

## INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY & WORLD PREHISTORY



**Instructor:** Ian Lindsay

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**Class time:** T Th 10:30-11:45, KRAN G004

**Office hours:** T 3-5 (or by appt), STON 313

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

Archaeology is the study of ancient societies and lifeways through the materials (tools, architecture, bones, etc.) people left behind. Though commonly associated with “digging,” archaeology entails a wide range of pursuits that more often than not take place far away from excavation units (including nuclear laboratories!). Archaeology is a multidisciplinary science that seeks to reconstruct past human activities; as a result, archaeologists consult with specialists in a host of other fields including geology, plant and animal studies, and human osteology to understand fundamental questions about the human past. These questions include: Why did modern humans develop culture, and technologies like stone tools, the wheel, and writing? When and why did people domesticate plants and animals? How, after a long period of living as egalitarian foragers, did the first “civilizations”, monumental architecture, and science and mathematics emerge? What are the roots of human inequality?

This course is designed to present you with an overview of what archaeology is, and how (and importantly why) we do archaeology. The course material will begin with a brief history of archaeology to establish it within the context of historical and anthropological thought, and present an overview of the methods, theories, and research techniques we use to learn about the ancient past. However, the bulk of the semester will be dedicated to outlining what we know about major cultural developments in human prehistory as unveiled through archaeology.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- grasp the principles of archaeology and how we study the ancient past
- describe and analyze archaeological phenomenon using archaeological terms
- recount dates, places, and significance of major cultural and technical transformations in prehistory
- think critically about how archaeology is represented in the world around you including in films, TV, magazines, and other popular media

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

### For lecture

- Kenneth L. Feder (2017) *The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory*. 7th edition. Oxford University Press. [THIS IS THE LATEST EDITION, BUT YOU WILL BE FINE WITH THE 6TH EDITION IF YOU CAN FIND IT USED]

## COURSE FORMAT

Each week this course meets twice for lecture (Tues & Thurs) where we will cover major turning points in human prehistory that are elaborated in more detail in the readings. You will get the most out of class if you do the reading before lecture. Quizzes and the midterm exam will be done during normal class time.

## ONLINE COURSE CONTENT

We'll be using Blackboard to post the syllabus, assignments, study guides, and grades for the course.

## ATTENDANCE

Though attendance will not always be taken, attending is mandatory if you want a good grade. Please note that there are NO extra credit assignments offered and NO make-up exams for unexcused absences. Make-ups may only be granted for medical excuses with PUSH documentation, documented family emergency, or official school-related activities. Individuals participating in scheduled school activities that require missing an exam or quiz must notify the professor in writing at least one week before to make alternate arrangements. Please see Purdue's policy from the Office of the Dean of Students for more information: <http://www.purdue.edu/advocacy/>.

## GRADING

There are 1000 total possible points in the class distributed as follows:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Exams (Midterm 250 pts; Final 300 pts) | 550 |
| Data analysis assignments (2 x 150)    | 300 |
| Quizzes (3 X 50 pts)                   | 150 |

### Exams

The midterm and final will be composed of multiple choice and some written questions covering lectures, readings, films, and discussions. The final will primarily cover post-midterm material. Please note: you will not pass the class if you skip either of the exams without a documented excuse.

### Assignments

There will be two assignments given in class that involve short write-ups. These are designed to make you think like an archaeologist by solving problems using archaeological data.

### Quizzes

There will be three scheduled quizzes given throughout the semester. These will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions and will cover basic information from lectures, readings, and films.

Grades will be assigned as follows (because I use +/- , please don't ask to have your grade rounded up):

|    |           |    |           |
|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| A  | 92-100%   | C  | 72-77.99% |
| A- | 90-91.99% | C- | 70-71.99% |
| B+ | 88-89.99% | D+ | 68-69.99% |
| B  | 82-87.99% | D  | 62-67.99% |
| B- | 80-81.99% | D- | 60-61.99% |
| C+ | 78-79.99% | F  | < 60%     |

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, penalties for which may include failing the course and expulsion from the university. Please avoid even the appearance of cheating. Your enrollment in this course indicates your compliance with Purdue's policy on academic honesty, and agreement to abide by [Purdue's Honor Pledge](#). To view a complete copy of the academic honesty policy, please visit: [http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/student\\_conduct/index.html](http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/student_conduct/index.html).

**PERSONAL CONDUCT**

Courtesy for your fellow students and their learning experience should guide everyone's behavior in class. TURN OFF CELL PHONES and silence other electronic beeping things upon entering the classroom. Be considerate of others regarding eating, drinking, or talking in class. Come to class on time. Leaving in the middle of class or before class ends is not appropriate. Please excuse yourself in advance with Dr. Lindsay if you need to leave early or arrive late.

**LAPTOPS AND NOTE-TAKING PROTOCOL**

Multiple studies have found that laptops and other electronic devices used in class are distracting not only for you, but for those sitting around you. Therefore LAPTOPS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED FOR TAKING NOTES in class, except by special permission.

On a more positive note, I will be posting lecture slides on Blackboard; however, if there is a trend toward absenteeism, I will find ways to enforce attendance.

