

ANTHRO 261:

OLD WORLD PREHISTORY: AGRICULTURE, RELIGION, AND EMPIRE

Fall 2008

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CLASS MEETS: MWF 1:15-2:05 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 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 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.

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 a bronze tool.

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 tools 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

Hodder, I.

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

Pryor, Francis

2005 *Flag Fen: Life and Death of a Prehistoric Landscape*.
Tempus, Stroud.

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.

Chang, K.C.

1983 *Art, Myth, and Ritual: The Path to Authority in
Ancient China*. Harvard U. Press, Cambridge.

Readings

Most of the listed articles can be accessed on electronic reserve through the library. The password for accessing electronic reserves for ANT 261.01 is **2qua9**

Many readings can also be found on PioneerWeb under our course, under "Documents". A few will be handed out.

SYLLABUS**1 Friday 8/29**

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

Weekend - atlatls

2 Monday 9/1

Archaeological Methods, History of Archaeology.

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

Wednesday 9/3

Venison and Swamps: The Mesolithic in Europe.

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

READ: Pitts, M. 1970, Hides and Antlers: A New Look
at Star Carr. *World Archaeology* 11:32-42.

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

Friday 9/5

Plants and Animals: Evidence for Domestication

- READ: Smith, Bruce D. 1998 The Fertile Crescent in *The Emergence of Agriculture*, pp 48-89. Scientific American Library, New York.
- READ: Perkins, D. and Daly, G. 1968, "A Hunters Village in Neolithic Turkey", *Scientific American* 219(5).
- READ: Mellaart, James 1961 Hacilar: A Neolithic Village Site. *Scientific American* 205(2):86-97.
- 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 9/8

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

Wednesday 9/10

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

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

Friday 9/12

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).

[SATURDAY --> CAHOKIA]**4 M 9/15**

Better Homes and Gardens: Developed Neolithic.

- READ: Finish Hodder *Leopard's Tale*

Wednesday 9/17

Farmers on the Fringe?: Neolithic Europe.

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

Friday 9/19

Film: Nova: Return of the Iceman [JW at Osage Knap-in]

5 Monday 9/22

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.

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

Wednesday 9/24

The Context of Stonehenge: Megalithic Europe

READ: Pryor, F., 2001 Ritual Landscapes in *Seahenge*, pp.79-108, Harper Collins, London.

READ: Pryor, F. *Flag Fen* pages 1-71 (Neolithic)

Friday 9/26

Monuments and Landscapes

READ: Chippendale, C. 1983 *Stonehenge Complete*, Chapter 17 "Stonehenge: What is Known" pp 264-272, London, Thames and Hudson.

READ: Pryor, F., 2001 Rites of Passage in a Private World, in *Seahenge*, pp. 131-153. Harper Collins, London.

Weekend work session - Bronze

6 Monday 9/29

Modern Minds and Ancient Stones: The Meaning of Stonehenge

READ: Renfrew, C. 1973 "Monuments, Mobilization, and Social Organization in Neolithic Wessex" IN *Explanation of Culture Change*, C.Renfrew ed. or *Approaches to Social Archaeology*, C.Renfrew ed.

READ: Richards, J. and M. Whitby 1997 The Engineering of Stonehenge. In *Science and Stonehenge*, B. Cunliffe and C. Renfrew eds. pp. 231-256. Oxford U. Press, Oxford.

READ: Ellegard, A. 1981 "Stone Age Science in Britain?" *Current Anthropology* 22(2):99-126. (skim for main points, don't worry about astronomical detail)

Wednesday 10/1

Beakers and Battle Axes: Early Bronze Age Europe.

READ: Pryor, *Flag Fen* pages 72-98.

Friday 10/3

Metal and Metalworking

READ: Pryor, *Flag Fen* pages 99-159.

Weekend work session - Finish Axes

7 Monday 10/6

Meanings of Metal

READ: Pryor, *Flag Fen* - finish (160-177).

Wednesday 10/8

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.

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

Friday 10/10

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 10/13

Discussion of bronze + woodworking experiment

Wednesday 10/15

Iron Age People

READ: Turner, R.C. 1995 Discoveries and Excavations at Lindow Moss 1983-8. and The Lindow Man Phenomenon: Ancient and Modern. in *Bog Bodies: New Discoveries and New Perspectives*, edited by R.C. Turner and R. G. Scaife, pp. 10-18, 188-204. British Museum Press, London.

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

Friday 10/17

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.

FALL BREAK FALL BREAK FALL BREAK (Sat 18-Sun 26)

9 Monday 10/27

Coercion or Cooperation: More Theories of Rise.

READ: Carneiro 1970 "A Theory of the Origin of the State" *Science* 169:733-738.

READ: Rathje, W. 1971 "The Origin and Development of Lowland Classic Maya Civilization" *American Antiquity* 36(3):257-285.

ASSIGN BIBLIO FOR RESEARCH PAPER

Wednesday 10/29

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.

Friday 10/31

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 -- PAPER ON AXES

10 Monday 11/3

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

READ: Schmandt-Besserat, 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 1-9:18

DUE -- BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR RESEARCH PAPER

Wednesday 11/5: EXAM I**Friday 11/7**

Pharoahs and Floods: Egyptian beginnings.

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

READ: Williams 1980 The Lost Pharoahs 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).

11 Monday 11/10

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

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

Wednesday 11/12

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

Friday 11/14

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

READ: Mendelssohn, K., 1971 A Scientist Looks at the Pyramids. *American Scientist* 59:210-220.

12 Monday 11/17

Heiroglyphics and Homes

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

Wednesday 11/19

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.

Friday 11/21

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

13 Monday 11/24

Knowledge is Power: China's Civilization and Empire.

READ: Chang *Art, Myth and Ritual*.

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

Wednesday 11/26 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.

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

Kao, J. and Y. Zuosheng, 1983 "On Jade Suits and Han

Archaeology" *Archaeology* 36(6):30-37.

THANKSGIVING THURSDAY/FRIDAY

14 Monday 12/1

Finish China

Wednesday 12/3

Obscure Beginnings on the Dark Continent: Africa

Hadza Film

READ: McIntosh, R. 1999 Africa's Storied Past. *Archaeology* 52(3):54-60.

READ: Lewis-Williams J.D. 1999 Images of the Spirit World. *Archaeology* 52(3): 61-63.

READ: Hall, M. 1999 Legacy of Racism. *Archaeology* 52(3):64-65.

Friday 12/5: Africa continued.

READ: Fowler, B. 2005 A Place Without History. *Archaeology* 58(5): 30-35.

READ: Robertshaw, P. 2006 Africa's Earliest Bananas. *Archaeology* 59(5):25-29.

READ: Lawler, A. 2006 Damming Sudan. *Archaeology* 59(6):36-41.

15 Monday 12/8: Africa continued.

READ: Pages 91-116 in Hall, M. 1990 *Farmers, Kings and Traders: The People of Southern Africa 200-1860*. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Wednesday 12/10

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.

Friday 12/12

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

DUE: RESEARCH PAPER

(FINAL AS SCHEDULED: Thursday, Dec 18, 9:00)