

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
Anthropology 0582-1030 (31382)  
M/W, 9-9:50am, 125 Frick Fine Arts Building  
Spring Term, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
**Introduction to Archaeology**  
Instructor: Dr. Alexander J. Martin  
Office hours: by Appointment  
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Office: WWPB 3139

## SYLLABUS

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

How do human societies work, and how did we get to this point? Humanity's astonishing story – from our origin in countless small hunter-gatherer bands to our contemporary globalized world – happened mostly before and beyond written records. Archaeologists decipher this story through the artifacts, structures, and bodies of people long dead. Their past cultures are fascinating in their own right, but on a more fundamental level they help us understand the patterns and the diversity in how human societies work and how they change through time.

In this course, we take a whirlwind tour of the most momentous turning points in human prehistory. This is interwoven with a basic introduction to the discipline and methods of archaeology.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Have a solid foundation in archaeological questions, methods, and ways of building knowledge, preparing you for upper-level courses in archaeology.
2. Have a better appreciation of the time depth and worldwide achievements of our ancient ancestors.
3. Be familiar with some of the most important transitions in the human past.
4. Be better able to evaluate claims about the deep past in the media and on-line.
5. Understand some of the ways in which archaeology can contribute in the present.

*This course satisfies a core course requirement for Anthropology majors.*

### REQUIRED READING

Price, T. Douglas, and Gary Feinman. *Images of the Past* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.) **(P&F)**

Access to the e-book through the RedShelf Canvas link has been added to your tuition. See "Textbook Info" on the Canvas course page on how to opt-out and use an alternative edition.

## TOPICAL OUTLINE OF THE CLASS

Week	Date	Topics	Readings / due dates
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### 1. WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

1	1/10 M	Why it matters	Fagan and Durrani, "Why Archaeology Matters" (excerpts)
	1/12 W	The nature of our data	Renfrew and Bahn, "What is Left"
	Recitation	Introductions	
2	1/17 M	NO CLASS (Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday observance)	
	1/19 W	How do we know? Archaeological interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashmore and Sharer, "Reconstructing the Past",</li> <li>Patel, "Where there's smoke..."</li> </ul>
	Recitation	Other people's garbage (ethnoarchaeology)	Rathje and Murphy, "Rubbish!" <i>Bring garbage list to recitation</i>
3	1/24 M	How do we know? Archaeological interpretation (cont.)	
	1/26 W	How to do archaeology	Lippi, "Looking for sites in all the right places"
	Recitation	Research design	
<i>Quiz 1</i>			

### 2. THE DEEP PAST

4	1/31 M	In the beginning (Australopithecines)	P&F Chapter 2 to p. 67 (but skip the section on dating methods; read to p. 65 in the 7 <sup>th</sup> edition)
	2/2 W	In the beginning Part 2 (Genus Homo)	P&F Rest of Chap. 2
	Recitation	Bones and stones	<i>Meet in Archaeology Lab!!</i>
5	2/7 M	What is it to be human?	P&F Chapter 3 to p. 118 (p. 116 in 7 <sup>th</sup> ed.)
	2/9 W	Mammoth: it's what's for dinner	P&F p. 119-138 (p. 136 in 7 <sup>th</sup> ed.)
	Recitation	Ceramic analysis	<i>Meet in Archaeology Lab</i>

### 3. SEEDS OF CHANGE

6	2/14 M	The human expansion	P&F p. 142-181 (p. 139-178 in 7 <sup>th</sup> edition)
	2/16 W	<i>(No lecture)</i> Dating methods	P&F 50-51 (dating methods), 139-141 (radiocarbon dating) [P&F 48-49 (dating methods), 137-138 (radiocarbon dating) in 7 <sup>th</sup> edition]

	Recitation	Origins of your dinner	Gepts et al.: " <i>The Domestication of Plants and Animals: Ten Unanswered Questions</i> "
<i>Quiz 2</i>			
7	2/21 M	Changing climate, changing culture	P&F Chapter 4 to p 212 (p. 208 in 7 <sup>th</sup> ed.)
	2/23 W	Studying Past Environments and Transitions to Farming	P&F 229-239 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed: 225-235)
	Recitation	<i>Introduction to Cemetery project</i>	

