

ANTHRO 261:

OLD WORLD PREHISTORY: AGRICULTURE, RELIGION, AND EMPIRE

Fall 2015

Prof. John Whittaker

Office: Goodnow 207 Phone: -3447

CLASS MEETS: MWF 11:00-11:50 Goodnow 105

This course is intended to consider important problems and processes in Old World prehistory and give an overview of the major developments starting with Mesolithic hunter-gatherers and the Neolithic beginnings of agriculture. The emphasis will be on the title themes, concerning the development of complex societies and civilization, and the use of archaeology to understand the social as well as the technological aspects of past cultures. The Old World is too large to be completely covered, and we will try to present an overall framework, while focusing on particular issues and important or famous examples in several major areas of the world. In addition, you should come out with a reasonable idea of how archaeology is done and a view of archaeology as a scientific study of past human lives through material evidence.

Requirements

I would like to maintain a seminar atmosphere, and orient the course heavily toward discussion of readings. This means it is essential that you keep up, reading the assignment before the class for which it is listed. Resign yourself to doing a lot of reading, although the books are intentionally non-technical.

Participation in discussion will be considered in grading.

There will be 2 exams, one during the semester and one final. Each will be worth 25% of the grade. You will write a research paper on any relevant subject, due near the end of the semester, for 25%. The remainder of your grade will be based on class participation, and a brief written evaluation of our bronze tool project.

Bronze Project

This semester we will try an unusual experiment. Technological change is an important part of prehistory, and experiments are one way of understanding this. We will have a set of Bronze Age axes cast, finish them, and do some wood-working with them. This will involve some out-of-class work meetings. You will not be expected to display any unusual craft skills, just to participate and think. At the end you will write a short discussion of the experiment and your tool.

Texts

Elphinstone, Margaret

2009 *The Gathering Night*. Macarthur and Co Pub Ltd.

Milner, Nicky, Barry Taylor, Chantal Conneller, and Tim Schadla-Hall

2013 *Star Carr: Life in Britain after the Ice Age*. Council for British Archaeology, York.

Hodder, Ian

2006 *The Leopard's Tale: Revealing the Mysteries of Catalhoyuk*. Thames and Hudson, London.

Parker Pearson, Mike

2014 *Stonehenge - A New Understanding: Solving the Mysteries of the Greatest Stone Age Monument*. The Experiment Press, New York.

Carter, Howard, and A.C. Mace

1977 (1923) *The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamen*. Dover Publications, New York.

Sandars, N.K.

1960 *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. Viking Penguin, New York.

Connah, Graham

2004 *Forgotten Africa: An Introduction to Its Archaeology*. Routledge, New York.

Readings

Most of the listed articles can be accessed on electronic reserve through PioneerWeb, where some appear under Documents and others in Library Resources when you find the course. A few will be handed out. I use a lot of books to reduce dependence on reserves, with their restrictive and exploitative copyright policies. Most books can be bought used at our bookstore or online.

SYLLABUS

1 Friday 8/28

Introduction: Archaeology--anthropology of the dead.

READ: Whittaker, John 2002 How to Throw with an Atlatl. World Atlatl Association web page. Electronic Document, URL http://www.worldatlatl.org/WhatisAtlatl_HowtoThrow.html

READ: *Star Carr: Life in Britain After the Ice Age*, pp. 1-42,
Start reading *Gathering Night*

Weekend - ATLATLS

2 Monday 8/31

Archaeological Methods, History of Archaeology.

READ: *Star Carr* pp. 24-95.

READ: start reading *Gathering Night* if you haven't already

Wednesday 9/2

Venison and Swamps: Mesolithic Archaeology in Europe.

READ: Continue *Gathering Night*

OPTIONAL DATA READINGS: Clark, J.G.D. 1972, *Star Carr: A Case Study in Bioarchaeology*. Addison-Wesley Module 10.

Pitts, M. 1979, Hides and Antlers: A New Look at Star Carr. *World Archaeology* 11:32-42.

Andreson, J. et al. 1981, The Deer Hunters: Star Carr Reconsidered. *World Archaeology* 13:31-46.

