

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD PREHISTORY

Anthropology 297-001, Boise State University

Fall 2009, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:40-10:30, ITLC ILC 404

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Course Summary

Students in this course will examine human prehistory using discoveries from archaeology and human paleontology. Topics include: history and theory, human origins, the world of the Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons, the beginning of farming and settlements, and the emergence of early civilizations. Major discoveries from Africa, Europe, Asia, North America and South America are used to illustrate human adaptations to environmental change.

This course is an overview of World Prehistory, with an emphasis on prehistoric human groups and their responses to environmental change over the last 3-2 million years in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. It will examine the time range beginning with the presence of Miocene-Pliocene fossil evidence, from before the first known artifacts, to the beginnings of writing and the emergence of civilization. You will learn about the biological and behavioral processes that led to human origins, the emergence of modern humans, the origins of domestication and the emergence of regional diversity and variation.

The course is divided into four sections. For each section there are a series of lectures. There are four exams, 4 map quizzes, and 4 short research papers that, when combined, will be your final score. This course uses a combination of lectures, visual aids (e.g. Powerpoint presentations), readings, research reports and computer learning (e.g. BLACKBOARD). Learning outcomes for this course include the ability to recognize and identify information related to World Prehistory, and organize discoveries in time and space. This class is designed to provide experience in taking notes and the use of library and internet resources in the preparation of papers.

Objectives of the Course

Primary goals for this class are listed below.

- Provide an understanding of major historical themes, goals, and methods that have been applied to the scientific study of human origins using fossils and evidence from artifacts.
- Examine the paleoanthropology (the biology and behavior) of human ancestors, the first appearance of humans, the human response to climate and environmental change, and the development of complex societies.
- Gain knowledge of major archaeological discoveries that illustrate the prehistoric developments in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.
- Develop an appreciation for the linkages between geographic-environmental contexts and biotic populations, especially ecological relationships between prehistoric human groups and biotic communities, landscapes and climate change.

- Examine the dynamic relationships between human groups, variations in physical environments and biotic habitats, and dimensions of space and time. You should develop an ability to organize archaeological sites and discoveries geographically (spatially) and chronologically (numerical time scales and relative order).

Methods of Evaluation

You are expected to participate with regular class attendance and by keeping current on the required readings. Come prepared for class and set high standards for your work.

Grading

Grades for the course will be based on your total accumulated score from the papers, exams, and map quizzes.

<i>Grades Based on Total Percentage Earned</i>	
100-96%	A
96-90%	A-
89-88%	B+
87-82%	B
81-80%	B-
79-78%	C+
77-72%	C
71-70%	C-
69-68%	D+
67-62%	D
61-60%	D-
Below 60%	F

There will be four exams. Each is worth 15% of your total grade (for a total of 60% of your grade). The final exam covers the last section of the course plus information provided in the previous sections of the course.

Sign up for the exams at: <http://itc.boisestate.edu/testinglab/>.

There will be no make-up exams. The exams serve as a means to measure whether or not you comprehend and understand the meaning of the information presented in class and in the book. You should be able to identify or recognize important terms, select, match or connect places, discoveries, concepts, and dates as well as organize these kinds of information in time (place them in relative order).

Prior to or during each exam week, you must also complete a map quiz. Each map quiz is worth 5% of your final grade (for a total of 20%). The map quiz is intended to help you prepare for the exams and also provide a way for you to

demonstrate your knowledge of the geographic location of prehistoric discoveries.

Besides the exams and map quizzes, you will be required to write 4 short papers; each counts toward 5% of your grade (for a total of 20%). No credit will be given for late papers.

You are responsible for all required readings, information presented in class, and information available on the class BLACKBOARD site. Exams are based on information provided in the required readings, in class, and on the BLACKBOARD site. Besides gaining a thorough knowledge of World Prehistory, this course is designed to provide experience in taking notes and the preparation of short writing projects.

	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL SCORE	DUE DATE
First Paper	5%	14 September
First Map Quiz	5%	Before 25 September
First Exam	15%	21-23 September
Second Paper	5%	12 October
Second Map Quiz	5%	Before 23 October
Second Exam	15%	9-11 November
Third Paper	5%	2 November
Third Map Quiz	5%	Before 13 November
Third Exam	15%	9-11 November
Forth Paper	5%	7 December
Forth Map Quiz	5%	Before 16 December
Final Exam	15%	14-17 December

Required Textbook and Readings

Exploring Prehistory: How Archaeology Reveals Our Past, Second Edition (2006), by P.J. Crabtree and D.V. Campana, McGraw-Hill, New York.

The online resource is: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072978147/student_view0/index.html

Exam 1: Archaeology of Human Ancestors: Chapters 1-6.

- **First Exam: September 21-23**

Exam 2: Origins of Modern Humans, Chapters 7-12

Second Exam: October 19-23

Exam 3: Post-Pleistocene Adaptations, Chapters 13-18

Third Exam: November 9-11

Exam 4: Development of Cities and States, Chapters 19-26

Final Exam: December 14-17

Requirements for the Papers

Your paper may be on any topic as long as it is pertinent to each of the 4 main topics covered in the course (origins, modern humans, post-Pleistocene, cities and states). The paper MUST be approved—get topic and preliminary references cleared by the instructor. Provide the instructor with a short written summary of your topic and the publications you plan to use for your paper (2-3 sentences, and a list of papers). Your paper should be carefully researched and well-written, and must include a list of references. You can use, for example, articles from *Scientific American*, *National Geographic*, *Natural History*, *Archaeology*, or more specialized journals as well as books and internet resources (Wikipedia and similar resources do not count; if you use them you must fact-check your information citing other sources).

