

San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH161 Old World Civilizations
Spring 2017

Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Marco Meniketti
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Office Hours:	Tues 12:00-3:00
Class Days/Time:	Mon/Wed 12:00-1:15
Classroom:	WSQ04 Integrated Anthropology Laboratory

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page on CANVAS
Students are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn any updates.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the archaeology of ancient civilizations of Europe, Mesopotamia, the Near East and Mediterranean world. The course will examine in-depth the rise of complex states and kingdoms beginning with the late neolithic through to the early Roman period. Through topical research and archaeological reports students will explore the evidence for cultural contact, trade, and political interaction among ancient civilizations with specific focus on environmental change, that set the foundations of cultural traditions experienced to this day.

The course has been constructed around Content Units having specific emphases on particular cultures. Students should anticipate and schedule four to six hours weekly for readings and related assignments in support of the learning objectives. The course combines lecture and group discussion with research activities.

Course Objectives

- Comprehensive knowledge of the development and achievements of several ancient civilizations.

- Knowledge of the chronological and sequence and interactions of ancient civilizations.
- Broad understanding critical issues in archaeological reconstruction of ancient civilization along with problems surrounding interpretation of evidence.
- Understanding of the maritime links that connected ancient empires through trade.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the geography of the Ancient world.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate proficiency in identifying the geography of the ancient old world and be able to describe the relationship between environment, geography, and the rise of civilizations.
- Students will be recognize and critically assess the achievements, institutions, and long term impact of interactions in the past as they pertain to the modern world.
- Students will be proficient with topical research skills using library, internet, and archaeological sources.
- Students will recognize, identify and describe key cultural icons of ancient civilizations.
- Students will enumerate key criteria for State level social organization and critically assess these criteria as they pertain to specific ancient civilizations.

CLO Competency	Assessment	Competency measures
Students will demonstrate proficiency in identifying the geography of the ancient old world and be able to describe the relationship between environment, geography, and the rise of civilizations.	Examination of map skills. Inclusion of geographic information in Topical Paper. Examination questions related to the environmental issues. Correct data presented in Activity A.	Correct exam answers. Accurate information in Topical Paper. 80% or higher reflects competence.
Students will be recognize and critically assess the achievements and the long term impact of interactions in the past as they pertain to the modern world.	Examination objective questions and constructed answer short essays listing achievements. Identification of interactions and relating these to modern systems.	Correct exam answers. 80% or higher reflects competence.
Students will be proficient with topical research skills using a combination of library, internet, and archaeological sources.	Topical research paper using standard research methods. Application of methods to locate source material. Monitored through drafts and bibliographies.	Correct reference and citation standards applied. Quality of sources meet academic rigor. No more than three errors reflects basic mastery.
Students will recognize, identify and describe key cultural icons of ancient civilizations.	Visual exam and examination questions. Activity A and B relevancy. Inclusion of key icons in final products of Activity A and B.	Correct exam answers. 80% or higher reflects competence.
Students will enumerate the key criteria for State level social organization and critically assess these criteria from an anthropological perspective as they pertain to various ancient civilizations.	Examination objective questions. Short answer critical assessment essays supported through citation of appropriate archaeological evidence.	Correct exam answers. 80% or higher reflects competence.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

John Haywood, 2005. *Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Civilizations*. Penguin Publ.

Reynold Higgins, 1967 *Minoan and Mycenaean Art*. Thames and Hudson. (Any edition)

Barry Cunliffe, 2014. *Europe Between the Oceans 9000BC-AD1000*. Yale University Press.

Ralph Mathisen, 2012. *Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations*. Oxford.

Other Readings

Additional readings, updates and assignments and various announcements will be available for download from the website established for this course on CANVAS.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins

King Library

silkie.higgins@sjsu.edu

408-808-2118

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assessments:

Students should anticipate and schedule a minimum of 4 hours of each week for work outside class.

