

Anthropology 342
ARCHAEOLOGY OF EGYPT AND THE NEAR EAST
Tuesday-Thursday 12:00-1:20 pm
Lecture: Chapman 207; Discussion: Condon 204

Dr. Stephen Dueppen

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Course Description: The archaeological sequences of Near Eastern and Egyptian civilizations are some of the best known in the world, and their study has contributed heavily to the development of both the methods and theory of archaeology as a discipline. In this course, we will explore the roots of both developmental trajectories, from the origins of agriculture and emergence of village communities, to the rise of states and empires. In so doing, we will study topics such as the origins of writing, elaboration of temple complexes, the history and use of pyramids and beliefs of the afterlife, and the development of ancient cities. Students will gain a basic understanding of the life of ordinary people and elites in these two regions over the past 12,000 years.

Learning Outcomes: Following successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the timing and nature of major transformations in society in the Near East and Egypt from the first agricultural communities through the Achaemenid Empire.
- Explain diverse ways that ideologies influenced both elite power structures and non-elite daily life in the ancient Near East and Egypt
- Evaluate the evidence used to support reconstructions of major archaeological sites and regions.
- Explain how archaeologists employ analyses of both textual and non-textual material culture to understand the past.

Readings (Required):

Books are available at the Duck Store and on reserve at the Knight Library. Wendrich 2010 is also available as a full-access ebook through the University of Oregon library.

Bard, Kathryn 2008, *An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt* Wiley-Blackwell, Malden (IAAE)

Leick, Gwendolyn 2002, *Mesopotamia: The Invention of the City*, Penguin, New York (MIC)

Pollock, Susan 1999, *Ancient Mesopotamia: The Eden that Never Was* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (AM)

Wendrich, Willeke (editor) 2010, *Egyptian Archaeology*, Wiley-Blackwell, Malden (EA)

Additional Readings will be available as PDF files through the course blackboard site.

Inclusion Statement

The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon affirms and actively promotes the right of all individuals to equal opportunity in education at this institution without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or any other consideration not directly and substantively related to effective performance. If you feel that you have encountered discrimination or harassment, please inquire at the Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity (<http://aaeo.uoregon.edu>, 541-345-3123) for information on your rights, options, and resources. Confidentiality for all parties is respected to the extent possible.

Grading: Your final grade for this course will be based on the following:

- Midterm Exam (on Near East): 30%
- Final Exam (on Egypt): 30%
- Synthesis Paper: 30%
- Section Attendance & Participation: 10%

Exams: Two non-cumulative exams will be given in class. Exams will be mixed format and include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. No make-up exams will be offered.

Synthesis Paper: You will be asked to complete one synthesis paper based on primary archaeological literature (peer-reviewed journals and books). For this paper, you will have a choice of two core sets of sources on either a particular archaeological site or class of archaeological data (one set will be based in the Near East while the other will be based in Egypt). You will write a short (2500 word) paper synthesizing the articles and placing them in the greater context of the Near Eastern or Egyptian sequence. The goal of this paper is help you understand the link between archaeological excavations and the developed syntheses discussed in lecture and the textbooks. A more detailed paper assignment will be distributed by the fourth week of class.

Attendance and Participation in Section: Attendance requires arriving on time and staying through the end of the section meeting. Participation requires engagement in section activities.

Grading

I do not anticipate a curve for this class. The grading scale to be used is as follows:

A+ = 97.5-100%	A = 92.5-97.4%	A- = 90-92.4%
B+ = 87.5-89.9%	B = 82.5-87.4%	B- = 80-82.4%
C+ = 77.5-79.9%	C = 72.5-77.4%	C- = 70-72.4%
D+ = 67.5-69.9%	D = 62.5-67.4%	D- = 60-62.4%
F = 59.9% or below		

If the class is taken P/NP, a C- or higher is required to pass the course

Expected levels of performance:

A+ Quality of student's performance significantly exceeds all requirements and expectations required for an A grade. Very few, if any, students receive this grade in a given course.

A: Quality of performance is outstanding relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at the highest level.

B: Quality of performance is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at a high level.

C: Quality of performance meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates adequate understanding of course content.

D: Quality of performance is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course, but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content.

F: Quality of performance in the course is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of course content.

Accommodations: The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of this course structure that result in disability related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact the Office of Accessible Education in 164 Oregon Hall (346-1155, uoac@uoregon.edu). Their advisers can help you acquire a letter verifying your disability.

Academic Integrity: I take academic integrity very seriously: please review the University's Academic Honesty Policy posted on the blackboard website, and contact me if you have any questions.

Office Hours and Email: I am always happy to meet with you during my office hours. If you cannot make my office hours, please contact me to set up an alternate meeting time. If you email me, I will try to respond promptly, but it is not always possible for me to do so. Please use a formal tone in your emails, and be sure to include the course number in the subject line.

