

**Introduction to Archaeology**  
**Ant 304/ Ary 301**  
**Spring 2011**

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This course provides an overview of world prehistory beginning with hominid evolution and including the rise of complex societies in the Middle East, North Africa, the Mediterranean, Europe, North America and Mesoamerica. It also includes a brief introduction to archaeological methods and techniques. Grades will be based on one mid-term exam (30%), a final exam (30%), a written 3-4 page film review on one of the archaeological films of your choice from the collections at the Fine Arts Library (Doty Fine Arts Building 3.200) or shown in class (15%), answers to your lab questions (15%), and attendance as measured by unannounced attendance “exams”(10%) given in class and labs. Exams will be take home and include multiple choice and essay questions covering materials from your readings, class lectures, labs, and films. Dates for the exams will be announced in class one week in advance. **The typed film reviews are due on Friday, April 1st.**

Classes will meet on M and W in the Geology Building (JGB 2.216). On Mondays or Wednesdays, depending on which lab section you signed up for, you will meet with your TA in our new classroom in SAC 4.174. At that time, your TAs will be able to answer questions you might have, discuss lectures, go over lab materials, view films and other materials.

**Textbook:**

Chris Scarre (2009 version) *The Human Past: World Prehistory & the Development of Human Societies*. London: Thames & Hudson.

You can order you book online, or it will be available in a couple of weeks from the Coop. It will not be necessary for the first 3 weeks or so.

Your textbook has a web site with study guides and sample questions at: <http://www.thamesandhudsonusa.com/web/humanpast/index.html>. Here you will find chapter reviews, quizzes, and other information helpful while studying. A few questions on each exam will be drawn from these online quizzes, so it would pay to have a look at them

**Lab exercises:**

Virtual lab exercises related your class topics can be found at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/courses/denbow/index.htm>. I have included references to these in the syllabus. They should be read in advance before quiz sections so that you will be able to ask questions. I have also put some supplemental materials for some of these labs in the Course Documents folder for the class in Blackboard. Answers to lab exercises on the web will be due the Friday after they are discussed in the quiz section. Some shorter films to supplement class lectures and labs will be shown in lab. Some of these films can be accessed at: <http://www.archaeologychannel.org/> Be sure to click on the “more videos” button at the bottom of the short list to find all the films we will use. You can use either a Mac or PC to access these streaming videos, but you will need to have Windows Media Player or RealPlayer installed; they do not have any QuickTime versions. The site has a link for a free download of these programs if you do not already have one of them.

**Other Information:**

Class attendance is important as I will often show films, discuss examples and topics, or use materials not directly covered in the readings. I encourage you to ask questions during the lecture by raising your hand and I will try to answer them as they arise. If your questions require longer answers, I will ask you to come and see me during office hours, or defer the question until the Friday quiz section. I have not put fixed dates to the schedule because I prefer to work at a class speed on subjects to be covered. The date for the mid-term exam, however, will be announced in class at least a week before it is given. This is generally either just before or just after spring break.

**Course Schedule****Topic 1 Principles of Archaeology****Readings: Scarre: Preface and Chapter 1**

Week 1: *film: Pompeii: Buried alive*

Week 2: **Lab 2: (survey methods)**

**Film clips: radar imaging; electrical resistivity; proton magnetometer**

**How do you know where to dig? What did they eat?****Class lectures**

Week 3: **Lab 4: (Sampling strategies)**

Week 4: **Lab 3 (Excavation Analysis)**

**Film clips: fine excavation-beads; fine excavation-plaster wall; coarse excavation-shovel scraping; soil deposition & stratigraphy**

**How old is it?****Class lectures**

Week 5: **Lab 1 (Seriation, stratigraphy, absolute dating)**

**Film clip: soil deposition & stratigraphy**

## What did they eat? How was their health?

### Class lectures

Week 6: Lab 7 (Palynology)

Week 7: Lab 8 (Caddoan archeology and dental anthropology)

## Topic 2 **The Evolution of Humanity**

### Early hominids

#### African Origins

**Chapter 2: African Origins.** (Nick Toth & Kathy Schick)

Week 8: *Ardi*

Week 9: Labs 5 and 6: Human origins & lithic technology (just read over Lab 5).

## Mid-Term Exam

### Pre-modern humans

**Chapter 3: Hominin Dispersals in the Old World.** (Richard Klein)

### Modern Humans

**Chapter 4: The Rise of Modern Humans** (Paul Pettitt)

Week 10: *film: Journey of Man, 1<sup>st</sup> section*

### Symbolism and Rock Art

#### Class lectures

*Film: /Num Tchai*

Week 11: *Film: Seminole Canyon*

### The Origins of Food Production

**Chapter 5: The World Transformed: From Foragers and Farmers to States and Empires** (Chris Scarre)

Week 12: Lab 9: [Ancient Egypt: sex, gender and demography](#)

## Topic 3 **North America and Mesoamerica**

**Chapter 9: Origins of Food Producing Economies in the Americas** (David Bowman, Gayle Fritz, Patty Jo Watson)

Week 13: *film: Peopling of the Americas*

**Chapter 18: Complex Societies of North America; 5,000 BC- 1550 AD** (George Milner and W.H. Wills)

Week 14: *Film: Cahokia: America's lost city*

**Chapter 16: Mesoamerican civilization; 5,000 BC- 1550 AD** (David Webster and Susan Evans)

Week 15: *Films: The fall of the Maya & City of the gods*

**Final Exams will either be turned in the last class day, or according to the registrar's schedule for exams announced toward the end of the semester, depending on how far we get by the end of term. All exam days will be announced in class at least 1 week before they are due.**