

Lakehead UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY ANTH 2151 WAO Ancient Peoples and Places

Winter 2023

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30 – 4 pm

OA 2015

Instructor: Dr Timothy Kaiser

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: OA 3008

Office Hours: By appointment, or by chance

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
ewcatalog&catalogid=20&chapterid=3127&topicgroupid=9634&lo
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.

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*. 8th edition. Oxford University Press. Available in paperback or as an e-book.

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



EVALUATION

- Term Project annotated bibliography 10%
- Term Project 35%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 30%
- (Participation bonus, up to 5%)

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

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 9. 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 2.**

Detailed instructions are posted on MyCourseLink (D2L).

The project is due on April 4, 2023.

Midterm Exam:

The midterm exam on February 16 will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Participation:

Students are expected to be engaged with the subject matter.

Final Examination:

The final examination will consist of essay questions covering the entire semester.

Important Dates:

Winter Study Break: Monday, February 20 – Friday, February 24, 2023. No classes.

Final Day to Drop This Course: Friday, March 10, 2023

Exam Period: Friday, April 14, 2023 - Monday, April 24, 2023

DO NOT MAKE ANY TRAVEL PLANS UNTIL AFTER THE EXAM DATE FOR THIS COURSE HAS BEEN POSTED.



http://www.davidrowan.co.uk/solar/moonlight_stonehenge.html

Schedule

(Subject to change as circumstances warrant)

Week / Date	Topic
1 <i>Jan 10</i> 1	Introduction to archaeology and the past Reading: Feder, K. (2019) <i>The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory</i> . Ch. 1
<i>Jan 12</i> 2	Basic concepts in archaeology 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.
2 <i>Jan 17</i> 3	Piecing together the past: case studies Reading: Editors, <i>Archaeology</i> 75(1): 19-29. Top ten discoveries of 2021. https://www.archaeology.org/issues/451-2201/features/10183-top-10-discoveries-of-2021 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.
<i>Jan 19</i> 4	Origin of modern humans Reading: Feder, Ch 5 Handwerk (2021) An Evolutionary Timeline of Homo Sapiens. <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i> (February 2, 2021). https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/essential-timeline-understanding-evolution-homo-sapiens-180976807/

3 Jan 24 5 The Upper Palaeolithic

Reading:

Feder, Ch 6

Jan 26 6 Upper Palaeolithic art

Reading:

P. Bahn and P. Vertut, *Images of the Ice Ages*, pp 68-148 D2L

Scarre, R. "Lascaux" D2L

For Chauvet Cave, visit: <http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/chauvet/en/>

Marchant, J. (2016) A Journey to the Oldest Cave Paintings in the World. *Smithsonian Magazine* (January 2016). <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/journey-oldest-cave-paintings-world-180957685/>

4 Jan 31 7 Peopling of new worlds: Australia, the Pacific and the Americas

Reading:

Feder, Ch 7

Swaminathan, N. (2014) "America, in the beginning." *Archaeology* 67(5): 22-29.

Moreno-Mayar, J. V. et al. (2018). Early human dispersals within the Americas. *Science* 08 Nov 2018 eaav2621 DOI: 10.1126/science.aav2621

Zimmer, C. (2021) Ancient footprints push back date of human arrival in the Americas. *New York Times*, September 23, 2021.

Bennet, M.R., et al. (2021) Evidence of humans in North America during the last glacial maximum. *Science* 373 : 1528-1531.

Feb 2 8 New worlds, continued

Catch up on your reading.

5 Feb 7 9 Post-glacial developments and the origins of food production

Reading:

Feder, Ch 8

Richter & Arranz-Otaegui (2018) Following a new trail of crumbs to agriculture's origins. *Scientific American* <https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/oldest-known-bread-crumbs-discovered/>

Feb 9 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 14** 11 **Expanding Neolithic worlds**

Reading:

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

Feb 16 12 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Feb 20-24 **READING WEEK**

7 **Feb 28** 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 2 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 7** 15 **Models of urban state origins; Mesopotamia**

Reading:

Feder, Ch 10

Mar 9 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 14** 17 **Egypt**

Reading:

Scarre & Fagan 2003: 87-117 D2L

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

Mar 16 18 **Other early states: Minoan Crete and Mycenaean Greece**

Reading:

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

10 **Mar 21** 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 23 20 **NO CLASS, but read about the Valley of Mexico:**

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/>

11 Mar 28 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 30 22 Andean states and empires

Reading:

Feder, Ch 13

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

12 Apr 4 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 6 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.

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).
- **If there is a weather-related disruption, the lecture will be on Zoom. You are advised to check your email and MyCourseLink every morning before class.**
- To aid your review, course material will be posted on MyCourseLink at regular intervals.
- Any course work not submitted on time **will be subject to a 5% deduction per day of unexcused lateness. No course work that is more than 10 days late will receive a mark.**

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

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>

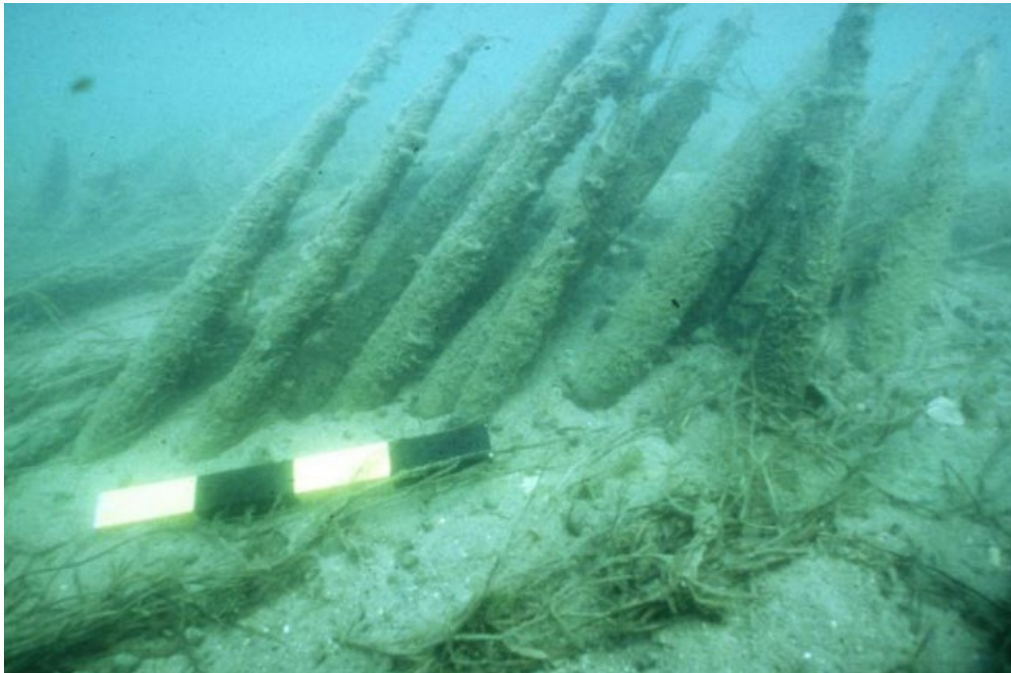
Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent. All relevant information about the course is on the MyCourseLink D2L course site. All assignments must be submitted through the D2L course site. The materials posted on the course D2L site, including any visual and audio recordings, are copyrighted and owned by Dr T. Kaiser. It is prohibited to record or copy by any means, in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, in the absence of express written permission from Dr T. Kaiser any of the materials provided or published in any

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. Any such recordings are to be considered confidential and are intended *only* for the use of the course students and instructor. 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 the 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 BCE. “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>