Friday 9/4

Plants and Animals: Evidence for Foraging and Domestication

READ: Perkins, D. and Daly, G. 1968, A Hunters Village in Neolithic Turkey, *Scientific American* 219(5).

READ: Moore, A.M.T. 1979 A Pre-Neolithic Farmers' Village on the Euphrates. In *Scientific American: Prehistoric Times*, pp. 130-138. [*Scientific American* 241(2):62-70.]

3 Monday 9/7

The Archaeological Imagination: Novels and Site Reports

READ: By now you should have finished *Gathering Night* **for class discussion**

Wednesday 9/9

First Farmers: Theories of Agricultural Beginnings.

READ: Childe, V.G. 1951, The Neolithic Revolution (excerpt) In *Prehistoric Agriculture*, S. Streuver ed, pp. 15-21.

READ: Braidwood, R. 1960 The Agricultural Revolution. *Scientific American* 203(3):130-148. (Jarmo)

READ: Binford, L. 1968 Post-Pleistocene Adaptations. In *Prehistoric Agriculture*, S. Streuver, ed, pp 22-49 (Skip or skim 22-26) [or in *New Perspectives in Archaeology*, L. Binford and S. Binford eds.]

READ: Bender, M. 1978 Gatherer-Hunter to Farmer: A Social Perspective. *World Archaeology* 10(2):204-222.

Friday 9/11 consider cancel if go to Cahokia Thurs or Fri

Home on the Neolithic Farm: The Neolithic in the Middle East.

READ: Begin Hodder *Leopard's Tale* Chaps 1 to 4.

Weekend: Cahokia

4 Monday 9/14

The Early Town of Catal Huyuk

READ: Hodder *Leopard's Tale* Chaps 5-8.

READ: Mellaart, J. 1964 A Neolithic City in Turkey. *Scientific American* 210(4).

Wednesday 9/16

Better Homes and Gardens: Developed Neolithic.

READ: Finish Hodder *Leopard's Tale*

Friday 9/18

Farmers on the Fringe: Neolithic Europe.

READ: Rodden, R. 1965 An Early Neolithic Village in Greece. *Scientific American* 212(4):82-90.

READ: Sjøvold, T. 1992 The Stone Age Iceman from the Alps: The Find and the Current Status of Investigation. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 1(4):117-124.

READ: Barfield, L. 1994 The Iceman Reviewed. *Antiquity* 68(258):10-26.

READ: Dickson, J. et al. 2000. The Omnivorous Tyrolean Iceman: Colon Contents and Stable Isotope Analysis. *Philosophical Transactions (Biological Sciences)* 355(1404): 1843-1849. Royal Society, London. On jstor: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3066926>

EXPLORE: news and other info at <http://>

www.mummytombs.com/otzi/scientific.htm

<http://www.iceman.it/en> (S Tyrol Iceman Museum, Bolzano, Italy)

5 Monday 9/21

Early Metallurgy.

READ: Maddin, Muhly and Wheeler 1977 "How the Iron Age Began" *Scientific American* 237(4):122-131.

READ: Heskell, D. 1983 A Model for the Adoption of Metallurgy in the Ancient Middle East. *Current Anthropology* 24(3):362-365. On jstor: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2742674>

READ: Tylecote, R.F. 1986 *The Prehistory of Metallurgy in the British Isles*, Chapters 2: Copper and alloys (Optional) and 5: Methods of Fabrication.

Wednesday 9/23

The Context of Stonehenge: Megalithic Europe

READ: *Stonehenge* Chapters 1-4

Friday 9/25 Osage/Bois D'Arc Knap-in: Whittaker gone

STONEHENGE FILM

6 Monday 9/28

Monuments and Landscapes

READ: *Stonehenge* Chapters 5-11

Evening Work sessions all week, to be arranged - preparing Bronze Axes

Wednesday 9/30

Modern Minds and Ancient Stones: The Meaning of Stonehenge

READ: *Stonehenge* Chapters 12-16

Friday 10/2

Beakers and Battle Axes: Early Bronze Age Europe.

READ: Finish *Stonehenge*, Chapters 17-21

Weekend work session - Finish Axes

7 Monday 10/5

Meanings of Metal

Bronze Dagger + experiments

Wednesday 10/7

A Distant Lurer: Later Bronze Age Europe.

