



Department of Anthropology
ANTHROPOLOGY 2100 – 650
INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND WORLD PREHISTORY
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall/Winter 2016-17

Online Course
Credit Value: 1.0
Prerequisite: none
Anti-requisite: none

TEXTBOOK: Chazan, Michael
2015 *World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways through Time* (3rd Canadian Edition). Pearson Education, Boston.

This is a well-written, well-illustrated and comprehensive text on world prehistory. Students should read the assigned sections in conjunction with each lesson.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Prof. Peter Timmins
Office: SSC 3213
Phone: (519) 661-2111 ext. 85097 (leave message)
Email: ptimmins@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-1:30 pm; Wednesdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Teaching Assistant: David Norris
Email: dnorris3@uwo.ca
No set office hours. Please email questions between 9 am and 10 pm.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to the discipline of archaeology and an overview of world prehistory. The course is divided into four segments. The first provides an introduction to archaeological method and theory, the second part covers the origins of modern humans and their dispersal around the world, the third covers post-Pleistocene adaptations including the origins of agriculture, and the fourth segment deals with the rise of complex societies. The course concludes with a brief discussion of the current state of archaeology and the future of the discipline.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify key developments in the history of archaeological thought.

- Describe archaeological field methods in general terms and understand how archaeologists collect and interpret their data.
- Summarize general trends in the evolution of the human skeleton as seen in fossil hominin species.
- Identify the major developments in stone tool technology and human adaptations from the Lower to the Upper Paleolithic.
- Discuss the main changes in plants, animals and human behaviour that accompanied the development of agriculture around the world.
- Summarize the fundamental characteristics of ancient complex societies (from an archaeological perspective) and understand how they are expressed among ancient complex societies around the world.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND STUDENT EVALUATION:

The course will involve one lesson per week (delivered in pdf format), associated readings, and weekly online discussions of issues raised in the lessons and readings. There will be 13 lessons in each term. Student evaluation will be broken down as follows:

Participation in Discussions (Weeks 1-10)	15%
Participation in Discussions (Weeks 11-20)	15%
Participation in Discussions (Weeks 21-26)	10%
Mid-Year Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

DISCUSSION FORUMS

Students are required to make at least one substantial contribution to the discussion forums each week. These contributions should be thoughtful comments and questions that deal with issues raised in the lessons and course readings. Discussion posts should not be more than one or two paragraphs in length (between 100-200 words per post). The instructor will start the discussion by posting a question in a discussion forum at the beginning of each week, but students are not limited to that specific topic. You may post other questions about the lessons or readings, or reflections on issues raised. Students should feel free to post often and to respond to each other’s comments and queries, however, you may not post more than four messages in each weekly forum. Discussion forums associated with each lesson will open on Monday of each week and will close the following Sunday. The only exception will be in Week 1, which is a short week. The discussion forum for Week 1 will open Sept. 8th and close on Sept. 18th.

The online discussions are designed to make the learning process interactive, engaging, and collaborative. They will draw out issues in the lessons and readings so that students will learn not only from the course materials but from each other as well. The instructor will grade the discussion posts for quality of argument and engagement with the course material and the class. You will

receive three evaluations of your participation in the discussions, the first during Week 11 (week of November 13th, 2016), the second during Week 21 (week of March 5th, 2017), and the third at the end of the course (week of April 9th, 2017).

EXAMS

The mid-year and final exams will be based on material covered in the lessons and in the assigned readings. The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions. The exams are not cumulative: the mid-year exam is on material covered in the first term, while the final exam covers material presented in the second term only.

OWL:

The course will make use of the OWL learning management system for posting lessons, discussion forums (including student posts), providing grades, and communications between the instructor and the class as a whole. Students can log on to OWL system at: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. For direct communication with the instructor please contact Prof. Timmins by email at: ptimmins@uwo.ca.

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

No electronic devices (including but not limited to laptop computers, cell phones, iPods, etc...) will be allowed during examinations unless expressly authorized by the instructor.