#### 4. THE RISE OF COMPLEXITY

8	2/28 M	First farmers	
	3/2 W	Studying Complexity	Renfrew and Bahn, "How are societies organized?"
	Recitation	How do hierarchies happen?	Harris, "Life without chiefs"
		SPRING BREAK	
9	3/14 M	Early villages	P&F 213-225, 246-251 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed: 209-221, 242-246)
	3/16 W	Chiefs and Chiefdoms	P&F Chapter 5 to p. 282 (276 in 7 ed.)
	Recitation	Cemetery project workshop	(no reading)
	<i>Quiz 3</i>		
10	3/21 M	Chiefdoms of ancient North America	P&F 287-297 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed: 281-291)
	3/23 W	Chiefdoms of ancient North America (cont)	
	Recitation	Cemetery project workshop	<i>Bring in data for cemetery project</i>

#### 5. ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS IN ACTION

11	3/28 M	Explaining ancient states	P&F pp. 427-429, 491-494 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed: 419-422, 483-486)
	3/30 W	The invention of writing	P&F 441-443, 329, 357-358 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed: 433-435, 323, 351-2)
	Recitation	Cemetery project student presentations	<i>Cemetery project: presentation and paper due</i>
12	4/4 M	First cities and states of Mesopotamia	P&F pp. 431-440 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed: 423-432)
	4/6 W	First cities and states of Mesopotamia (cont)	
	Recitation	Carnegie museum exercise	<i>Meet at Carnegie museum!</i>
	<i>Quiz 4</i>		
13	4/11 M	Ancient Egypt: Symbols of power	P&F pp. 452-464 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed: 444-456)

	4/13 W	Ancient Egypt: Symbols of power (cont)	
	Recitation	Basin of Mexico settlement patterns	(no reading)

## 6. STATES IN MESOAMERICA

14	4/18 M	Settlement and cities in ancient Mexico	P&F pp 309-313, 335-343, 366-376 (7 <sup>th</sup> ed: 303-307, 329-337, 360-369)
	4/20 W	Settlement and cities in ancient Mexico (cont)	
	Recitation	Undocumented migration project	De Leon, "Better to be hot than caught." Or Listen to Podcast

## METHODS OF EVALUATION

### *Grading*

The following grading scale is utilized for student evaluation:

Recitation	36%	(Includes attendance, participation, homework and in-class exercises)
Quiz 1	10%	
Quiz 2	10%	
Quiz 3	10%	
Quiz 4	10%	
Quiz 5	10%	
Cemetery Project	14%	

PLEASE ARRANGE YOUR SCHEDULE TO ACCOMMODATE QUIZ DATES. With a class this size, quizzes cannot be rescheduled to fit your convenience. NO make-up quizzes will be given without prior arrangement or a doctor's note. Each exam consist of some multiple choice and some short-answer questions.

Recitation is *mandatory* and forms an important part of your grade. Please come to recitation prepared to engage in discussions and exercises. Although no one is tracking your attendance in lecture, it is essential in order to do well on the tests. The final project is a group project designed to introduce the basics of archaeological research design, data collection, and analysis; you will get more info about it later.

Credit for late assignments will drop by 5% or one-half of a letter grade each day after the due date.

### *Extra Credit*

There is no extra credit available in this course.

## *Grading Scale*

The following grading scale is utilized for student evaluation:

A	90% and above
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

## COURSE POLICIES

### *Academic Integrity Policy*

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed.

### *E-mail Communication Policy*

Each student is issued a University e-mail address ([username@pitt.edu](mailto:username@pitt.edu)) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

### *Attendance*

You are expected to attend all classes. Attendance is required for satisfactory progress through the course. If you are unable to attend a class, notify me in advance.

## DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.