

APG 202: INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Fall 2008

T/Th 9:30- 10:45 (Cherry/Kirk Auditorium)

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Office: Chafee 513 Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 11:00- 12:00 (or by appt.)
Course website: <http://www.uri.edu/webct/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to Anthropology 202! This class is an introduction to human “prehistory” (the period of time before the invention of writing). Our story will begin some 6 million years ago with our pre-human ancestors and will continue through the beginnings of writing. Although the word “archaeology” may conjure up images of spectacular sites or finds such as the Egyptian pyramids or King Tut, it is often the seemingly mundane objects (bones, charcoal, seeds, stone tool making debris, and even the dirt itself!) that tell us the most about the past. These archaeological objects can do more than simply satisfy our curiosity. For example, archaeology provides us with a long-term understanding of how humans have adapted to, and interacted with, their natural environment. These findings are often relevant to discussions of modern-day ecological concerns and controversies (e.g., global warming).

This semester you will learn to combine archaeological methods with knowledge of diverse prehistoric cultures to investigate some of the most significant aspects of our deep past, including the evolution of humans, the emergence of agriculture, and the development of the earliest urban civilizations. The course is divided into three main units:

- (1) *Fundamentals of Archaeology*: We will begin by discussing some of the key concepts and methods that archaeologists use to investigate the past. Your understanding of these basic concepts and topics will be necessary for later discussions.
- (2) *Becoming Human*: The second unit will focus on the evolution of biological and cultural complexity in humans, from our earliest pre-human ancestors through the end of the last Ice Age (11,500 years ago).
- (3) *Food Production and Early Civilizations*: Finally, we will explore two of the most significant developments in more recent human prehistory: food production and social complexity. We will discuss the archaeological evidence and consequences of these changes in SW Asia, Africa, and North America.

Our in-class meetings will be a mixture of traditional lecture format, individual exercises, group activities, videos, and discussions. I am less concerned that you are able to memorize everything I say, and more interested in seeing how you can apply what you have learned to new situations. For this reason, your performance will be assessed in a variety of ways (in-class activities, quizzes, take-home exercises, and in-class exams).

STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

My goal is that you leave the class knowing how to:

1. Demonstrate the methods and techniques used by archaeologists to decipher the human past.
2. Describe the physical and cultural attributes that reflect our shared ancestry with other hominins, and identify those that make us unique as humans.
3. Compare and contrast significant developments and achievements in human prehistory across different geographic regions.
4. Explain how the past may be relevant to your own lives, and how archaeology relates to contemporary issues.
5. Evaluate representations of archaeology in the popular media (e.g., museum exhibits, websites, newspaper articles, television specials).

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE SKILLS

In addition to the learning expectations described above, this general education course will stress the following three integrated skills that will be transferable to other areas of your studies, work and life:

1. *Examining Human Differences:* Throughout the semester you will examine how cultures varied across time and space.
2. *Using Qualitative Data:* You will learn how archaeologists analyze and interpret data and construct arguments about the past, and will have a chance to practice these skills for yourself.
3. *Using Informational Technology:* Your take-home exercises will require you to use and evaluate online content.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams (3)	85 pts
Quizzes (5)	20 pts
Take-home Exercises (2)	25 pts
In-class Activities	20 pts

Required Readings

The readings are designed to give you the background knowledge you will need for our in-class discussions and activities, and will help you successfully prepare for quizzes and exams. I have created a custom-made digital textbook (“eBook”) with selections I tailored specifically to fit the content of this course. The textbook includes chapters from many different introductory archaeology textbooks written by many different authors (see page 6 for the full list of readings). In addition, the custom textbook contains glossaries from three textbooks. The readings include many details about different sites and periods; to help focus your reading, I will frequently post reading questions on the course website. These questions may be used to guide your reading (they do not need to be turned in). The readings should be completed by Tuesday of the week in which they are assigned (see schedule on pg. 7), unless otherwise noted in lecture.

The digital textbook costs \$43.75 and is available through the McGraw Hill Primis EBookstore (www.ebooks.primisonline.com). Specific instructions for purchasing the textbook can be found on the course website (<http://www.uri.edu/webct/>). There are two different options in purchasing the text. You can either choose "online viewing" or "adobe download." Each has different advantages/disadvantages (interactive features, accessibility, printing, etc.). This is explained at the following website: <https://ebooks.primisonline.com/eBookOptions.html>

Exams

The exams are non-cumulative and are designed to test your knowledge of the three separate units. The first two exams will be held in class on Tuesday, September 23rd and Thursday, October 23rd. The third exam will be held during the final exam time slot (Tuesday, December 16th at 8:00 AM). We will discuss sample questions and test-taking strategies prior to the exams; see page 5 for an exam preparation checklist. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions, and will require you to synthesize and apply your knowledge from class lectures, in-class activities, videos, discussions, and readings. The final exam will also include the following essay question:

People often cite the quote “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” as a justification for why archaeology is important and relevant to modern peoples/ issues.

Given this argument, what lessons have you learned this semester that should be remembered? Be sure to provide details from lectures, videos, and/or the textbook in your response.

