

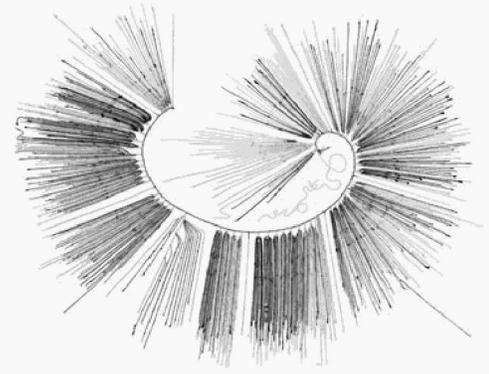


Archaeology 100-D900

Ancient Peoples and Places

Syllabus

Fall 2012



Lecture: Monday 14:30-17:20 pm. SUR3310.

Final exam: Thursday, December 13, 12:00-15:00 pm. Room: TBD.

Instructor: Dr. Alvaro Higuera. **Office Hours:** Mondays from 13:30 @ Surrey SUR Galleria 5 (TBD). By appointment on Thursdays @ Burnaby EDB 9613. **E-mail:** ahiguera@sfu.ca. There will be no for teaching assistants this section.

Website for the course on WebCT.

Course Description:

In this course we will review the 40,000 year old sequence in which human societies create, recreate and change their social and political organization in a sequence that has led from band structures to state-level systems. At some point in the sequence, the degree of complexity shown by human societies warrants the use of the qualifying, but vague, term of civilisation, a stage in the evolution of human societies that denotes complexity (We will not use the term civilisation). As such, we will underline throughout this course that complexity starts from the very moment that people establish strategies to hunt and gather, when the control a large territory in which they are deeply rooted. From then on, in both the Old and New Worlds, complexity with take different forms and scales.

Required Readings:

1. Textbook: Chazan, Michael (2012) World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways through Time. Pearson Education. Canadian Edition. 2nd edition. *Note: The use of the first Canadian Edition or the second US edition is tolerated. But it is responsibility of the students to make sure the issues studied have not been drastically updated.*
2. Extra readings: suggested websites visits to provide data for the mandatory essays.

Course Evaluation:

- **Essays.** Two essays on topics to be defined (each 500-600 words long) (10% each for a total of 20%);
- **Two quizzes**, covering sections of the course; 20 multiple-choice questions. 15% of the grade each. (Time 25-30 m). (Total 30%)
- **Final exam**, covering the full course; 70 multiple-choice questions. 50% of the grade. (Time 1.45-2.00 h). Scheduled on December 13, 12:00-15:00 pm. Room: TBD.

Class E-Mail List:

Information and updates on the class will be sent with the class e-mail list. Your SFU e-mail account will automatically be added to the list when you register for the course. Activate your SFU e-mail account. Use the forward option if you use another e-mail account off campus.

Schedule (Monday 8 Oct and Mon 12 Nov No class. Class starts Tue Sept 4. Last day Dec 3.)

Week 1 - Sept. 10.

INTRODUCTION: MATTER, TIME & SPACE

- > Class mechanics and procedures; grading system; Learning resources and details; the book;
- > Dogmas & basic concepts: ~~civilization~~; path towards complexity - *parallel trajectories* and diffusionism; aliens and others;
- > Archaeology and us, in modern societies;
- > Dangers affecting heritage; the concept of "World Heritage Site";
- > Where in the world are our regions, our cradles of ~~civilization~~? Maps! and what do they represent in the continuum of political evolution?

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENDEAVOR I: METHOD AND THEORY; HISTORY.

- > What does archaeology do for the study of ancient societies?
- > What is *Theory* and what is *Method*? The basic, middle and high aims of the discipline.
- > A brief history: You say you want a Revolution? Revolutionary moments in archaeology;

On the web:

Start exploring the [Flash Modules on Methods and Techniques in Archaeology](#). Concentrate on "20th century tendencies in archaeology" and its quiz.

Week 2 - Sept. 17.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENDEAVOR I: METHOD AND THEORY; HISTORY (Continues). THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENDEAVOR II: METHODOLOGIES AND TECHNIQUES

- > How does archaeology study ancient societies?
- > Understanding the strategy, hypothesis and objectives, fieldwork and laboratory stages in archaeological research.

Reading: MZ, Chapters 1 & 2.

On the web: [Flash Modules on Methods and Techniques in Archaeology](#) Concentrate on Dating methods, Radiocarbon, Context and Survey.

Look at <http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/stratigraphy/INDEX.HTM>

Mapping Ancient Civilization, in a Matter of Days: <http://tinyurl.com/2eakcfc>

Week 3 - Sept. 24.

THE ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF HUMANS

> A review of the evolution of the human species and the first evidence for "culture";

> Hunter-gathering populations: societies before "civilization"... at the start of the path of ever-increasing complexity.

> The Neanderthal dilemma and the population of Homo *sapiens*.

Reading: MZ, Chapters 3, 4 & 5.

On the web:

Neanderthals' Tools Were Their Own Work: <http://tinyurl.com/239jc2u>.

Lucy's Kin carved up a Meaty Meal: <http://tinyurl.com/22tch2d>.

Week 4 - Oct. 1.

