

ANCIENT PEOPLES AND PLACES (ANTH 2151)

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.

Learning outcomes:

- Obtain an understanding of the 'milestones' in human history including: the origins of human culture; the origins of food production; and the rise of complex societies.
- Develop a basic understanding of world prehistory across Eurasia, Australia, the Americas and elsewhere.
- Develop academic research and writing skills through a written assignment.

Required text:

Chazan, Michael, World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways Through Time [latest edition]

Grading:

- **Written assignment (8-10 pages double-spaced, including figures and references): 30%**
 - A written report describing, and discussing, any topic of interest directly related to the course (world prehistory). Research should be based only on peer-reviewed resources (journal articles and/or academic books). Evaluation will focus on the quality of your writing, the depth of your research, organization, and other criteria. Follow the APA style guide for formatting your paper. A rubric will be posted online.
 - The subject of your term paper is open but examples include: description of a fossil hominin species (e.g., *Homo naledi*, *H. floresiensis*, the Neanderthal); summary of findings from a recent archaeological discovery (e.g., the shipwrecks of the Franklin expedition; Norse sites in North America); description of an ancient writing system and the history of its decipherment; discussion of an archaeological monument (e.g., Egyptian pyramids, the function and construction of Stonehenge, Gobekli Tepe); summary of an archaeological culture or period (e.g., the Classic Maya, Mississippian tradition); discussion of a major ancient human "event" (e.g., the first peopling of the Australia; the origins of agriculture in a region). I'm happy to discuss your term paper topic in order to provide suggestions about how to make it as successful as possible.
 - **Due date:** March 28 (Tuesday)
- **Midterm exam: 30%**
 - Format to be determined
 - Test questions will be derived from the lecture material and required textbook
 - **Date:** Feb. 28
- **Final exam: 40%**
 - Cumulative but focused on post-midterm material
 - Format to be determined
 - Test questions will be derived from the lecture material and required textbook
 - **Date/time:** scheduled by the Registrar's Office (April exam period)

Other information

- Students are responsible for ensuring that they are properly registered in this class.
- See the LU Calendar for information on examinations, grade appeals, and other important regulations of which you should be aware.
- **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.
- Late term papers and other assignments will be deducted 10% per day from the final grade for that assignment.
- As a university student, you may sometimes experience mental health concerns or stressful events that interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily activities. All of us can benefit from support during times of struggle. If you or anyone you know experiences academic stress, difficult life events or feelings of anxiety or depression, Lakehead has resources available to you. Check in with the [WellU Key](#) to find the mental health resources you are looking for. Remember that getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do- for yourself, for those you care about, and for those who care about you. Getting support sooner rather than later is almost always helpful.
- **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>.

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, First peopling of Australia and the New World	Chazan ch. 5 & 6
(Feb 28)	Midterm exam (75 min.)	
5	The origins of agriculture (introduction) Early food production in the Near East	Chazan ch. 7
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 Complex societies in Mesopotamia	Chazan ch. 10 & 11
9	Ancient Egypt	Chazan ch. 11
10	Indus Valley tradition (Harappan civilization)	Chazan ch. 12
11	Early state-level societies in China	Chazan ch. 12
	Term paper due: March 28	
	Final Exam (TBA)	