Quizzes

There will be five quizzes throughout the semester, worth 5 points each. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage you to review your notes and readings periodically and to help you practice for exams. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes are scheduled for 9/11, 10/2, 10/14, 11/12, and 11/25. There are no make-up quizzes.

Exercises

There will be two short take-home exercises (due Thursday, October 9th and Tuesday, November 18th), which are designed to provide you with practice in three integrated skills: examining human differences, using information technology, and analyzing qualitative data.

In-class Activities

There will be a number of short in-class assignments during lecture throughout the semester. These may include brief individual writing assignments or group activities, and will give you practice thinking like an archaeologist. They will be graded as credit/ no-credit, and it will not be possible to make up in-class activities you miss.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u># of points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u># of points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u># of points</u>
A	139-150	B-	120-123	D+	100-104
A-	135-138	C+	115-119	D	90-99
B+	130-134	C	109-114	F	<90
B	124-129	C-	105-108		

Absences:

Your attendance and class participation is critical to your success in this class. In-class activities and discussions during class meetings will help prepare you for the quizzes and exams. Please note: Quizzes and in-class activities cannot be made-up at a later date. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing a class, please notify me ahead of time, and arrange to get notes from someone in class.

Late Assignments:

Take-home assignments should be turned in during lecture. Late assignments will be penalized 50% and will not be accepted more than one class period after the due date. For example, the first assignment is due on Thursday, October 9th. If you miss that deadline you may still turn it in during class on Tuesday, October 14th to receive a maximum of half credit.

Academic Honesty:

I expect all students to uphold the University of Rhode Island community standards of behavior as outlined in the student handbook (<http://www.uri.edu/judicial/studenthandbook.pdf>). I encourage you to discuss your ideas with others, but all assignments must reflect your own individual work.

Accessibility:

Please let me know if you need accommodation of any sort. I can work in conjunction with the URI Disability Services for Students (DSS) office (<http://www.uri.edu/disability/dss/>) to provide what you require, or we may be able to work it out between us if you would prefer. I am also very willing to take suggestions specific to this class to meet your learning needs.

Academic Enhancement Center

I encourage you to visit the Academic Enhancement Center (AEC) in Roosevelt Hall. The AEC offers a comfortable environment in which to study alone or together, with or without a tutor. AEC tutors are your peers – they've taken your courses, and can answer questions, clarify concepts, check your understanding, and help you to study. You can make an appointment or walk in during office hours. For a complete schedule, go to <http://www.uri.edu/aec>, call (401) 874-2367, or stop by the fourth floor in Roosevelt Hall.

FEEDBACK/SUGGESTIONS

I am very interested in having your feedback and suggestions on the course throughout the semester, rather than simply on the evaluations at the end of the semester. You are encouraged to email me directly with suggestions or constructive feedback. Also, please visit my office hours if you have a concern about the class, or if you just want to chat about the course material or majoring in anthropology.

EXAM PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Answer "Yes" only if you *usually* do the things described (as opposed to occasionally or never).

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| — | — | 1. Do you attend the lectures? If you miss a class due to a conflict or illness, do you borrow notes from a classmate? |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 2. Do you take good notes in lecture? (note- in addition to writing down words and definitions on the overhead or powerpoint, you should also take notes on videos, in-class examples, activities, discussions, etc.) |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 3. Have you made a serious effort to understand the textbook? (just hunting for relevant vocabulary doesn't count; you need to try to understand the concepts and examples presented in the text) |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 4. Do you answer all of the reading questions that are provided by the instructor? |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 5. Do you study all of the handouts given out in lecture or on webCT? |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 6. Do you complete and understand all of the take-home exercises? |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 7. If you miss points on the take-home exercises, do you attempt to find out why your answer(s) was insufficient? |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 8. Do you consult with the instructor when you are having trouble with something? |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 9. Do you review/ study your class notes, exercises, readings and handouts prior to the exam? |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 10. Do you compare your notes with classmates and/or study together for the test? |
| Yes | No | |
| — | — | 11. Do you get a reasonable night's sleep before the test? (if your answer is no, your answers to 1-10 may not matter) |
| Yes | No | |

—	—	TOTAL
Yes	No	

The more "Yes" responses you recorded, the better your preparation for the test.

LIST OF REQUIRED READINGS:

