

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
ANTH 2151 WAO Ancient Peoples and Places

Winter 2022

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 – 11:30 am  
OA 1022

Instructor: Dr Timothy Kaiser

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office: OA 3008

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment, Tu-Th

Email: tkaiser@lakeheadu.ca

Course Website: MyCourseLink (D2L)

**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.

[http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=vi  
ewcatalog&catalogid=20&chapterid=3127&topicgroupid=9634&lo  
duseredits=False](http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=vi<br/>ewcatalog&catalogid=20&chapterid=3127&topicgroupid=9634&lo<br/>duseredits=False)

**SUPPLEMENTARY COURSE DESCRIPTION**

To the list above, add North and South America.

This course is a survey of world prehistory. In comparative perspective, we will take up fundamental questions concerning the origins and development of culture after the appearance of *Homo sapiens*. What were Ice Age hunter-gatherers like? When and why did people become farmers? Why did urban settlements develop? What beliefs and customs characterized ancient societies? These questions will be examined in the light of the archaeological records of Africa, Eurasia, and the Americas. As we shall see, archaeologists have learned a lot about the lives of our ancestors. Along the way, they have uncovered a set of fascinating stories tracing humankind's path from past to present. This course delves into these stories.



Mayan "eccentric" flint (ca. 500-900 CE) H: 23 cm.  
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection.

K2053

## COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate a practical and conceptual understanding of how archaeological methods and theories have been applied in the study of prehistory
- articulate general and specific levels of knowledge regarding world prehistory
- critically evaluate existing research results and methods

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Kenneth L. Feder (2019) *The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory*. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press. Available in paperback or as an e-book.

Other materials on line (see MyCourseLink>MyReadings, Other readings, and specific URLs)



## EVALUATION

- Term Project annotated bibliography 10%
- Term Project 30%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Participation 5%
- Final Exam 30%

Tomb 1 at Tell Umm el-Marra, Syria, 2300 BCE.

[http://www.naturalhistorymag.com/htmlsite/master.html?http://www.naturalhistorymag.com/htmlsite/0507/0507\\_feature.html](http://www.naturalhistorymag.com/htmlsite/master.html?http://www.naturalhistorymag.com/htmlsite/0507/0507_feature.html)

### Term Project:

This semester you will complete a project concerning an ancient people and/or an ancient place. Your project will (a) summarize the archaeological evidence underpinning the culture history of an ancient people or (b) review what is known about a prehistoric site as revealed by archaeological excavation. *Your project will go beyond the textbook's account: it will provide a more extensive description, a fuller synthesis of current archaeological knowledge, and an assessment of the subject's significance.* Choose your topic and submit your choice for approval by February 10. Your project may be realized in one of four different genres: a documentary, a design for a museum exhibition, a school teaching & learning unit, or a popular science article. In all cases, a preliminary annotated bibliography will be submitted by March 1. Detailed instructions are posted on MyCourseLink (D2L). The project is due on April 5, 2022.

### Midterm Exam:

The midterm exam on February 17, 2022 will consist of short answer and essay format questions.

**Participation:**

Students are expected to be engaged with the subject matter.

**Final Examination:**

The final examination will consist of short and long answer essay questions covering the entire semester.

**Important Dates:**

**Winter Study Break:** Monday, February 21 – Friday, February 25, 2022. No classes.

**Final Day to Drop This Course:** Friday, March 11, 2022

**Exam Period:** Monday, April 11, 2022 - Sunday, April 24, 2022 (10 Days)

\*No Exams April 15-18 (Easter) **DO NOT MAKE ANY TRAVEL PLANS UNTIL AFTER THE EXAM DATE FOR THIS COURSE HAS BEEN POSTED.** <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/enrolment-services/timetables>



[http://www.davidrowan.co.uk/solar/moonlight\\_stonehenge.html](http://www.davidrowan.co.uk/solar/moonlight_stonehenge.html)

## Schedule

(Subject to change as circumstances warrant)

Week / Date	Topic
<b>1</b> <b>Jan 11</b> 1	<b>Introduction to archaeology and the past</b> Reading: Feder, K. (2019) <i>The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory</i> . Ch. 1
<b>Jan 13</b> 2	<b>Basic concepts in archaeology</b> Reading: Feder, Ch 2  Recommended, for ambitious readers, a completely different take on the standard account: Graeber, D. & D. Wengrow (2021) <i>The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
<b>2</b> <b>Jan 18</b> 3	<b>Piecing together the past: case studies</b> Reading: Editors, <i>Archaeology</i> 75(1): 19-29. Top ten discoveries of 2021. <a href="https://www.archaeology.org/issues/451-2201/features/10183-top-10-discoveries-of-2021">https://www.archaeology.org/issues/451-2201/features/10183-top-10-discoveries-of-2021</a> Kaiser, T. & S. Forenbaher (2012). Recognizing ritual in the dark: Nakovana Cave and the end of the Adriatic Iron Age. In <i>Sacred Darkness: A Global Perspective on the Ritual Use of Caves</i> , edited by H. Moyes, pp. 263-274. Boulder: University of Colorado Press. D2L Other Readings.
<b>Jan 20</b> 4	<b>Origin of modern humans</b> Reading: Feder, Ch 5  Handwerk (2021) An Evolutionary Timeline of Homo Sapiens. <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i> (February 2, 2021). <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/essential-timeline-understanding-evolution-homo-sapiens-180976807/">https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/essential-timeline-understanding-evolution-homo-sapiens-180976807/</a>