INCREASING STRUCTURAL COMPLEXITY IN HUMAN SOCIETIES & THE FIRST REVOLUTION

> Neolithic revolution. The origins of agriculture: models and perspectives;

> Religion and ritual at play in human organization;

> Features in the structure of Neolithic human organization.

Reading: MZ, Chapter 7.

On the web: Explore <http://www.catalhoyuk.com/> (Especially

<http://www.catalhoyuk.com/database/catal/areas.asp>)

QUIZ 1: covers weeks 1 to 3; 15%; time 25-30 m.

Essay 1. Viewing Film: The Lost Pyramids of Caral. BBC Horizon. Due Oct 15.

Week 5 - Oct. 15.

PEOPLING OF THE NEW WORLD; ANCIENT PEOPLES AND PLACES IN DISTRESS! PRESERVING, PROMOTING AND DISPLAYING THE PAST

> Peopling of the New World.

> Heritage and the destruction of the past. Archaeologists, collectors & traffickers; how the past and knowledge is lost. The role of museums and heritage: yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Reading: MZ, Chapter 6.

On the web: Met Is to Repatriate to Egypt Artifacts from King Tut's Tomb

<http://tinyurl.com/244dvbc>

The Met, Ending 30-Year Stance, Is Set to Yield Prized Vase to Italy

<http://tinyurl.com/23ly7wb>

Is It All Loot? Tackling the Antiquities Problem <http://tinyurl.com/2ev92jx>

Week 6 - Oct. 22.

NEOLITHIC IN THE AMERICAS AND THE WORLD. INCREASING SOCIAL COMPLEXITY WITH DOMESTICATION.

- > Agriculture and domestication in the Americas and the World.
- > Political structures and increasing complexity in human organization.

Reading: MZ, Chapters 8 & 9.

Week 7 - Oct. 29.

THE FEATURES THAT MAKE COMPLEX SOCIETIES, WELL, MORE COMPLEX. AN IMPORTANT AND POPULAR STAGE ON THE WAY TO HIGH SOCIETY: THE CHIEFDOM.

- > The most common stage of political organization: its features and the Chief; How do they get to be chiefdoms? Large, complex political structures but something is missing. How do they *not* get to be (some by a hair) a State?
- > Elements of complexity: administration, labor division & control, water control, ritual calendar, inherited power, social hierarchies;
- > The origins of writing. Writing and its purpose in world societies; *Prehistory becomes History*, but archaeology still in demand.

Reading: MZ, Chapter 10.

On the web: On Writing, Hunting for the Dawn of Writing, When Prehistory Became History <http://tinyurl.com/27bpsue>.

On Quipus: High in the Andes, Keeping an Incan Mystery Alive
<http://tinyurl.com/32e3l2x>

Week 8 - Nov 5.

FROM TOWNS TO CITIES & THE SECOND REVOLUTION

- > Development of the settlement of a town, towards the city; Regional settlements: patterns of division, unification; towards Hyper-urbanism and "the World-at-a-City-Scale".
- > A comparative approach to where and how early urban societies develop;
- > Models and ideas (some say "theories") on the origin of state-level societies.
- > The structure of a city and social hierarchies. Forbidden cities and social cosmogony. Comparing cases of urban planning.

Week 9 - Nov. 19.

EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL COMPLEXITY IN THE ANDES; BORED OF THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD: WHEN STATES START CONQUERING AND BECOME EMPIRES

- > Chazan says "enigmatic". We see how archaeology is resolving the picture and why enigmas are not that common;
- > "All empires are states. Not all states are empires". The expansion of territories: spatial organization, corporate and administrative architecture in provincial settings;

Reading: MZ, Chapter 14.

QUIZ 2: covers weeks 4 to 8; 15%; time 25-30 m.

Essay 2: Viewing Film The Lost Civilization of Peru. Due Nov 26 week 10.

Week 10 - Nov. 26.

EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL COMPLEXITY IN MESOAMERICA; ECONOMIES, TRADE AND ANCIENT ROUTES / EBB & FLOW, THE DECLINE OF EMPIRES

- > Mapping natural resources in the "world" of prehistoric societies; the expansion of their "borders" as they need more goods;
- > Exchange, currency, barter: evolution of means of exchange in prehistory.
- > The decline of states and empires: bring down the top, let the people free. The role of climate in disrupting cultural processes and internal factors.

Reading: MZ, Chapter 13.

Week 11 - Dec 3. (Last class)

EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL COMPLEXITY IN EGYPT & MESOPOTAMIA. SOCIAL HIERARCHIES IN PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC SOCIETIES: STUDYING BURIALS

- > Social hierarchy and archaeological correlates: The burial and funerary patterns.
- > How and why very complex societies get yet more complex... (and will disintegrate for that same reason).
- > A review of the technological achievements in ancient societies (Hydraulic technology and the advances in water management);
- > Ethnographic analysis and experimentation to learn about past technologies;
- > Politics in archaeology: mismanagement and misinterpretation of the past;
- > Conclusions to the course: how do we perceive archaeology at this point? Why is it worth paying attention to heritage?

Extra reading: A Lesson in Applied Archaeology. Clark Erickson.

<http://archaeology.about.com/cs/agriculture/a/erickson1.htm>

Reading: MZ, Chapter 11.

FINAL exam, December 13: covers the full course; 40%; time 2.5 h. (end)