Exams. There will a midterm and a final exam. Each exam addresses material from individual thematic units. Conceptual understanding and application of knowledge is the principal objective of the course and will be targeted by assessment.

Synthesis papers. Five short conceptual or information rich papers summarizing and critically examining specific topics of ancient world archaeology.

Topical paper. This focused term long research paper is designed to elicit critical thinking relating to specific ancient civilizations. Topics are drawn from the readings and address course themes. Students are expected to use library resources in completing their project. Expectation of a minimum 2000 words. Topical papers are based on archaeological site reports and published peer reviewed article related to specific ancient sites associated with specific civilizations. Students will cite a minimum of nine sources.

In class activities. Two group activities designed to enhance or challenge specific archaeological or geographic concepts. One group poster and one group "Travel Brochure."

Failure to take the final exam or submit a Term Paper will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.

[University Policy S06-4](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless the course is on the official List of Courses in which a final is optional.”

Assessments:

Midterm Exam 50 pts (17% of grade)
Activity A 25 pts [Ancient Sites: 8% of grade]
Activity B 25 pts [Ancient travel brochure: 8% of grade]
Topical papers 100 pts (33% of grade)
Synthesis papers 10 pts each (5) 50 pts (17% of grade)
Final Exam 50 pts (17% of grade)
Total: 300 pts

Grade percentages

A+ 97-100%	A 96-23%	A- 91-89%
B+ 88- 85%	B 84-81%	B- 80-77%
C+ 76-74%	C 73-70%	C- 69-64%
F Below 64%		

Grading Policy

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments. This grade range is generous. Please note that a grade of D is not given.

To earn an A: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate mastery of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful and critical analysis, effort at conceptual synthesis, and originality. Papers will be carefully proofread for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit exemplary writing appropriate to the discipline. Assignments must be of consistently high quality in terms of content and execution. Examinations will score in the range of 90% and above. Final project complete, original, or free of technical errors.

To earn a B: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general comprehension of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful analysis and effort should be made at conceptual synthesis. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit very few writing problems. Assignments must be of good quality in terms of content and conform to standards appropriate to the discipline. Exams may score in the 80% and above range. Final project completed and original or innovative.

To earn a C: At least 80% of assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general understanding of critical content. Knowledge of basic conceptual material should be demonstrated. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful effort with few errors in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score in the 70% and above range. Final project completed at average level of competence.

To earn an F: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete and submit more than 50% of assignments. Basic knowledge of conceptual material and critical analysis not demonstrated. Assignments exhibiting a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and major errors evident in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors along with general writing problems, especially in word usage. Citation standards incorrect. Exams score below the 60% range. Final project possibly incomplete or late. Failure to take Final Exam or submit the required term paper will result in automatic failing grade for the semester regardless of other work.

Grade I: Special circumstances. Failure to complete and submit better than 60% of assignments owing to extraordinary causes as defined by University policy. Must complete Final Exam. To make up this grade will require an additional project at instructor's discretion.

Classroom Protocol

All lectures and handout materials including exams and exercises are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission to do so.

- Students will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity and intellectual ethics. The chief product in the social sciences is new knowledge and original thinking. Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with university Academic Integrity Policy.
- Clear criteria for grading will be provided for each assignment format. Feedback to students will be immediate and as detailed as manageable. The instructor will make every reasonable effort to provide timely and constructive feedback to students concerning performance throughout the semester, especially with written work.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.
- Students who hand in research draft papers for pre-assessment will have the opportunity to make revisions and improvements before final grading.
- **Assignments will not be accepted by email or after the last scheduled class.**
- **Students may not leave the room during an examination.** This will be a signal to the instructor that the student has completed the exam and it will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. Students are expected to attend class. Although no formal role will be taken, informal attendance records will be monitored.
- As a courtesy and in respect for fellow students and instructor please turn off your cell phones and other electronics. Text messaging during class is disruptive and not only disrespectful, but insulting. It also prevents you from concentrating on the lecture. If you must, then please leave the room.
- Discussions of controversial topics can become emotional. Such discussion demands respect and intellectual honesty toward and between fellow students, instructor, and from instructor toward students. Personal attacks on individuals holding non-conventional/controversial ideas will not be tolerated.

