

## ANCIENT PEOPLES AND PLACES (ANTH 2151)

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Boyd

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Office hours: By appointment (in person or Zoom)



### 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 research, writing, and independent thinking skills.

### Required text:

Chazan, Michael, World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways Through Time. Amazon price: \$155.93 (Dec 17/24). You may purchase the previous edition.

### Grading:

- **First test: 30%**
  - 75 min time limit, in class.
  - Multiple choice
  - Based on textbook and lectures.
  - Modules 2 & 3 (human evolution).
- **Second test: 25%**
  - 75 min time limit, in class.
  - Multiple choice
  - Based on textbook and lectures.
  - Modules 4-7 (TBD).
- **Written assignment (6-7 pages double-spaced, excluding references and title page): 15%**
  - A written research 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). A minimum of 10 peer reviewed sources is recommended for a good grade. 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 to provide suggestions about how to make it as successful as possible.

- See information below regarding the use of generative AI tools.
- **Final test: 30%**
  - All modules, in class
  - Multiple choice
  - **Date/time:** scheduled by the Registrar's Office (April exam period).

## **Other information**

- You are responsible for properly registering or withdrawing from this course. Make sure to check the LU website for the withdrawal deadline.
- 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. 'Makeup' tests/exams are only allowed to the extent permitted under Lakehead University regulations, and supporting documentation may be required.
- **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.
- **Artificial intelligence policy:** I see generative AI tools as both useful and problematic in the context of academic work. As a result, there are some ways in which AI may be used by students in this course, and other uses that are prohibited.
  - Allowable uses of AI: help with brainstorming topics for the term paper; as a 'study buddy' when preparing for the tests in this course. Note: the information used to train AI models may be flawed, incomplete, or biased.
  - Prohibited uses of AI: you are not allowed to use genAI tools such as ChatGPT, Bard, etc. to generate content for the written assignment. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity ("Use of Unauthorized Materials"). You are also not allowed to use AI tools to perform basic research activities such as finding sources, summarizing information contained within academic sources, critiquing sources, generating research ideas and interpretations, and similar activities.
- 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 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. 3-5
3	Hominins (cont.)	
<b>Feb. 5 (Wed)</b>	<b>First Test (75 min.)</b>	
Feb 17-21	<b>No classes (study week)</b>	
4	Upper Paleolithic: general characteristics, First peopling of Australia and the New World	Chazan ch. 6
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
<b>March 12 (Wed)</b>	<b>Second Test (75 min)</b>	
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
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Written assignment due</b>	
<b>April TBA</b>	<b>Final Test (exam period)</b>	