

**The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology**  
**Archaeology 439**  
**African Complex Societies**  
**Fall 2017**

**Dr. Diane Lyons**

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Lectures: Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45 ES 702

Office Hours: Wednesday 1-2 or by appointment

**Course Outline:**

The course examines ancient African complex societies with an emphasis on state development south of the Sahara. Lecture topics will include why these states developed, their participation in internal and international systems of exchange, technological developments, belief systems that supported power structures, and the reasons for their collapse.

**Required Text:** Graham Connah. 2016. *African Civilizations an Archaeological Perspective 3rd edition*. Cambridge University Press.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Explain the development of western and colonial perceptions of African peoples and how these continue to affect western perceptions of Africa's history to this day.
- Discuss the current archaeological research of African complex societies.
- Be able to conduct individual research and present this research in a paper.
- Explain the role of African civilizations and African contributions to the modern world.

**Assignments, exams, and quiz schedule**

Map Quiz: Thursday September 21 (10% of final grade)

Paper topic and sources outline due: Tuesday October 3 (5% of final grade)

Term Paper Due: Thursday November 2 (25% of final grade)

Exam 1: Thursday October 12 (25% of final grade)

Exam 2: Thursday November 16 (25% of final grade)

Last quiz: Thursday December 7 (10% of final grade)

NOTE: Late papers will be penalized by 5 points per day for a maximum of 3 days. After 3 days late papers will not be accepted.

**Mark Distributions are determined as follows:**

**Grading Scheme**

96.00-100	A+	66.00-70.9	C+
91.00-95.9	A	61.00-65.9	C

86.00-90.9	A-	56.00-60.9	C-
81.00-85.9	B+	53.00-55.9	D+
76.00-80.9	B	50.00-52.9	D
71.00-75.9	B-	below 49.9	F

### **Assignments**

Students do not need to pass every course component in order to pass the course, however, students must complete all elements of the course (quizzes, exams, paper assignment) in a diligent manner in order to complete the course.

Students are responsible for their own note taking. Powerpoint notes are minimal outlines and are not a substitute for in-class note taking (I do not publish images from classroom powerpoint presentations on D2L).

Missed exams and quizzes. Students who are unable to take a scheduled exam must contact the instructor by phone, email or in person in advance of the scheduled exam if possible to make necessary arrangements for a rewrite after providing a valid reason for their absence. **Exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor and as close to the scheduled exam date as possible.**

The use of notes, computers, cell-phones and other electronic devices are **not** allowed in exams and quizzes. While students can bring beverages to an exam, do not bring crunchy and smelly lunches or snacks because they are distracting to other students. Students are not allowed to tape, video-record or photograph lectures without written permission from the instructor.

## **Section 1: Introduction**

### **Week 1: September 12, 14**

Lecture: Course Introduction and Introduction to the Continent

Background to the study of African Complex societies

Reading: Chapter 1

## **Section 2: Northeast Africa: Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia**

### **Week 2: September 19, 21**

Lecture: Historical perspective on African Complex Society continued

Ancient Egypt: the Pre-dynastic

Reading: Chapter 2

***Map quiz in Thursday class (10%)***

### **Week 3: September 26, 28**

Lecture: Ancient Egypt: Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom

### **Week 4: October 3, 5**

Lecture: Ancient Egypt: Middle and New Kingdoms

Ancient Nubia

Reading: Chapter 4

***Term paper topic and resource outline is due by Tuesday class (5% of total grade)***

**Week 5: October 10, 12**

Lecture: Ancient Nubia continued

*Exam 1 on Thursday class (25%)*

**Week 6: October 17, 19**

Lecture: Ancient Ethiopia

Reading: Chapter 5

**Section 3: North Africa, the Sahara and West Africa**

**Week 7: October 24, 26**

Lecture: North Africa and the Sahara

Savannah kingdoms and empires of West Africa

Reading: Chapter 3 and 6

**Week 8: October 31, November 2**

Lecture: Savannah kingdoms and empires of West Africa continued

*Term Papers Due Thursday November 2*

**Week 9: November 7, 9**

Lecture: West African Forest States; Indian Ocean networks and the Swahili

Reading: Chapters 7 and 8

**Section 4: Eastern, Southern, and Central Africa**

**Week 10: November 14, 16**

East Africa: Swahili continued

*Exam 2 on Thursday November 16 (25%)*

**Week 11: November 21, 23**

Lecture: East Africa: Zambezia

Reading: Chapter 9

**Week 12: November 28, 30**

Lecture: Central Africa

Reading: Chapter 10

**Week 13: December 5, 7**

Lecture: South Africa

Reading: Chapter 11

*Final quiz Thursday December 7 (10%)*

## **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:**

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. An instructor will normally make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student. In the event that an instructor feels that they cannot judge the veracity of the information provided, Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student’s individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student’s paper from their possession, or from the

possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

### **TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRI (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided 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. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

### **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, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

**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>

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: 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>

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 and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

**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? Arts Students' Centre

The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

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

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/)

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.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[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)

[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Ombudsman`s office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>