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<b>3</b>	<b>Jan 25</b>	5	<p><b>The Upper Palaeolithic</b></p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Feder, Ch 6</p>
	<b>Jan 27</b>	6	<p><b>Upper Palaeolithic art</b></p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>P. Bahn and P. Vertut, <i>Images of the Ice Ages</i>, pp 68-148 D2L</p> <p>Scarre, R. "Lascaux" D2L</p> <p>For Chauvet Cave, visit: <a href="http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/chauvet/en/">http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/chauvet/en/</a></p> <p>Marchant, J. (2016) A Journey to the Oldest Cave Paintings in the World. <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i> (January 2016). <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/journey-oldest-cave-paintings-world-180957685/">https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/journey-oldest-cave-paintings-world-180957685/</a></p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Feb 1</b>	7	<p><b>Peopling of new worlds: Australia, the Pacific and the Americas</b></p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Feder, Ch 7</p> <p>Swaminathan, N. (2014) "America, in the beginning." <i>Archaeology</i> 67(5): 22-29.</p> <p>Moreno-Mayar, J. V. et al. (2018). Early human dispersals within the Americas. <i>Science</i> 08 Nov 2018 eaav2621 DOI: 10.1126/science.aav2621</p> <p>Zimmer, C. (2021) Ancient footprints push back date of human arrival in the Americas. <i>New York Times</i>, September 23, 2021.</p> <p>Bennet, M.R., et al. (2021) Evidence of humans in North America during the last glacial maximum. <i>Science</i> 373 : 1528-1531.</p>
	<b>Feb 3</b>	8	<p><b>New worlds, continued</b></p> <p>Catch up on your reading.</p>

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<b>5</b>	<b>Feb 8</b>	9	<p><b>Post-glacial developments and the origins of food production</b></p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Feder, Ch 8</p> <p>Richter &amp; Arranz-Otaegui (2018) Following a new trail of crumbs to agriculture's origins. <i>Scientific American</i> <a href="https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/oldest-known-bread-crumbs-discovered/">https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/oldest-known-bread-crumbs-discovered/</a></p>
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**Feb 10** 10 **Early Neolithic societies**

***Choice of Term Project topic due.***

Reading:

O. Dietrich, et al. (2012) The role of cult and feasting in the emergence of Neolithic communities: new evidence from Göbekli Tepe, south-eastern Turkey. *Antiquity* 86: 674–95. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00047840>

Curry (2021) Last stand of the hunter-gatherers? *Archaeology* 74(3): 24-31.

**6** **Feb 15** 11 **Expanding Neolithic worlds**

Reading:

T.D. Price (2013) *Europe Before Rome*, pp. 124-127; and pp. 155-165.

**Feb 17** 12 **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Feb 21-25** **READING WEEK**

**7** **Mar 1** 13 **Origins of complex society – one or many?**

***Annotated project bibliography due.***

Reading:

Feder, Ch 9

Gannon, M. (2020) Megasites of Ukraine. *Archaeology* 73(3): 33-37

**Mar 3** 14 **Central and South American complex chiefdoms**

Viewing:

BBC Lost Kingdoms of Central America: Kingdom of the Jaguar – The Olmecs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTuab0SNuPA>

BBC Horizon The Lost Pyramids Of Caral Full Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymW9ylyNNAo>

**8** **Mar 8** 15 **Models of urban state origins; Mesopotamia**

Reading:

Feder, Ch 10

**Mar 10** 16 **Mesopotamia, continued**

Reading:

Lawler (2013a) The everlasting city. *Archaeology* 66(5): 26-32.

Editors (2016) The world's oldest writing. *Archaeology* 69(3): 26-33.

J. Oates, et al. (2007). Early Mesopotamian urbanism: a new view from the north. *Antiquity* 81: 565-600.

**9** **Mar 15** 17 **Egypt**

Reading:

Scarre & Fagan 2003: 87-117 D2L

Powell (2020) In the reign of the sun kings. *Archaeology* 73(6): 44-51.

