

Welcome to ANTH 150 World Archaeology Online

Syllabus

Spring 2018

CRN 30239

This is an online course and so communication will be primarily via email. Both I, William Ayres, and the teaching assistant (co-instructor) will be monitoring this frequently throughout the week. You will also notice there are comment sections when you upload your assignments, so feel free to add any additional comments or questions. Please ask for clarification or if you have questions about the course material. My email is: wsayres@uoregon.edu.

The Graduate Student instructor for this course is Anna Sloan asloan3@uoregon.edu. Please feel free to contact her for questions about grading or course materials.

Canvas Format

We use the "Canvas" course management system in this online course and students should explore all parts of the course site and become familiar with it.

It is important to acquaint yourself with the material in the Syllabus section. Weekly materials: reading assignments, writing and lab projects, and quizzes, are listed under "Modules." As well, please feel free to contribute to the Discussion Board at any time during the term. There are no dedicated discussion assignments, but it is a useful forum for asking questions.

The Class Topic

Anthropology 150 is an introduction to archaeology and the study of world prehistory. The primary objectives of archaeology are to:

- 1) study culture history, the long-term patterns of changes in human cultural groups and material culture;
- 2) reconstruct past human lifeways, documenting how humans lived in the past;
- 3) explore prehistoric human behavioral variability, that is, how people living in separate communities differed from one another;
- 4) explain the cultural developments that are evident in the archaeological record, and
- 5) understand past human and environment relationships/interactions.

This course covers the fundamental principles of archaeology and provides students with an overview of human prehistory from the earliest times up to the development of literate civilizations. My approach to teaching this class will be to provide a general survey of our current understanding of selected aspects of the human past. Simultaneously, I will highlight the current debates in the study of archaeology. For instance, what led to the development of food production, especially agriculture, from hunter-gatherer systems? What were the first cities like and why did they develop? When and how did the first peoples enter into the Americas? What happens as cultures grow in complexity and how can we study and

understand the origins of civilization? We will explore these issues over the course of the next ten weeks by examining a variety of evidence recovered and reported over the last century.

Your readings are from a variety of sources, including a book:

- REQUIRED READING: 2017 Feder, Kenneth L. *The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory* (seventh edition), Oxford University Press. [note: this is the 7th edition]
- In addition to the above text, you'll also be reading various articles, viewing video clips, and exploring websites. You'll find links to this material in the Weekly Lessons.

Course Structure

In general, quizzes and assignments will be due on Fridays by 5:00 PST. I strongly suggest not leaving these to the last minute and you will have access to both from the beginning of each week.

Quizzes: Each quiz is worth 10 points and consists of multiple choice, matching, or fill in the blank questions. As this is an online course, the quizzes are timed.

Assignments: Each assignment is worth 10 points. The purpose of these assignments is to get you to think critically about the materials presented in each lesson. We are looking for engagement with the subject materials, critical thinking skills, and good writing skills. You are expected to cite all references used including in class and outside sources.

Exams: There are two essay exams for this class. Both of these tests ask you to answer two of three questions. Each answer should be between 1-2 pages (single-spaced) and show that you have absorbed the course material.

How to Participate in this Course

Expectations

We recommend this online version of ANTH 150 for highly motivated people who are able to learn on their own and who do not need the structure of a classroom nor direct contact with an instructor to succeed. Although the course is intended for people who are not, necessarily, anthropology majors, we do expect our students to learn the basic ideas of archaeology and to create a solid understanding of human development and long-term culture change. This expectation is reflected through the amount of readings, quizzes, and assignments each week.

Weekly Workload

Each week you will have a short summary PowerPoint lecture to review plus two to four textbook chapters or articles to read. To help you prepare your weekly paper, each Weekly Lesson includes web sites to explore. Some Weekly Lessons also include video clips. Most weeks you will have a 1-2 page paper to write plus a 10-point quiz to take. The course includes one midterm plus a final exam. These have short objective components and more substantial essay ones. You have a choice of which questions to answer on the essay component.

Doing your Own Work: Collaborative work and academic dishonesty

As an online course it is difficult to ensure that your submitted work is your own. While in general, cooperation is good, for your homework and writing assignments, it is not. The sharing of your own

writing that can then be merely modified and submitted by other students is considered academic dishonesty. It is clear to us when assignments share significant similarities in content and structure; this is often verified with the aid of the Vericite tool.

After an initial warning, future incidents will receive 0s for the assignment. Everyone in this class should be aware of the regulations laid out by the university in regards to academic dishonesty and the potential penalties. Repeated offences will be referred to the administration for student affairs.

Preparing for Quizzes and Exams

In your preparations for the quizzes and exams:

- Review the lecture
- Read books chapters and/or articles
- Review the web sites and/or video clips

All questions on the quizzes and exams will be taken from the material in the Weekly Lessons. Terminology is important, so pay attention to words that are new to you when working through the course material.

Other General Information

ADA Statement

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term. Students may also wish to contact UO Disability Services Office at 541-346-1155. NOTE: As per FERPA regulations Faculty are no longer automatically informed as to the ADA status of students. If you have special requirements, you must bring your information to me as soon as possible.

Equal Opportunity Compliance Statement

It is the policy of the University of Oregon Board of Directors that there will be no discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in any educational programs, activities or employment. Persons having questions about equal opportunity and non-discrimination should contact the Office of Affirmative Action at 541-346-3123

Course Schedule by Week:

Week One

1: "Encountering the Past" and 2: "Probing the Past." The history of archaeology, methodology, & classifications
Week One Quiz and Assignment due by Friday, 5:00PM

Week Two

**3: "African Roots" and 4: "The Human Lineage." Earliest hominins and tool use
Week Two Quiz and Assignment due by Friday, 5:00PM**

Week Three

**5: "The First Humans" and 6: "Expanding Intellectual Horizons." Art and Ideas in the Upper Paleolithic and Late Stone Age.
Week Three Quiz and Assignment due by Friday 5:00PM**

Week Four

**7: "Expanding Geographic Horizons: New Worlds"
Week Four Quiz and Assignment due by Friday 5:00PM**

Week Five

**8. "After the Ice Age. The Food Producing Revolution." Changes in subsistence and the origins of agriculture
Midterm Essay Exam-due by Friday, 5:00PM**

Week Six

**9: "Roots of Complexity." Rise of social complexity and inequality
Week Six Quiz and Assignment due by Friday, 5:00PM**

Week Seven

**10: "An Explosion of Complexity: Mesopotamia, Africa, and Europe." Old World civilizations I
Week Seven Quiz and Assignment due by Friday, 5:00PM**

Week Eight

**11: "An Explosion of Complexity: Indus Valley and China." Old World civilizations II
Week Eight Quiz and Assignment due by Friday, 5:00PM**

Week Nine

**12: "An Explosion of Complexity: Mesoamerica;" and 13: "South America." New World civilizations
No quiz this week, Week Nine Assignment due Friday 5:00PM**

Week Ten

14: "An Explosion of Complexity: North America." Collapse of civilizations and review of World Archaeology

Final Essay Exam-due by Monday of finals week, 12:00PM.