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC POLICIES:

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

COURSE OUTLINE (Preliminary):

- Week 1 (Sept. 8): Lesson 1, Introduction & History of Archaeology
Reading: Chazan, p. 1-5 and all of Chapter 2
- Week 2 (Sept. 12): Lesson 2: The Archaeological Record, Archaeological Survey & Excavation. Reading: Chazan, Chapter 1
- Week 3 (Sept. 19): Lesson 3: Dating Methods in Archaeology. Reading: Chazan, Toolbox p. 27, 80, 127, 162, 201, 222, 292 and Appendix C
- Week 4 (Sept. 26): Lesson 4: The Earliest Hominins. Reading: Chazan, *Part Two, Introduction*, p. 56-63 and Ch. 3 p. 64-69 and Appendix B
- Week 5 (Oct. 3) Lesson 5: The Earliest Archaeological Sites. Reading: Chazan, Chapter 3,

- p. 69-86.
- Week 6 (Oct. 10): Lesson 6: From Early Homo to *Homo erectus*/*Homo ergaster*.
Reading: Chazan, Ch. 3, p. 86-89, Ch. 4, p. 90-99
- Week 7 (Oct. 17): Lesson 7: The Middle Paleolithic and the Neanderthals
Reading: Chazan, Chapter, p. 99-117.
- Week 8 (Oct. 24): Lesson 8: The Appearance of Modern Humans and Early Modern Humans in the Middle East and Africa. Reading: Chazan, Chapter 5, p. 118-128
- Week 9 (Oct. 31): Lesson 9: The Arrival of Modern Humans in Europe and the European Upper Paleolithic. Reading: Chazan, Chapter 5, p. 128-147
- Week 10 (Nov. 7): Lesson 10: The Initial Human Colonization of Australia
Reading: Chazan Chapter 6, p. 148-159.
- Week 11 (Nov. 14): Lesson 11: The Peopling of the New World
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 6, p. 159-171.
- Week 12 (Nov. 21): Lesson 12: Post-Pleistocene Adaptations in the Americas
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 6, 170-179.
- Week 13 (Nov. 28): Lesson 13: The Origins of Food Production
Reading: Chazan, *Part 3*, p. 180-189.
- Mid-Year Exam: Date TBD, Mid-Year Exam Period (Dec. 10 – 21, 2016)
- Week 14 (Jan. 5): Lesson 14: The Mesolithic Period in the Middle East and Europe
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 7, p. 190-198.
- Week 15 (Jan. 9): Lesson 15: Agricultural Origins in the Old World
Reading: Chazan, Ch. 7, p. 198-209 and Ch. 9, p. 240-250 and 255-261.
- Week 16 (Jan. 16): Lesson 16: Agricultural Origins in the New World
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 8, Chapter 9, p. 250-255.
- Week 17 (Jan. 23): Lesson 17: The Development of Social of Complexity
Reading: Chazan, *Part 4*, p. 262-269.

- Week 18 (Jan. 30): Lesson 18: The Development of Cities and States in the Middle East
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 11, p. 304-314.
- Week 19 (Feb. 6): Lecture 19: The Origins of Urbanism in South Asia
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 12, p. 338-347.
- Week 20 (Feb. 13): Lesson 20: Complex Societies in Egypt and Sub-Saharan Africa
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 11, p. 314-328 and Chapter 10, p. 296-300.
- Reading Week (Feb. 20-24, 2017)
- Week 21 (Feb. 27) Lesson 21: The Development of Complexity in China
Reading: Chazan, , Chapter 12, p. 347-353.
- Week 22 (Mar. 6): Lesson 22: The Rise of Complexity in Later Prehistoric Europe
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 10, p. 279-285.
- Week 23 (Mar. 13) Lesson 23: Complex Societies in Mesoamerica
Reading: Chazan. Chapter 13
- Week 24 (Mar. 20): Lesson 24: Cities, States and Empires in the Andes
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 14
- Week 25 (Mar. 27): Lesson 25: The Rise of Complexity in North America
Reading: Chazan, Chapter 10, p. 272-279, p. 285-296
- Week 26 (April 3): Lesson 26: The Archaeology of the Modern World
Reading: Chazan, Epilogue, p. 420-426
- Final Exam: Date TBD, Final Exam Period (April 9-30)