**Mar 17** 18 **Other early states: Minoan Crete and Mycenaean Greece**

Reading:

Lobell (2015) The Minoans of Crete. *Archaeology* 68(3): 28-35.

**10** **Mar 22** 19 **Asian state formation and early civilizations**

Reading:

Feder, Ch 11

Scarre & Fagan 2003:147-164; 170-196 D2L

Lawler (2013b) Mohenjo-Daro's new story. *Archaeology* 66(1): 32-37.

Gannon, M. (2021) An oasis civilization rediscovered. *Archaeology* 74(1): 40-47

**Mar 24** 20 **Mesoamerican highlands: Teotihuacán**

Reading:

Feder, Ch 12

Shaer (2016) A secret tunnel found in Mexico may finally solve the mysteries of Teotihuacán. *Smithsonian Magazine*.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/discovery-secret-tunnel-mexico-solve-mysteries-teotihuacan-180959070/>



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**11 Mar 29 21 Mesoamerican lowlands: the Maya**

Reading:

Jennings, et al. (2011) *Maya: Secrets of their ancient world*. D2L

Zorich (2013) Uncovering a Maya warrior queen. *Archaeology* 66(3): 31-35.

Katz (2018) Laser Scans Reveal 60,000 Hidden Maya Structures in Guatemala. *Smithsonian Magazine* (February 5, 2018).

Vernimmen, T. (2020) Massive 3,000-year-old ceremonial complex discovered in 'plain sight' *National Geographic* (June 3, 2020). D2L Other readings.

**Mar 31 22 Andean states and empires**

Reading:

Feder, Ch 13

Atwood, R. (2020) Inca power politics. *Archaeology* 73(1): 48-53.

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**12 Apr 5 23 North American complex societies**

**TERM PROJECT DUE**

Reading:

Feder, Ch 14

Kidder, et al. (2021) Multi-method geoarchaeological analyses demonstrates exceptionally rapid construction of Ridge West 3 at Poverty Point, *Southeastern Archaeology*, 40:3, 212-227, DOI: [10.1080/0734578X.2021.1958445](https://doi.org/10.1080/0734578X.2021.1958445)

Urbanus, J. (2021) Searching for the fisher kings. *Archaeology* 74(5): 36-41.

Hodges, G. (2021) Why was the ancient city of Cahokia abandoned? New clues rule out one theory. *National Geographic*. April 12, 2021 D2L Other Readings

**Apr 7 24 Conclusion**

Recommended (again) for any ambitious readers in the class:

Graeber, D. & D. Wengrow (2021) *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

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**TBA**

**FINAL EXAMINATION**



## COURSE POLICIES

- It is your responsibility to attend classes and to do the readings. Regular absences may seriously affect your grade in this course.
- Any important announcements, including changes in due dates, will be announced in-class and posted on MyCourseLink (D2L).
- To aid your review, recorded lectures and other course material will be posted on MyCourseLink (Desire2Learn) at regular intervals.
- Any course work not submitted on time **will be subject to a 5% deduction per day of unexcused lateness.**

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should view the Student Code of Conduct- Academic Integrity - for a full description of academic offences, procedures when Academic Integrity breaches are suspected and sanctions for breaches of Academic Integrity.

The student code of conduct (academic) can be found at:

[https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/policies\\_procedures/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Academic%20Integrity\\_0.pdf](https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/policies_procedures/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Academic%20Integrity_0.pdf)

## STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

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form during or from the course. As an example, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings of lectures, or taking pictures of lecture material.

That said, in ANTH 2151 WAO Ancient Peoples & Places, in the context of remote instruction and participation, video and audio recordings of class activities will be made to ensure students' and instructors' easy and comprehensive access to those activities. The recordings are confidential and are intended only for the use of the course students and instructors. They may otherwise not be used or disclosed. During recording, to protect others' privacy, each student should ensure that no one else is present in the location where they are being recorded without that non-student's consent. The recordings are made under the authority of sections 3 and 14 of *The Lakehead University Act, 1965*. Questions about the collection of the images and sounds in the recordings may be directed to Dr Todd Randall, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies.

*We respectfully acknowledge that Lakehead University campuses are located on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples. Lakehead University acknowledges the history that many nations hold in the areas around our campuses, and is committed to a relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples based on the principles of mutual trust, respect, reciprocity, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.*



The Mnjikaning Fish Weirs, beneath the water in the Atherley Narrows between Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching, is the largest and best-preserved wooden fish weirs known in eastern North America, and was in use from approximately 3300 B.C. "Mnjikaning" is an Ojibway word meaning "the place of the fish fence." <https://www.simcoe.ca/Planning/Documents/Simcoe%20AMP%20Final%20Report%20-%20Council%20Endorsed.pdf>