Class Etiquette and Computer Use: It is essential that we all work together to create a favorable learning environment. Disruptions during class (including texting, movement in and out of the room, playing games on handheld devices, etc.) affect the learning experience of everyone in the room. Please be prepared to turn your cell phone and other electronic gadgets off and sit through the entire lecture. Laptop computers may be used in the first or last row of class, provided that they are used exclusively for course-related purposes.

CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1

September 30: Introduction

October 2: Geography of the Near East, Epi-Palaeolithic Foragers in Transition

Readings: AM: Chapters 1; 2
Redding and Rosenberg 2000 Hallan Cemi and Early Village Organization in Eastern Anatolia. In *Life in Neolithic Farming Communities*, edited by I. Kuijt. Pp.39-62. Kluwer; New York
Simmons 2007 Excerpt on the Natufian from *The Neolithic Revolution in the Near East: Transforming the Human Landscape*. University of Arizona Press; Tucson.

Week 2

October 7: Early Village Life in the Near East: Economic and Social Transformations

Readings Zeder 2011 The Origins of Agriculture in the Near East. *Current Anthropology* 52(4):221-235
Goring-Morris and Belfer-Cohen 2013 Houses and Households: A Near Eastern Perspective, in *Tracking the Neolithic House in Europe: Sedentism, Architecture, and Practice*, edited by D. Hofmann and J. Smyth. Pp. 19-44. Springer; New York.

October 9: Foundations of Mesopotamian Civilization: the 'Ubaid

Readings AM: Selections from Chapters 3, 4, and 8 (pp. 45-67, 78-92, 196-204)
Stein 2010 Local Identities and Interaction Spheres: Modeling Regional Variation in the Ubaid Horizon, in *Beyond the Ubaid: Transformation and Integration in the Late Prehistoric Societies of the Middle East* pp. 23-44. Edited by R. Carter and G. Philip. The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago; Chicago Illinois

Week 3

October 14: The Origins of the State: Uruk Society

Readings AM: Selections from Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 67-72, 93-116); Chapter 6
MIC: Chapters 1; 2

October 16: Mesopotamian Cities and States I

Readings: AM: Chapter 5; selection from Chapter 8 (pp. 204-217)
MIC: Chapters 3; 5; 6

Week 4

October 21: Mesopotamian Cities and States II

Readings AM: Chapter 7
MIC: Chapters 4, 7

October 23: Later States and Empires in the Near East

Readings: MIC: Chapter 10
Van de Mieroop, 2007, *A History of the Ancient Near East*, Blackwell, Malden, pp. 286-301 (The Persian Empire)

Week 5

October 28: Midterm Exam

October 30: Geography of Egypt, Foragers and Herders

Readings: IAAE: Chapters 1, 3-4

Week 6

November 4: Neolithic-Predynastic Egypt

Readings: IAAE: Chapter 2, selection from Chapter 5 (pp. 89-108)
EA: Chapter 2

November 6: Early Dynastic Egypt

Readings: IAAE: selection from Chapter 5 (pp. 109-120)
EA: Chapter 3

Week 7

November 11: Old Kingdom I

Readings: IAAE: Chapter 6
EA: Chapters 4; 5

November 13: Old Kingdom II and First Intermediate

Readings: De Miroshedji 2002. Sociopolitical dynamics of Egyptian/Canaanite Interaction in the Early Bronze Age, in *Egypt and the Levant: Interrelations from the 4th through the early 3rd millennium BCE*. Edited by E. Van Den Brink and T. Levy pp.39-57. Leicester University Press

Week 8

November 18: Middle Kingdom I

Readings: IAAE: Chapter 7
EA: Chapter 7

November 20: Middle Kingdom II and Second Intermediate

Readings: EA: Chapters 8, 9

Week 9

November 25: New Kingdom I *Synthesis Paper due in lecture*****

Readings: IAAE: Chapter 8
EA: Chapter 10, 11

November 27: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

Week 10

December 2: New Kingdom II

Readings: EA: Chapter 6, 12

December 4: Third Intermediate and Late Period

Readings: IAAE: Chapter 9
EA: Chapter 13, 14

FINAL EXAM Wednesday December 10, 8:00 AM, Chapman 207

DISCUSSION TOPICS

October 1 (Week 1): Introduction to Archaeology

October 8 (Week 2): Religion and Materiality

October 15 (Week 3): Power and Ideology in Ancient Mesopotamia

October 22 (Week 4): Exam Review

October 29 (Week 5): Iconography and Style

November 5 (Week 6): Pyramids

November 12 (Week 7): Temples

November 19 (Week 8): Mummification

November 26 (Week 9): NO CLASS

December 3 (Week 10): Exam Review