

Anthro 657 Archaeology of Complex Societies and Archaic States

1) Instructor:

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Office hours: TBA.

2) Lectures:

Where: TBA

When: TBA

3) Course Description:

This course focuses on the archaeology of the archaic states and complex societies. Analyzing the major environmental, social, political, religious, and economic factors as prime movers, we probe the origins and development of the archaic states in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, Central Asia, China, and Mesoamerica. Learning and discussing automatic, hydraulic, militarist, environmental circumscription, social circumscription, population pressure, economic specialization, long-distance trade and other theories proposed by archaeologists and anthropologists to account for the origins of the archaic states, we will not only investigate the early civilizations themselves, but also “critically” analyze the archaeologists’ “interpretations.”

4) Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, you will be able to identify cross-cultural regularities, patterning, generalities, and particularities in the formation of archaic states. You will also be able to recognize biases in the constructions about the past and to critically and creatively assess the way archaeological knowledge is generated. The subtext of the course is the relationship between the archaeological evidence and the questions asked. You will be amazed how often you will find parallels between what happened in the past and what happens today in the contemporary world. You will sure put current world affairs under the lens and aptly analyze various aspects of the complex state societies that we live in today.

5) Course Requirements and Grading:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and to complete assigned reading beforehand. The breakdown of the final course grade is as follows:

Undergraduate Students:

Participation and Contribution	5%
First Written Assignment (TBA)	5%
Second Written Assignment (TBA)	5%
Third Written Assignment (TBA)	5%
Fourth Written Assignment (TBA)	5%
Fifth Written Assignment (TBA)	5%
Midterm Exam (TBA)	30%
Final Exam (TBA)	40%

The short written assignments should be about 3-5 pages each.

Graduate Students:

First Written Assignment (TBA)	10%
Second Written Assignment (TBA)	10%
Third Written Assignment (TBA)	10%
Fourth Written Assignment (TBA)	10%
Fifth Written Assignment (TBA)	10%
Final Paper Proposal (TBA)	5%
Final Paper (TBA)	45%

The short written assignments should be about 4-6 pages each, and the final papers will be 12-15 pages long. A two-page proposal describing the topic, main argument/thesis statement, and bibliographic sources of your final paper is also required.

6) Required Text:

The following required text will be used extensively throughout the semester:

Yoffee, N. 2005. *Myths of the Archaic State: Evolution of the Earliest Cities, States, and Civilizations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Origins of Civilizations Reader, which will be made available on line.

7) Late Policy:

Please turn your assignments on time as late assignments will NOT be accepted, and extensions will only be given should you DOCUMENT a real and convincing reason, such as illness or loss in family. The instructor reserves the right to reject extension requests.

8) UNLV Academic Integrity and Misconduct Code:

“Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.”

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005) located at:

<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>.

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class, and the student will AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE CLASS and will be referred to an ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD in case of a violation.

9) UNLV Copyright Policy

Using somebody else's work without permission is just not right. Whether it is copying a chapter or two from a book, pirating a video copy of a new movie, or using photographs off the Internet, the copyright of the owner of that material must be protected. The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website:

<http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>.

10) UNLV Disability Policy

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

11) UNLV Religious Holidays Policy/Missed Class(es)

As a general rule, a student missing a class or laboratory assignment because of observance of a religious holiday shall have the opportunity to make up missed work. Students must notify the instructor of anticipated absences by the last day of late registration, January 16, 2009, to be assured of this opportunity. Faculty may give students an additional week, but are encouraged to set a clear deadline.

NOTE: Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es). For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to; band, drama, intercollegiate athletics, recruitment, and any other activity sanctioned by a college/school dean, and/or the Executive Vice President and Provost.

This policy shall not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university that could reasonably have been avoided. There should be good faith effort by both faculty and student to come to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy

do arise, they can be appealed to the department chair/unit director, college/school dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

12) Student-faculty Communication

By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts ONLY. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after admission to the university. Non-admitted students should contact the Student Help Desk at (702) 895-0761, in the Student Union Room 231, or by e-mail: studenthelp@unlv.edu. See <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/> for additional information.

13) Writing Center at UNLV

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

14) Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Please note that I reserve the right to make and announce changes to the course syllabus.

Subject

1. Introduction to archaeology and the study of civilizations.
- 2: A brief introduction to archaeology.
- 3: The beginnings of social complexity and the emergence of social institutions.
- 4: The civilization, the state, and the city.
- 5: Origins of states and evolution of civilizations. State formation theories at a glance.
- 6: Colonialism and expansionary dynamics of early states.
- 7: The rise of urbanism and social control in Mesopotamia.
- 8: Mesopotamian states and their economies.
- 9: Writing and its function in ancient Mesopotamian states.
- 10: Conflict and Consolidation in Ancient Egypt and the role of writing.
- 11: The evolution of early Egyptian State and the role of monumental architecture.
- 12: The Indus civilization.
- 13: The rise and fall of urbanism in the Indus Valley.
- 14: China: Neolithic to Shang Dynasty.
- 15: Mesoamerica: Olmecs and Zapotec: The Rise of Urbanism in Mesoamerica
- 16: Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan, Maya, and Aztec
- 17: Review and discussion: A synthesis.

THE READER:

- 1) Algaze, G. 1993. Expansionary dynamics of some early pristine states. *American Anthropologist* 95(2): 304-333.

- 2) Baines, J. 1989. Communication and display: the integration of early Egyptian art and writing. *Antiquity* 63(240): 471-482.
- 3) Bar-Yosef, O. 2001. From sedentary foragers to village hierarchies: the emergence of social institutions. In *The Origin of Human Social Institutions*, edited by G. Runciman, pp. 1-38. vol. 110. *Proceedings of the British Academy*.
- 4) Carnerio, R. L. 1970. A Theory of the origin of the states. *Science* 169:733-738.
- 5) Cowgill, G. L. 2004. Origins and development of urbanism: Archaeological Perspectives. *Annu. Rev. Anthropol.* 33:525-549.
- 6) Edens, C. 1991. Dynamics of Trade in the Ancient Mesopotamian 'World System' *American Anthropologist* 94 (1): 118-139.
- 7) Kenoyer, J. M. 1994. The Harappan State, Was it or Wasn't it? In *From Sumer to Meluhha: Contributions to the Archaeology of South and West Asia in Memory of George F. Dales, Jr.*, edited by J. M. Kenoyer. *Wisconsin Archaeological Reports*. vol. 3. University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 8) Lamberg-Karlovsky, C. C. 1999. The Indus Civilization: The Case for Caste Formation. *Journal of East Asian Archaeology* 1(1-4):87-112.
- 9) Lamberg-Karlovsky, C. C. 2002. Archaeology and language: the Indo-Iranians. *Current Anthropology* 43(1): 63-88.
- 10) Postgate, N., T. Wang and T. Wilkinson. 1995. The evidence for early writing: utilitarian or ceremonial? *Antiquity* 69: 459-480.
- 11) Service, E. 1985. The origins of government. In *A Century of Controversy: Ethnological Issues from 1860 to 1960*, pp. 173-199.
- 12) Trigger, B. 1990. Monumental Architecture: a Thermodynamic Explanation of Symbolic Behaviour. *World Archaeology* 22(2):119-132.
- 13) Yoffee, N. 1988. Orienting Collapse. In *The Collapse of Ancient States and Civilizations*, edited by N. Yoffee and G. L. Cowgill, pp. 1-19. University of Arizona Press.