

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 2101A-650: Great Archaeological Sites

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2024

Date: July 23, 2024

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Diana Moreiras Reynaga

Method of delivery: Online.

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description:

This online course examines great archaeological sites around the world, including many on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The sites are explored through video lectures and a variety of online resources including web pages, documentaries, video clips, and readings. The course covers sites of complex hunter-gatherers, early farmers, and early states and empires in the Middle East, Europe, East Asia, Mesoamerica, the Andes, and the Classical World. Each site is placed within its cultural context and used to explore common themes in archaeology: death and ritual, the development of complex economies, the origins of writing and science, social inequality, religion and the meaning of monumental architecture. We will also problematize the concept of "world heritage" by looking at the effects of commodification of the past, the impacts of tourism, the rise and popularity of pseudoarchaeology, and the control and manipulation of heritage sites for political reasons, including the destruction of heritage sites by terrorist groups.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

As all of the sites discussed have a significant online presence, the weekly course work will be designed to utilize those online resources. Each week, students will view lectures presented as videos of slide shows with narration by the instructor. These lessons will be supplemented by links to websites, documentaries and video clips, and selected readings. Registered students will be able to access the weekly schedule and information about specific course readings and other resources through the course OWL Brightspace site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Introductory Assignment	5%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
2 Reflection Papers (2x15)	30%
Weekly Discussions	20%
Final Podcast Assignment	25%

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