- Wk 1: Kottak, Conrad (2006). Chapter 1: What is Anthropology? In, *Physical Anthropology and Archaeology* (2nd Edition). Pages: **1-22**.
- Wk 2: Feder, Kenneth (2008). Chapter 2: Epistemology: How You Know What You Know. In, *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology* (6th Edition). Pages: **23-52**.
- Wk 3: Feder, Kenneth (2007). Chapter 2: Probing the Past. In, *The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory* (4th Edition). Pages: **53-92**.
- Price, T. Douglas and Gary Feinman (2008). "Dating Methods" and "Radiocarbon Dating." In, *Images of the Past* (5th Edition). Pages: **108-109, 205-206**.
- Wk 5: Price, T. Douglas and Gary Feinman (2008). Chapter 2: The First Humans. In, *Images of the Past* (5th Edition). Pages: **94-129**.
- Wk 7: Price, T. Douglas and Gary Feinman (2008). Chapter 3: Out of Africa: *Homo erectus*. In, *Images of the Past* (5th Edition). Pages: **130-163**.
- Wk 8: Price, T. Douglas and Gary Feinman (2008). Chapter 4: The Hunters. In, *Images of the Past* (5th Edition). Pages: **164-204, 218-219**.
- Endicott, Kirk M. and Robert L. Welsch, editors (2005). Issue 3: Did Neanderthals Interbreed with Modern Humans? In, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Anthropology* (3rd Edition). Pages: **220-238**.
- Kottak, Conrad (2006). Bringing it all Together: When Did Humans Start Acting Like Humans? In, *Physical Anthropology and Archaeology* (2nd Edition). Pages: **239-241**.
- Wk 9: Diamond, Jared (May 1987). The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race? *Discover Magazine*, pp. 64-66. Reprinted in: *Lessons From the Past: An introductory Reader in Archaeology*, edited by Kenneth L. Feder (1999). Mayfield Publishing Company. (**available on WebCT**)
- Kottak, Conrad (2006). Chapter 10: The First Farmers. In, *Physical Anthropology and Archaeology* (2nd Edition). Pages: **242-265**.
- Wk 10: Feder, Kenneth (2007). Chapter 10: The Roots of Complexity. *The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory* (4th Edition). Pages: **266-307**.
- Wk 11: Crabtree, Pam J. and Douglas V. Campana (2005). Chapter 19: The Development of Cities and States: Mesopotamia and the Urban Revolution. In, *Exploring Prehistory: How Archaeology Reveals Our Past* (2nd Edition). Pages: **308-329**.
- Wk 13: Crabtree, Pam J. and Douglas V. Campana (2005). Chapter 21: The Rise of Complex Societies in Egypt and Sub-Saharan Africa. In, *Exploring Prehistory: How Archaeology Reveals Our Past* (2nd Edition). Pages: **330-350**.
- Feder, Kenneth (2008). Chapter 9: Mysterious Egypt. In, *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology* (6th Edition). Pages: **351-382**.
- Wk 14: Price, T. Douglas and Gary Feinman (2008). Chapter 4: The Hunters. In, *Images of the Past* (5th Edition). Pages: **207-217**.
- Feder, Kenneth (2008). Chapter 6: The Myth of the Moundbuilders. In, *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology* (6th Edition). Pages: **383-414**.
- Crabtree, Pam J. and Douglas V. Campana (2005). Chapter 26: Middle-Range and Complex Societies in North America. In, *Exploring Prehistory: How Archaeology Reveals Our Past* (2nd Ed.). Pages: **415-432**.
- Wk 15: Price, T. Douglas and Gary Feinman (2008). Chapter 12: The Past as Present and Future. In, *Images of the Past* (5th Edition). Pages: **434-449**.
- Ashmore, Wendy and Robert J. Sharer (2006). Chapter 10: Archaeology Today. In, *Discovering the Past: A Brief Introduction to Archaeology* (4th Edition). Pages: **450-466**.

APG 202 SCHEDULE

	Week	Dates	Topics	Readings (pp.)*	Important Dates
Fundamentals	Wk 1	Sept 4	Introduction	Syllabus, 1-22	
	Wk 2	Sept 9, 11	Explaining the Past	23-52	Quiz 1 (Th 9/11)
	Wk 3	Sept 16, 18	Archaeological Methods	53-92, 108-109, 205-206	
Becoming Human	Wk 4	Sept 23, 25	Evolution		Exam 1 (Tu 9/23)
	Wk 5	Sept 30, Oct 2	African Origins	94-129	Quiz 2 (Th 10/2)
	Wk 6	Oct 7, 9	Reconstructing Hominin Behavior		Exercise 1 due (Th 10/9)
	Wk 7	Oct 14, 16	Hominin Dispersal	130-163	Quiz 3 (Tu 10/14)
	Wk 8	Oct 21, 23	Rise of Modern Humans	164-204, 218-241	Exam 2 (Th 10/23)
Food Production & Early Civilizations	Wk 9	Oct 28, 30	Food Production	Diamond article; 242-265	
	Wk 10	Nov 6 (no class 11/4-- vote!)	Origins of Civilization	266-307	
	Wk 11	Nov 12 (Wed), 13	SW Asia	308-329	Quiz 4 (Wed 11/12)
	Wk 12	Nov 18, 20	SW Asia/ Africa		Exercise 2 due (Tues 11/18)
	Wk 13	Nov 25 (no class 11/27)	Africa	330-382	Quiz 5 (Tu 11/25)
	Wk 14	Dec 2, 4	North America	207-217, 383-432	
	Wk 15	Dec 9	Archaeology Today	434-466	
	Final Exam Period				

* The page numbers refer to the bulleted numbers on the top of the page of your custom textbook (e.g., ❶), not the original page numbers located elsewhere on the page. Readings should be completed by the Tuesday of the week they are assigned (unless otherwise specified in lecture).