- A missed exam may be made-up only if a student provides appropriate documentation for legitimate excused from scheduled exam dates (funeral, medical emergency, family crisis). *Make-up exams will be by scheduled appointment at the convenience of the instructor. Absolutely no makes-up exams for reasons not governed by university policy. If a student has multiple exams scheduled for the same day consideration will only be given if sufficient advance notice has been given. A **grace period of one class for late research papers will be allowed, but 25 % or more may be deducted.** Late assignments will not be accepted without valid excuse.* No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes or during Finals week.*
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus, exam dates, or course content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class, or to explore timely topics.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.
- Students who hand in research draft papers for pre-assessment will have the opportunity to make revisions and improvements before final grading.
- There will be no extra credit assignments for this course. There is already plenty to do.
- Incomplete (I) cannot be given to avoid an F grade (University Policy)

ANTH161 Old World Civilizations

Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by announcements in class and on course webpage.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 30/Feb 1	Unit One: Foundations. Geography. Sources for study of Ancient World, Global Theory and Time; Mesolithic Europe; Climate Change; <i>Long Duree</i> Cunliff Chp1; Haywood pgs 8-16, plus Time line 1 & 2
2	Feb 6/8	Maritime connections; the seas and rivers as highways Cunliff Chp 2, pdf readings Due: Synthesis 1
3	Feb 13/15	Unit Two: The First States. Agriculture, Civilization, and Institutions Cunliff Chp 3-4, pdf readings
4	Feb 20/22	Mesopotamia Agriculture, Civilization, and Religion. Cunliff Chp 6, Haywood 18-21. Mathisen Chp 2 Activity A: Ancient sites
5	Feb 27/ Mar 1	Aegean and Mediterranean Haywood 22-35; Mathisen Chp 3-4; Higgins Chp 1-3 Due: Synthesis 2
6	Mar 6/8	Bronze Age Legends Cunliff Chp 7; Haywood 98-101; Mathisen Chp 4; Higgins Chp 4

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
7	Mar 13/15	Cunliff Chp 8; Haywood pgs 44-45; Higgins Chp 5-6. Due: Synthesis 3 Due: Activity A Posters
8	Mar 20/22	Unit Three: Empires Persia Cunliff Chp 9; Haywood pgs 46-53. Mathisen Chp 5 Midterm Exam (Mar 22)
9	Mar 27/29	Spring Break March 27- 31 and Cesar Chavez Day
10	Apr 3/5	Classical Greece, Hellenistic expansion Mathisen Chp 6-8 Activity B: Ancient Travel.
11	Apr 10/12	Unit Four: Ancient Links Trade routes, commodities, exchange of knowledge Pdf readings
12	Apr 17/19	Celtic Europe, interactions beyond then Alps Cunliff Chp 10-11 pdf readings Due: Synthesis 4
13	Apr 24/26	Ancient Advances: Technology, Science, and Medicine. Educational traditions. Pdf readings Due: Activity B brochure
14	May 1/3	The Indus: Haywood pgs 72-81, pdf readings Due : Synthesis 5
15	May 8/10	SE Asia; China Haywood pgs 72-81; pdf readings Due: Topical paper (May 7th)
16	May 15	Dynastic China Haywood pgs 82-89
Final Exam	May 23 Tues	Final Exams Week May 18-24 Final Exam: Tues, May 23 9:45 am

Departmental Goals

Learn about the goals of the anthropology department and how it can benefit your education.

Goals <http://www.sjsu.edu/anthropology/departmentinfo/goals/index.html>

Credit Hours

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>