READ: Gilman, A. 1981 The Development of Social Stratification in Bronze Age Europe. *Current Anthropology* 22(1):1-24. On jstor: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2742414>

READ: Harding, A. 1995 Reformation in Barbarian Europe, 1300- 600 BC. In *Oxford Illustrated Prehistory of Europe*, B. Cunliffe ed., pp. 305-335.

Friday 10/9

Trading and Raiding - Early Iron Age Europe.

READ: Cunliffe, B. 1995 Iron Age Societies in Western Europe and Beyond, 800-140 BC. In *Oxford Illustrated Prehistory of Europe*, B. Cunliffe ed., pp. 336-372.

Monument Building: Weekend Woodwork work session - use axes

8 Monday 10/12

Discussion of bronze + woodworking experiment

Wednesday 10/14

Iron Age People

READ: (Online) Bodies of the Bogs, Archaeology Magazine Archive URL:

<http://www.archaeology.org/online/features/bog/index.html> (several short articles)

READ: Heaney, Seamus 1975 "The Grauballe Man" and "Punishment" *Norton Anthology of English Literature* Vol 2.

Friday 10/16 Plains Conference, NO Class

FALL BREAK FALL BREAK! FALL BREAK!! (Sat Oct 17-Sun 25)

9 Monday 10/26

Country Cousins to City Slickers: Theories of the Rise of Civilization and Complex Society.

READ: (ALL 3 IN Sabloff, J. and C.C.Lamberg Karlovsky, 1974, *The Rise and Fall of Civilizations*):

- Childe, V.G. "The Urban Revolution" pp 6-14
- Wittfogel, K. "Developmental Aspects of Hydraulic Societies" pp15-25
- Fried, M. "On the Evolution of Social Stratification and the State" pp 26-39.

ASSIGN BIBLIO FOR RESEARCH PAPER

Wednesday 10/28

Coercion or Cooperation: More Theories of Rise.

READ: Carneiro 1970, A Theory of the Origin of the State. *Science* 169:733-738. On jstor: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1729765>

READ: Rathje, W. 1971, The Origin and Development of Lowland Classic Maya Civilization. *American Antiquity* 36(3):257-285. On jstor: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/277715>

Friday 10/30

Mud Walls and Bronze Swords: Early Cities in the Middle East.

READ: Woolley, L. 1954 (1982) *Excavations At Ur*, Chaps 1,2,3 (pp. 19-103).

READ: Pollock, Susan 1991 Of Priestesses, Princes, and Poor Relations: The Dead in the Royal Cemetery of Ur. *Cambridge Journal of Archaeology* 1(2):171-189.

DUE -- PAPER ON AXES**10 Monday 11/2**

Two Thirds God and One Third Man: Sumerian Kings and Society.

READ: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, ed by N.K.Sanders.
(read the epic pp 61-119, skim the intro).

DUE -- BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR RESEARCH PAPER**Wednesday 11/4**

Royal Propaganda, Accounts Payable, and the Word of God: What We Learn from Early Writings.

READ: Schmandt-Besserat, Denise 1978, The Earliest Precursor of Writing. *Scientific American* 238(6).

READ: Finkelstein, J. 1979 Early Mesopotamia" from *Propaganda and Communication in World History I: The Symbolic Instrument in Early Times*. HD.Lassamoff et al. eds, pp. 50-110. Honolulu U. Press of Hawaii. (Read pp 51-63,91-96)

READ: Sumerian and other texts (Xerox)

READ: The Old Testament (any edition), Genesis Chapters 1-9

Friday 11/6: EXAM 1**11 Monday 11/9**

Pharaohs and Floods: Egyptian beginnings.

READ: Hoffman, M. 1983, Where Nations Began. *Science* 83 8(4)(Oct):42-51

READ: Williams 1980 The Lost Pharaohs of Nubia. *Archaeology* 33(5):12-21.

READ: Emery, W. 1957 Tombs of the First Pharaohs. In *Scientific American: Old World Archaeology*, pp. 184-190. [*Scientific American* 197(1).]

