

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

**Week 1:** Introduction. Modern climates and environments, time scales and frameworks.

*Read:* Sherratt 1997.

**Week 2:** Stone tool classification.

The Lower Palaeolithic.

*Read:* Ambrose 2001; Bar-Yosef 1994; Stiner et al. 2011.

**Week 3:** The initial spread out of Africa (Out of Africa 1).

The Middle Palaeolithic.

*Read:* Bar-Yosef & Belfer-Cohen 2001; Gabunia et al. 2000.

Bar-Yosef et al. 1992; Jelinek 1982.

**Week 4:** Emergence of modern human behavior.

Out of Africa 2

*Read:* Shea 2003; Bower 2012; Goebel 2007.

**Week 5:** Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition.

*Read:* Marks 1983.

**1<sup>st</sup> mid-term exam: Tuesday, October 8**

**Week 6:** Upper Palaeolithic

The Epipalaeolithic.

*Read:* Gilead 1991; Olszewski & Dibble 1994; Mayer et al. 2012.

**Week 7:** The Natufian.

The Neolithic: introduction.

*Read:* Bar-Yosef 1998; Byrd 2005; Zeder 2011.

**Week 8:** The Neolithic: the early stages. PPNA

*Read:* Goring-Morris & Belfer-Cohen 2011; Curry 2008; Finlayson et al. 2011.

**Week 9:** The Later Neolithic in the Levant: PPNB

*Read:* Carleton et al. 2013; Kuijt 2000; Watkins 2008

**Week 10: Reading days.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> mid-term exam: Thursday November 14**

**Week 11:** The Neolithic beyond the Levant: the Taurus area, the Zagros, and elsewhere.

*Read:* Starkovich & Stiner 2009; Riehl et al. 2013; Zeder & Hesse 2000; Zeder 2008.

**Week 12:** The Neolithic in Egypt.

Mesopotamia: moving towards complexity.

*Read:* McDonald 2009; Wendorf & Schild 1994; Bernbeck 1994.

**Week 13:** Mesopotamia: features of the civilization.

*Read:* Algaze 2001; Oates et al. 2007.

**Final quiz: Thursday, December 5**

### **Additional readings and sources:**

Journals are good places to look for both paper topics and references. Some of the journals carrying Near Eastern Prehistory include *Anatolian Studies*, *Antiquity*, *Archaeologia*, *Archaeology*, *Biblical Archaeologist*, *Current Anthropology*, *Expedition*, *Iran*, *Iraq*, *J. of Anthropological Archaeology*, *J. of Mediterranean Archaeology*, *J. of Near Eastern Studies*, *J. of World Prehistory*, *Levant*, *Paléorient*, *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, *World Archaeology*.

### **A few search engines, web sites:**

A good website for maps:

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

ArchAtlas [great visual discussions via satellite imagery & GIS, compiled by A. Sherratt & students; very good references].

<http://www.archatlas.dept.shef.ac.uk/>

EARTH [excellent resource for origins of agriculture & locations of early sites].

<http://acl.arts.usyd.edu.au/projects/earth/>

Çatalhöyük (Anatolia [Turkey])

<http://catal.arch.cam.ac.uk/Catal/catal.html>

### **Arky 401: Basic Reading list**

All these items are from journals available to you online through the university library. Additional readings may be assigned from time to time.

Algaze, G. 2001. Initial social complexity in Southwestern Asia: the Mesopotamian advantage. *Current Anthropology* 42:199-233.

Ambrose, S.H. 2001 Paleolithic technology and human evolution. *Science* 291:1748-1753.

Bar-Yosef, O. 1994. The Lower Paleolithic of the Near East. *Journal of World Prehistory* 8:211-265.

Bar-Yosef, O. 1998. The Natufian culture in the Levant, threshold to the origins of agriculture. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 6:159-177.

Bar-Yosef, O. & A. Belfer-Cohen 2001. From Africa to Eurasia – early dispersals. *Quaternary International* 75:19-28.

Bar-Yosef, O. et al. 1992. The excavations in Kebara Cave, Mt. Carmel. *Current Anthropology* 33:497-550.

Bernbeck, R. 1995. Lasting alliances and emerging competition: economic developments in Early Mesopotamia. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 14:1-25.

Bower, B. 2012. Tangled roots. *Science News* August 25, 2012:22-26

Byrd, B.F. 2005. Reassessing the emergence of village life in the Near East. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 13:231-290.

