

Course website <https://my.usf.edu>

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### **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND EMPHASES**

This course combines an introduction to archaeological methods with a survey of world prehistory. We begin with our earliest human ancestors, and eventually move on to cover the well-known cultures of Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, China, the Inca, Maya, and Aztecs, as well as complex societies in Africa and North America. The latest archaeological methods and theories used for investigating, reconstructing, and interpreting the ancient past will be a central part of each week's class. The course will deal not only with the material remains of ancient cultures, but also with important social and economic questions such as the origins of humans, the development of village societies, the adoption of agriculture, the invention of writing, and the rise of civilization. This course fulfills the General Education Requirement in Social Sciences and is specifically required of all Anthropology majors.

### **PREREQUISITES**

ANT 2000 or consent of the instructor. A considerable amount of material will be covered in this course, including the important characteristics of prehistoric cultures in different times and places, as well as the methods archaeologists use to reconstruct the past. Students who do not keep up with the reading and assignments have not done well in the past.

### **GETTING STARTED**

Purchase the textbook (see below). Using Netscape or Internet Explorer, go to the course website (<https://my.usf.edu>). All students are automatically assigned a NetID upon admission to USF; if you have not activated it yet, go to <https://una.acomp.usf.edu/> and activate it. The instructor has no control over user IDs and passwords, so please direct any login problems to the help desk (email: [help-ac@usf.edu](mailto:help-ac@usf.edu); live chat and other services are also available from the main academic computing page: <http://www.acomp.usf.edu/>). Once you have logged in, explore the system by clicking on the various buttons on the course homepage. Weekly instructions will be found under 'Assignments', while course files and on-line readings will be found under 'Course Material'.

### **TEXTBOOK**

Required text: *Images of the Past*, by T. Douglas Price and Gary M. Feinman, McGraw-Hill, 2005 (4th edition).

## GRADES

Each week students are assigned to (1) read a chapter in the *Images of the Past* textbook and/or any supplemental material posted by the instructor; (2) to respond to discussion questions posted in the course website; and (3) to participate in a live *chatroom* discussion. About every other week students must (4) take a short open-book quiz. Quizzes are available on-line within a restricted time frame.

Each student will also be responsible for creating a *website* on an archaeological topic (to be approved by the instructor) and hosting a *chatroom* discussion based on that topic. The website should at least be functional - and the chat session scheduled - the same week the topic is listed in the course syllabus. You may then use feedback from other students to revise your site before it is evaluated by the instructor.

Discussion questions - 15% (about 1% per week)  
Quizzes - 45% (6 at 6% each, 1 at 9%)

Chatrooms - 15% (about 1% per week)  
Website project - 25%

Course letter grades will be based as follows: An A will be based on a curved standardized score between 93.4-100; A- for 89.5-93.3; B+ for 86.7-89.4; B for 83.4-86.6; B- for 79.5-83.3; C+ for 76.7-79.4; C for 73.4-76.6; C- for 69.5-73.3; D+ for 66.7-69.4; D for 63.4-66.6; and D- for 60-63.3. Anthropology concentrators may not take the course S/U. Other students who wish to take the course S/U must submit an S/U contract to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester.

## EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit is available by attending one or more public lectures on archaeology and then posting a critical summary in the appropriate *forum* (2 points per lecture). Lectures in the Tampa area will be listed on the anthropology department website (<http://www.cas.usf.edu/anthropology/index.html>). Extra credit may also be obtained by reporting (within one week of publication) on daily newspaper articles relevant to archaeology (send me an *email* with the name of the newspaper, the date and section/page number of the article, its title and author, a summary of the article itself, and some brief comments on how it relates to material presented in this course (is it a new discovery, does it support or deny particular theories, etc.) (1 point per article).

## FILMS

A number of films have been placed on reserve for viewing at the USF library (duplicate copies at Tampa campus, 6<sup>th</sup> floor; Lakeland; St. Petersburg) during the appropriate week of the course. The films will be the subject of some of the on-line discussions, and are a visual supplement to the assigned readings. Quiz questions, however, will not be drawn directly from the films. Other relevant films often are shown on cable TV channels including A&E, Discovery and History Channels, etc.

## MISCELLANY

Course notes are not permitted for sale without the express written consent of the instructor. The on-line content of the course is proprietary copyrighted material of the instructor and may not be copied, distributed, or reproduced in any form.

University and College of Arts & Sciences policies regarding absence due to religious preference, incompletes, and academic dishonesty will be followed. Please see the Undergraduate Catalog for further details.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week      Discussion Topics, Required Readings, Films and Quiz Schedule**

Week 1  
Jan. 9

***Introduction to Blackboard and the course***

Thompson, N.B. 1971. The mysterious fall of Nacirema. *Natural History Magazine* November issue. Online pdf document.

Hume, I.N. 1979. Lost Vegas. *Horizon* May issue. Online pdf document.

Macaulay, D. 1979. Excerpt from *Motel of the Mysteries*. Houghton Mifflin. Online pdf document.

*Discussion Question 1*

*Chatroom Participation*

Week 2  
Jan. 16

***Principles of Archaeology***

*Images of the Past* chap. 1; website supplements available

Film: Archaeology: Evidence of the Past (1994). 25 minutes.