Wednesday 11/11

Mummies, Scarabs, and "Wonderful Things": Royal Egypt.

READ: Carter and Mace *The Tomb of Tutankhamen* pages 1-85.

EXPLORE: The Field Museum video of mummy radiography at <http://vimeo.com/36156569>
by JP Brown, Conservator.

Friday 11/13

READ: Carter and Mace *The Tomb of Tutankhamen* pages 86-end.

12 Monday 11/16

Ancient Engineering, Modern Science, and Enduring Nonsense: What we learn from Pyramids.

READ: Mendelssohn, K., 1971 A Scientist Looks at the Pyramids. *American Scientist* 59(2):210-220. On jstor: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27829540>

Wednesday 11/18

Hieroglyphics and Homes

READ: Wilson, H. 1993 *Understanding Hieroglyphs: A Complete Introductory Guide*. pp. 9-48.
Passport Books, Lincolnwood, IL.

Friday 11/20

Gods, Heroes, and Archaeologists: The Mediterranean Bronze Age

READ: Chadwick, John 1972 Life in Mycenaean Greece. In *Scientific American: Prehistoric Times*, pp. 204-212.

READ: Ceram, C.W. 1951 *Gods, Graves, and Scholars* pp. 29-68.

READ: Traill, D. 1983 Schliemann's 'Discovery' of 'Priam's Treasure'. *Antiquity* 57:181-186.

13 Monday 11/23

Rice, Millet, Pigs, and Chopsticks: Agriculture and the Beginnings of Civilization in China.

READ: Zhongpei, Z. 2005 The Yangshao Period: Prosperity and the Transformation of Prehistoric Society. In *The Formation of Chinese Civilization*, K.C. Chang, et al. editors, pp. 43-83. Yale U. Press, New Haven.

READ: Wenming, Y. 2005 The Beginning of Farming In *The Formation of Chinese Civilization*, K.C. Chang, et al. editors, pp. 27-41

Wednesday 11/25

Knowledge is Power: China's Civilization and Empire.

READ: Chou, 1979 "Chinese Oracle Bones" *Scientific American* 240(4):135-148.

Friday 11/27 **NO Class - Thanksgiving**

14 Monday 11/30

Jade Emperors and Clay Armies: China continued.

READ: Hearn, M. 1979, An Ancient Chinese Army Rises from Underground Sentry Duty. *Smithsonian* 10(8):39-51.

READ: Swart, P. and B. Till, 1984, Bronze Carriages from the Tomb of China's First Emperor. *Archaeology* 37(6):18-25.

READ: Kao, J. and Y. Zuosheng, 1983 On Jade Suits and Han Archaeology. *Archaeology*

36(6):30-37.

Wednesday 12/2

Obscure Beginnings on the “Dark Continent”: Africa
Hadza Film

READ: Connah pp 1-38

Friday 12/4: Africa continued.

READ: Connah pp. 39-100

15 Monday 12/7: Africa continued.

READ: Connah pp. 101-179

Wednesday 12/9

Archaeology and Politics

READ: Farchakh, J. 2003 The Specter of War. *Archaeology* 56(3):14-15.

READ: Brodie, N. 2003 Spoils of War. *Archaeology* 56(4):16-21.

READ: Chippendale, C. 1986 Stoned Henge: Events and Issues at the Summer Solstice, 1985.
World Archaeology 12(1):38-58.

READ: Silberman, N.A., and Y. Goren. 2003 Faking Biblical History. *Archaeology* 56(5):20-29.

EXPLORE current news of ISIS destruction of archaeological sites, e.g.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/03/06/world/middleeast/06reuters-mideast-crisis-iraq-nimrud.html> and <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/09/world/middleeast/race-in-iraq-and-syria-to-record-and-shield-art-falling-to-isis.html>, and

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/06/29/world/middleeast/isis-historic-sites-control.html>

and <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/18/isis-beheads-archaeologist-syria>

and <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/03/antiquities-looted-by-isis-end-up-in-london-shops>

Friday 12/11

LAST CLASS, Final thoughts: The Trends of Prehistory and Why Prehistory Matters.

DUE: RESEARCH PAPER

FINAL AS SCHEDULED: Thursday Dec 17, 9:00