Carleton, W.C. et al. 2013. Corporate kin-groups, social memory, and “history houses”? A quantitative test of recent reconstructions of social organization and building function at Çatalhöyük during the PPNB. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 40:1816-1822.

Curry, A. 2008. Seeking the roots of ritual. *Science* 319:278-280.

Finlayson, B. et al. 2011. Architecture, sedentism, and social complexity at Pre-Pottery Neolithic A WF16, Southern Jordan. *PNAS* 108:8183-8188.

Gabunia, L. et al. 2000. Earliest Pleistocene hominid cranial remains from Dmanisi, Republic of Georgia: taxonomy, geological setting, and age. *Science* 288:1019-1025.

Gilead, I. 1991. The Upper Paleolithic period in the Levant. *Journal of World Prehistory* 5:105-154.

Goebel, T. 2007. The missing years for modern humans. *Science* 315:194-196.

- Goring-Morris, A.N. & A. Belfer-Cohen 2011. Neolithization processes in the Levant: the outer envelope. *Current Anthropology* 52, Suppl. 4:S195-S208.
- Jelinek, A.J. 1982. The Tabun Cave and Paleolithic man in the Levant. *Science* 216:1369-1375.
- Kuijt, I. 2000. People and space in early agricultural villages: exploring daily lives, community size, and architecture in the Late Pre-Pottery Neolithic. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 19:75-102.
- Marks, A.E. 1983. The Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in the Levant. *Advances in World Archaeology* 2:51-98.
- Mayer, L.A. et al. 2012. The Pre-Natufian Epipalaeolithic: long-term behavioural trends in the Levant. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 21:69-81.
- McDonald, M.M.A. 2009. Increased sedentism in the Central Oases of the Egyptian Western Desert in the Early to Mid-Holocene: evidence from the peripheries. *African Archaeological Review* 26:3-43.
- Oates, J. et al. 2007. Early Mesopotamian urbanism: a view from the north. *Antiquity* 81:585-600.
- Olszewski, D.I. & H.L. Dibble 1994. The Zagros Aurignacian. *Current Anthropology* 35:68-75.
- Riehl, S. et al. 2013. Emergence of agriculture in the foothills of the Zagros Mountains of Iran. *Science* 341:65-67.
- Shea, J.J. 2003. Neandertals, competition, and the origin of modern human behaviour in the Levant. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 12:173-187.
- Sherratt, A. 1997. Climatic cycles and behavioural revolutions: the emergence of modern humans and the beginning of farming. *Antiquity* 71:271-287.
- Starkovich, B.M. & M.C. Stiner 2009. Hallan Çemi Tepesi: high-ranked game exploitation alongside intensive seed processing at the Epipaleolithic-Neolithic transition in Southeastern Turkey. *Anthropozoologica* 44:41-61.
- Stiner, M.C. et al. 2011. Hearth-side socioeconomics, hunting and paleoecology during the late Lower Paleolithic at Qesem Cave, Israel. *Journal of Human Evolution* 60:213-233.
- Watkins, T. 2008. Supra-regional networks in the Neolithic of Southwest Asia. *Journal of World Prehistory* 21:139-171.
- Wendorf, F. & R. Schild 1994. Are the Early Holocene cattle in the Eastern Sahara domestic or wild? *Evolutionary Anthropology* 4:118-128.

Zeder, M.A. 2008. Domestication and early agriculture in the Mediterranean Basin: origins, diffusion, and impact. *PNAS* 105:11597-11604.

Zeder, M.A. 2011. The origins of agriculture in the Near East. *Current Anthropology* 52, Suppl. 4: S221-S235.

Zeder, M.A. & B. Hesse. 2000. The initial domestication of goats (*Capra hircus*) in the Zagros Mountains 10,000 years ago. *Science* 287:2254-2257.

## ADDITIONAL CONTENT

### 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

It is the students' 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 who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at [www.ucalgary.ca/access](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access).

### 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/legalservices/foip>

### 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 your 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>

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work when it is not. Any ideas or materials taken from another source written, electronic, or oral must be fully and formally acknowledged. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- (a) The work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) Parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) The whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) A student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis or dissertation.

### **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.

### **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 SS102, 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 (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

Student Union Vice President – Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

Student Union Faculty Representatives

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/>