GET APPROVAL FOR YOUR TOPIC AND INITIAL SOURCES--THIS IS A REQUIREMENT.

Due dates for papers:

- 1) Origins to Neandertals, 14 September;
- 2) Biologically modern humans/Upper Paleolithic, 12 October;
- 3) Post-Pleistocene (foragers after the Ice Age), 2 November;
- 4) Cities and states, 7 December.

Checklist of Requirements for the World Prehistory Paper

1. Title Page: (this does not count as part of the text, it is not part of the page count): Title/Author (your name)/Class (ANTH 297, World Prehistory)/Date.

2. Text.

There are several components to your paper. You will be graded based on how well you are able to prepare a research paper that contains a specific set of characteristics.

- Utilize information provided by a variety of information resources and data-sets (for example: books, journal articles, internet sources). If you use resources like Wikipedia it must be clear that you fact-checked all the information using peer reviewed sources.

Include in the text:

- An introduction (at least a paragraph or two);
- Include references ***within the text*** (be certain it is possible for a reader to clearly determine the source of the information in your paper);
- 4 pages (double-spaced, 11 pt.) of information on the topic;
- A summary or conclusion (at least 2 paragraphs).

The text of your paper will be partially evaluated based on the proper use of grammar, sentence structure, and spelling. It should be easy to determine the outline of your paper. It should be well organized.

Charts, maps, and other images can be used, but they do not count as part of the 4 pages of double-spaced text.

3. Bibliography (Publications or References Cited).

- Must include name of author, date of publication, title of articles, journals or books published, editor if applicable, publisher, place of publication.
- Must have at least 3 references, excluding internet sources. No credit for textbooks or Wikipedia-type citations (although these can be used in your report preparation, as a source for initial ideas).
- At least 1 reference published since 2000, and at least 1 since 2006.
- Make sure that it is possible for someone reviewing your paper to know where you obtained all the information in your paper. You should have citations within the text and a separate list of references at the end of your paper.
- The bibliography is not part of the text—it is in addition to the required 4 pages.

4. Deadline. No credit for papers handed in after the due date.

Introduction to World Prehistory: Schedule for Fall 2009

Week 1	Aug. 24: Introduction.	Aug. 26: World Prehistory. (Chapter 1)	Aug. 28: Fossils--Primates and Hominins. (Chapter 2)
Week 2	Aug. 31: Fossils--Primates and Hominins. (Chapter 2)	Sept. 2: The Earliest Artifacts and Paleo-behavior. (Chapter 3)	Sept. 4: The Earliest Artifacts and Paleo-behavior. (Chapter 3)
Week 3	Sept. 7: NO CLASS	Sept. 9: Africa and the Near East: Acheulian and Related Fossils. (Chapter 4)	Sept. 11: Africa and the Near East: Acheulian and Related Fossils. (Chapter 4)
Week 4	Sept. 14: Asia and Europe: Acheulian and Related Fossils. (Chapter 5) PAPER 1 DUE	Sept 16: Neanderthals and the Middle Paleolithic. (Chapter 6)	Sept 18: Neanderthals and the Middle Paleolithic. (Chapter 6)
Week 5	Sept. 21: Exam 1	Sept. 23: Exam 1	Sept. 25: Upper Paleolithic and Cro-Magnon. (Chapter 7)
Week 6	Sept. 28: Upper Paleolithic and Cro-Magnon. (Chapter 7)	Sept. 30: Africa and Near East Fossils and Artifacts. (Chapter 8).	Oct. 2: Africa and Near East Fossils and Artifacts. (Chapter 8).
Week 7	Oct. 5: Upper Paleolithic Europe and Ice Age Environments. (Chapter 9)	Oct. 7: Upper Paleolithic Art and Cognition. (Chapter 10)	Oct. 9: Upper Paleolithic Art and Cognition. (Chapter 10)
Week 8	Oct. 12: Australia. (Chapter 11) PAPER 2 DUE	Oct. 14: New World. (Chapter 12)	Oct. 16: New World. (Chapter 12)
Week 9	Oct. 19: Exam 2	Oct. 21: Exam 2	Oct. 23: Post-Pleistocene Adaptations (Chapter 13)
Week 10	Oct. 26: Mesolithic. (Chapter 13)	Oct. 28: New World Archaic (Chapter 14)	Oct. 30: Origins of Agriculture- (Chapter 15)
Week 11	Nov. 2: Old World Agriculture (Middle East) (Chapters 16) PAPER 3 DUE	Nov. 4: New World Agriculture (Chapters 17)	Nov. 6: Consequences of Agriculture (Chapters 18)
Week 12	Nov. 9: Exam 3	Nov. 11: Exam 3	Nov. 13: Cities and States (Chapter 19)
Week 13	Nov. 16: Mesopotamia. (Chapters 19)	Nov. 18: Indus Valley. (Chapter 20)	Nov. 20: Africa/Egypt--Complex Societies. (Chapter 21)
Week 14	Nov. 23: Thanksgiving	Nov. 25: <i>Thanksgiving</i>	Nov. 27: <i>Thanksgiving</i>
Week 15	Nov. 30: China—Complex Societies.	Dec. 2: Europe at the End of Prehistory. (Chapter 23)	Dec. 4: Mesoamerica (Chapter 24)
Week 16	Dec. 7: Andes (Chapter 25) PAPER 4 DUE	Dec. 9: North America (Chapter 26)	Dec. 11: Overview
Week 17	Dec. 14-17: Final Exam		