

INTRODUCTION TO PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY
ANTHROPOLOGY 304
FALL 2012, MW 12 - 1, GAR 102

Instructor*: Fred Valdez 471-0060 office
SAC 4.162 471-5946 lab.
Hrs.: M 9-10* fredv@mail.utexas.edu

Teaching Assts*: Robyn Dodge rldodge@mail.utexas.edu
Stacy Drake stacymdrake@gmail.com
Debora Trein Debora.Trein@gmail.com

TA contact information (office #, office hours, and other data),
will be provided at the lab meetings.

* Please note that Prof. Valdez and the TAs are available beyond
any listed office hours, just ask and make an appointment.

TEXT: Required – **Images of the Past**. Sixth edition
By T. Douglas Price and Gary Feinman
Chapter assignments are listed on a separate page.

COURSE CONTENT: This course will introduce “Prehistoric Archaeology” beginning
with a discussion of the types of archaeology in practice today. A brief history of the
discipline will be presented as well as summaries of certain field and analytical
techniques.

The major emphasis of the course will be the study of human prehistory. Included
in the topics of discussion are human origins, the peopling of the New World,
hunters-and-gatherers, plant and animal domestication, the development of
complex societies, and the decline of ancient civilizations.

Among the ancient cultures examined in the class are Paleo-Indians of the New
World, the Shang of China, the Anasazi of the American Southwest, the Maya
and Aztecs of Mesoamerica, and the Inca of Peru. Class lectures and readings
will be supplemented by guest lectures, demonstrations/hands-on experience, and
films/slides where appropriate.

A schedule of planned topics is presented on a separate (bright color) page. This serves primarily as a guide to the order of topics. The actual amount of time spent on a particular issue or culture will vary according to the needs of the class. Given the available time near the semester's end, we may discuss a case or two of "fantastic" archaeology (for example, the story of Atlantis or the "evidence" for extra-terrestrial presence/influence in ancient times, etc.).

COURSE GRADING: Evaluation in this course will be through five tests. Five (5) tests are administered and please note that there are **NO MAKE-UPS** since the lowest grade will be dropped. The top four (4) scores are averaged to equal 90% of your grade. **IF** special circumstances require a "make-up" test, the new test will be evaluated with an automatic 10 point reduction. The 10% balance of the course grade is based upon participation in the lab component section. The lab component may be hands-on activities as well as films, etc. There are **NO MAKE-UP Lab classes**. *If you miss three (3) or more lab sessions, you automatically receive a "F" for the lab component. An "F" for the lab component also means an "F" for the course, regardless of your class average.*

Tests are multiple choice, true-false, and fill-in-the-blank. The tests are not cumulative, there is no "final exam" for this course. When tests are returned, any questions or need of modification to the evaluation must be done within two class meetings of the returned test. Test results will not be reevaluated at the end of the semester. Any questions, confusion about the course grading, etc. should be clarified/settled with Prof. Valdez as soon as possible.

**ANTHROPOLOGY 304 -- ARCHAEOLOGY 301
FALL 2012 -- SCHEDULE OF CLASSES***

Dates	Topics, Subjects, Tests, Readings
Aug. 29 – Sept. 19	Introduction, Hist. of Archaeology, Human Origins, etc. Read: Chaps. 1, 2, 3
September 3	Labor Day holiday – No Class Meeting
September 19	Test 1
Sept. 24 – Oct. 10	Early Societies, Neolithic, Domestication, etc. Read: Chaps. 4, 5, 6
October 10	Test 2
Oct. 15 – Oct. 24	Farmers, Complex Society, etc. Read: Chapter 7
October 24	Test 3
Oct. 29 – Nov. 14	Civilizations, State Organizations, etc. Read: Chapter 8, 9
November 14	Test 4
Nov. 19 – Dec. 3	Other Archaeologies, Fantastic Archaeology, etc. Read: to be assigned
November 21	No Class Meeting
November 22 - 24	Thanksgiving holiday
December 3	Test 5

*This schedule is an approximation of dates for topics, tests, etc. Any significant changes will be announced as early as possible. Included within the schedule is the showing of films, slides, guest presentations, and any other activities deemed appropriate for this course.