

ANCIENT PEOPLES AND PLACES (ANTH 2151)

Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Boyd

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Course description:

An overview of Old and New World archaeology, with particular emphasis on the development of humans and culture from hunting/gathering to agricultural and ancient urban societies in Mesoamerica, Europe, Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, and China.

Required text:

Chazan, M. 2015. World Prehistory and Archaeology. 3rd Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson.

Grading:

- Written assignment (~10 pp): **30%**
 - For this assignment, you are required to: (1) find a news item from the last 5 years about an archaeological discovery anywhere in the world; (2) briefly summarize this news article (1-2 paragraphs); (3) discuss and assess the significance of this discovery, and provide its background context, using peer-reviewed resources (about 8-9 pages).
- Midterm exam: **30%**
- Final exam (December): **40%**

Grade Distributions:

A+	90-100%	B	70-79%	D	50-59%	F	0-39%
A	80-89%	C	60-69%	E	40-49%		

- Students are responsible for ensuring that they are properly registered in this class.
- See the LU Calendar for information on academic integrity, examinations, grade appeals, and other important regulations of which you should be aware.
- Late term papers and other assignments will be deducted **10% per day** from the final grade for that assignment.

Module	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction to course Why study ancient civilizations?	Chazan ch. 1 & 2
2	Brief introduction to hominin evolution	Chazan ch. 3 & 4
3	Hominins (cont.)	
4	Upper Paleolithic: general characteristics Film: "Lascaux: The Prehistory of Art" First peopling of Australia and the New World	Chazan ch. 5 & 6
5	Origins of agriculture (theories) Early food production in the Near East	Chazan ch. 7
Oct. 23	Midterm exam (75 min.)	
6	The first European farmers	Chazan ch. 7
7	Early agricultural societies in China The first farmers in Mesoamerica Spread of agriculture into North America	Chazan ch. 8 & 9
8	Development of state-level societies (theories) Complex societies in Mesopotamia Film: "Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River"	Chazan ch. 10 & 11
9	Ancient Egypt Film: "Egypt: Journey to the Global Civilization"	
10	Indus Valley tradition (Harappan civilization) Film: "Indus: the Unvoiced Civilization"	Chazan ch. 12
11	Early state-level societies in China Film: "China: Heritage of the Wild Dragon"	
12	Complex societies in the Americas (emphasis on Mayan civilization)	Chazan ch. 13 & 14
	Written assignment due: last class (Dec. 4)	
	Final Exam (TBA)	