*Discussion Questions 2-3*

*Chatroom Participation*

**Take Quiz 1 by midnight Jan. 23**

Week 3  
Jan. 23

Labor Day Holiday (9/6)

***The First Humans; Dating Methods***

*Images of the Past* chap. 2; website supplements available

Film: The Human Journey: In Search of Human Origins (1994)

*Discussion Questions 4-5*

*Chatroom Participation*

Week 4  
Jan. 30

***Out of Africa; Reconstructing Climate and Environment***

*Images of the Past* chap. 3; website supplements available

Film: The Human Journey: Tale of Two Species (1994)

*Discussion Questions 6-7*

*Chatroom Participation*

**Take Quiz 2 by midnight Feb. 6**

Week 5  
Feb. 6

***The Rise of Homo sapiens; DNA and forensic studies***

*Images of the Past* chap. 4: 105-144; website supplements available

Film: The Human Journey: Triumph of the Mind (1994)

*Discussion Questions 8-9*

*Chatroom Participation*

Week 6  
Feb. 13

***The End of the Last Ice Age and Post-Glacial Adaptation; Bone Chemistry***

*Images of the Past* chap. 4: 145-157; chap. 5; website supplements available

Film: Mystery of the First Americans (2000). 60 minutes.

*Discussion Questions 10-11*

*Chatroom Participation*

**Take Quiz 3 by midnight Feb. 20**

## Week Discussion Topics, Required Readings, Films and Quiz Schedule

Week 7

Feb. 20 ***Origins of Agriculture in the Old World; Zooarchaeology and Paleoethnobotany***  
*Images of the Past* chap. 6: 195-239; website supplements available  
[Discussion Questions 12-13](#)  
[Chatroom Participation](#)

Week 8

Feb. 27 ***Old World Civilizations: Mesopotamia and the Indus; Trade and Writing***  
*Images of the Past* chap. 10: 425-449; website supplements available  
Film: Mesopotamia, Return to Eden (1995). 50 minutes.  
Film: India: The Empire of the Spirit (1991). 60 minutes.  
[Discussion Questions 14-15](#)  
[Chatroom Participation](#)  
**Take Quiz 4 by midnight March 6**

Week 9

Mar. 6 ***Old World Civilizations: Egypt, China and Southern Africa; State Development***  
*Images of the Past* chap. 10: 450-496; website supplements available  
Film: Egypt: Quest for Immortality (1995). 50 minutes.  
Film: Africa: A History Denied (1995). 50 minutes.  
[Discussion Questions 16-17](#)  
[Chatroom Participation](#)

Spring Break Week

Mar. 13 no chatrooms or other assignments scheduled

Week 10

Mar. 20 ***Prehistoric Europe; Megaliths and metallurgy***  
*Images of the Past* chap. 11; website supplements available  
Film: Iceman: Mummy from the Stone Age (2000). 60 minutes.  
Film: Secrets of Lost Empires: Stonehenge (1997). 60 minutes.  
Film: Birth of Europe: Colliding Continents & the Age of Bronze (1991). 55 minutes.  
[Discussion Questions 18-19](#)  
[Chatroom Participation](#)  
**Take Quiz 5 by midnight March 27**

Week 11

Mar. 27 ***Origins of Agriculture in the New World***  
*Images of the Past* chap. 6: 240-262; website supplements available  
[Discussion Questions 20-21](#)  
[Chatroom Participation](#) (no chatrooms Veterans Day, Friday 11/11)

Week 12

Apr. 3 ***Ancient Mesoamerica***  
*Images of the Past* chap. 8; website supplements available  
Film: Lost Civilizations: The Blood of Kings (1995). 50 minutes.  
[Discussion Questions 22-23](#)  
[Chatroom Participation](#)

Week 13

Apr. 10 ***Ancient South America***  
*Images of the Past* chap. 9; website supplements available  
Film: Lost Civilizations: Inca (1995). 50 minutes.  
[Discussion Questions 24-25](#)  
**Take Quiz 6 by midnight April 17 (50% more questions)**

## Week Discussion Topics, Required Readings, Films and Quiz Schedule

Week 14

Apr. 17

### ***Ancient North America***

*Images of the Past* chap. 7; website supplements available

Film: Cahokia: America's Lost City (1999). 60 minutes.

[\*Discussion Question 26\*](#)

[\*Chatroom Participation\*](#)

Week 15

Apr. 23

### ***Archaeology and the Public***

Perry, W. & M. Blakey. 1997. Archaeology as community service: the African Burial Ground Project in New York City. *North American Dialogue* 2(1). Online pdf doc.

McBride, K. 1995. CRM and Native Americans: An example from the Mashantucket Pequot reservation. *CRM* 18(3). Online pdf document.

Harrison, G.G., W.L. Rathje & W.W. Hughes. 1975. Food waste behavior in an urban population. *Journal of Nutrition Education* 7(1). Online pdf document.

Rathje, W.L. & C. Murphy. 1992. Into the unknown. From chapter 4 of *Rubbish! The Archaeology of Garbage*. HarperCollins Publishers. Online pdf document.

White et al. 2004. Academic archaeology is public archaeology. *The SAA Archaeological Record* 4: 26-29. Online pdf document.

Film: Other People's Garbage (60 mins.)

Film: Assault on Time (1990). 29 mins.

[\*Discussion Questions 27-28\*](#)

[\*Chatroom Participation\*](#)

**Take Quiz 7 by midnight April 27**