Notes of class lectures are for the personal use of each individual student currently enrolled in the class. Visual and audio recordings of class lectures and slides are not allowed. Such recordings violate policies protecting the intellectual property of instructors, as does selling course material (notes, exam information, papers, etc.). Notes can be shared among students who regularly attend class and are currently enrolled in the class. Notes should not be emailed or uploaded to any website. Students cannot use their notes and other material from this course for commercial purposes under any circumstances.

**STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

We will make every attempt to accommodate students with special needs in lecture and/or test-taking situations. Please contact the Disability Resource Center and the professor as soon as possible regarding necessary accommodations. See <https://www.purdue.edu/studentssuccess/specialized/drc/> for more information.

**CAPS INFORMATION**

Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765)494-6995 and <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

**EMERGENCY SITUATIONS (SEE BACK OF SYLLABUS FOR MORE DETAILS ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES)**

This syllabus reflects the ideal outline for the course and the general pace of study, but occasional schedule adjustments may be necessary. In the event of a major campus emergency, snowstorm, natural disaster, etc., course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to change.

## Course Schedule

Week 1 (1/9-1/11); Read Chapter 1  
Encountering the Past

Week 2 (1/16-1/18); Read Chapter 2  
Probing the Past: Basic Archaeological Concepts

Week 3 (1/23-1/25); Read Chapters 3 and 4  
Hominin Evolution<sup>1</sup>  
**THURS 1/25: QUIZ 1**

Week 4 (1/30-2/1); Read Chapters 5 and 6  
Modern Humans and the Expansion of Intellectual Horizons

Week 5 (2/6-2/8); Read Chapter 7  
New Worlds: Peopling of Australia and the Americas; *Video: NOVA First Peoples: Americas*  
**Assignment #1 Posted on Blackboard**

Week 6 (2/13-2/15); Read Chapter 8  
The Food Producing Revolution  
**THURS 2/15: QUIZ 2**

Week 7 (2/20-2/22); Finish Chapter 8  
Food Producing Revolution (cont'd)  
**THURS 2/22: Assignment #1 DUE**

Week 8 (2/27-3/1): Catch up; Midterm review  
**THURS 3/1: MIDTERM EXAM (in class)**

Week 9 (3/6-3/8); Read Chapter 9; *Video: NOVA: Secrets of Stonehenge*  
Roots of Complexity

Week 10 (3/13-3/15) **SPRING BREAK**

Week 11 (3/20-3/22); Chapter 10  
Civilization in the Old World: Mesopotamia and Egypt  
**Assignment #2 Posted on Blackboard**

Week 12 (3/27-3/29); Read Chapter 11  
Civilization in the Old World: Mesopotamia and Egypt (cont'd); Indus Valley  
**THURS 3/29: QUIZ 3**

Week 13 (4/3-4/5); Read Chapter 12 AND ["It wasn't just Greece: Archaeologists find early democratic societies in the Americas"](#) in Science Magazine (March 2017)  
Civilization in the New World: Mesoamerica; *Video: NOVA ScienceNOW: Maya*  
**THURS 4/5: Assignment #2 DUE**

Week 14 (4/10-4/12); Read Chapter 13  
Civilization in the New World: South America

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<sup>1</sup> Note that we will be focusing primarily on the archaeological evidence of human evolution, since the biological evidence is covered more thoroughly in Anth 204.

Week 15 (4/17-4/19); Start Chapter 14;  
Complex Societies in North America: Cahokia and the American Southwest

Week 16 (4/24-4/26); Finish Chapter 14; Epilogue  
Complex Societies in North America: Cahokia and the American Southwest

### Final Exam Date TBA

**\*\*EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES are based on a simple concept – if you hear a fire alarm inside, proceed outside. If you hear a siren outside, proceed inside.**

- **Indoor Fire Alarms** mean to stop class or research and immediately evacuate the building.
  - Proceed to your Emergency Assembly Area away from building doors. **Remain outside** until police, fire, or other emergency response personnel provide additional guidance or tell you it is safe to leave.
- **All Hazards Outdoor Emergency Warning Sirens** mean to immediately seek shelter (Shelter in Place) in a safe location within the closest building.
  - “Shelter in place” means seeking immediate shelter inside a building or University residence. This course of action may need to be taken during a tornado, a civil disturbance including a shooting or release of hazardous materials in the outside air. Once safely inside, find out more details about the emergency\*. **Remain in place** until police, fire, or other emergency response personnel provide additional guidance or tell you it is safe to leave.

*\*In both cases, you should seek additional clarifying information by all means possible (Purdue Emergency Status page, text message, email alert, TV, radio, etc.). Review the Purdue Emergency Warning Notification System multi-communication layers at [http://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency\\_preparedness/warning-system.html](http://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency_preparedness/warning-system.html)*

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES:

- Review the **Emergency Procedures Guidelines** [https://www.purdue.edu/emergency\\_preparedness/flipchart/index.html](https://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/flipchart/index.html)
- Review the **Building Emergency Plan** (available on the Emergency Preparedness website or from the building deputy) for:
  - evacuation routes, exit points, and emergency assembly area
  - when and how to evacuate the building.
  - shelter in place procedures and locations
  - additional building specific procedures and requirements

### MORE INFORMATION

Reference the Emergency Preparedness web site for additional information: [https://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency\\_preparedness/](https://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency_preparedness/)