

San José State University
Department of Anthropology
Anth 160, Reconstructing Lost Civilizations
Code 40024 AU 2009

INSTRUCTOR: Marin Pilloud

CONTACT

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 – 13:00, CL 465

Class Time and Location: MW 12:00 – 13:15, WSQ 0004

Course Description

Introduction:

The field of archaeology and the study of prehistory are as rich and diverse as they are compelling. This upper division course will explore the panorama of human development beginning with Neanderthal interactions with pre-modern humans, through the evolution of civilization in the early Neolithic. We will explore the gradual development of social groups and invention of agriculture, to the emergence of complex states. The archaeology of ancient civilizations, some familiar, others obscure, will be examined. Many of the latest discoveries, theories, and controversies surrounding human origins, the peopling of the world, and the development of various civilizations will be discussed.

This course is as much about the practice of archaeology, its practitioners, and the political ramifications of research as it is about findings in the field. Archaeology is a lively scientific pursuit and current developments within the field will be highlighted. Although current theoretical frameworks and methodologies are integrated into the course, the chief focus is trained on establishing a broad understanding of human social and cultural development and the context for archaeological interpretation. The course is interdisciplinary in scope and will investigate how archaeologists use various scientific techniques to learn about the past and content will be complemented by critical analysis.

This syllabus provides an overview of the major themes and lecture topics to be encountered during each week of the course. Lectures and readings are intended to be complementary, although overlap is inevitable. The syllabus should be viewed as a map of unexplored terrain, with many interesting places to go, not as a road map to a single destination.

You are expected to complete the readings **BEFORE** the lectures for any given week. This will better enable you to participate in class and to prepare you for discussions or Q&A sessions. The chapters and articles in the texts are not long but are packed with information and should be read thoughtfully. Bring your questions and commentary to class! The various assignments are designed to reinforce key concepts or to provide “hands-on” experiences and insights relevant to actual problems of modern archeology.

Student Learning Objectives

Within the particular scientific content of this course, a student should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation;
2. distinguish science from pseudoscience; and
3. apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment.

Content Objectives and outcomes:

Interactions of science, technology and society.

- Knowledge of the evolution of archaeological thought, and the role of key individuals in development of archaeology as a science.
- Broad understanding of human evolutionary history since the emergence of our species and the critical issues and problems of evidence.
- Understanding of the important role archaeology plays in modern nationalism, identity, and political ideology.

Differences between scientific, non-scientific, and pseudo-scientific approaches.

- Critical examination of pseudoscience, frauds, scientific racism, and extraordinary claims made concerning past civilizations and human evolution.
- A close look at genuine archaeological mysteries.
- Scientific methods and philosophy contrasted to non-scientific approaches to the past.

Interaction of humans and the physical world.

- Working knowledge regarding several ancient civilizations that historically have been the focus of archaeology and their interaction with environment.
- Investigations into the impact of human activity and culture on prehistoric and historic environments.
- Critical understanding of the major theories and intellectual frameworks concerning human adaptations, invention of agriculture, and the rise of complex states.

Methodologies of human inquiry.

- Knowledge of scientific methods as applied in archaeology and the techniques used in modern archaeological contexts to generate new knowledge.
- Students will learn of the interdisciplinary nature of modern archaeology and how they may make a contribution to the field.

Applications of science and technology.

- Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing archaeological evidence.
- Students will become acquainted with professional resource materials relevant to specific topics in archaeology through independent and focused research projects.
- Students will learn research skills applicable across academic disciplines.

Values and limitations of science and scientific inquiry.

- Students will gain practice forming specific testable hypotheses, recognizing research questions, and evaluating cases of research.
- Examination of scientific reasoning and analytical procedures.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).

Required Texts/Readings

Required Texts:

1. *Images of the Past*. T Douglas Price and Gary Feinman, 2008. McGraw Hill, Boston. Fifth Edition. ISBN: 978-0-07-340520-9.
2. *Frauds, Myths and Mysteries*. Kenneth Feder, 2007. McGraw Hill. Sixth Edition. ISBN:978-0-07-340529-2.
3. Supplementary course readings in PDF format to be posted online or distributed in class.

Library Liaison

- Library Liaison For Anthropology: Bernice Redfern; Librarian; (408) 808-2038; Bernice.Redfern@sjsu.edu

Classroom Protocol

Some lecture material will not be in the text; it is important to attend class regularly to do well in the course. Arriving to class late or leaving early is not acceptable, UNLESS discussed with the instructor ahead of time. Such behavior is disruptive and disrespectful to the instructor and the other students in the class. Attending class also means being present in class. Cell phone disruptions, sending text messages, sleeping, listening to headphones, and chit-chatting in class is unacceptable behavior. Please help to maintain a pleasant learning environment for all involved. Should you miss class, or plan on missing a class, get the notes from a classmate. I will not give out copies of lectures or powerpoints to students. However, I will be happy to go over any course material with you should you have any questions, either in person during office hours or via e-mail.

No early exams or quizzes will be given. Make-up exams will be at the instructor's discretion. **If you miss an exam you have 24 hours to contact the instructor via e-mail or the department.** Official documentation is required (doctor's excuse, accident report, etc.) for make-ups. All make-up exams and quizzes will be essay and must be taken within 1 week after the exam. Otherwise, the student will receive a "0" for that exam. Refer to the course outline for the chapters and dates of the exams. If you have any conflicts with the exam dates, see the instructor immediately. Likewise you will not be able to make-up in class assignments.

All assignments due, are due **IN CLASS**. No late assignments or e-mailed assignments will be accepted, there are no exceptions to this rule.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Course Requirements:

Exams: There will be one mid-term and one comprehensive final. Details of exam format will be provided in advance. Generally, exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, short answer, and other appropriate types of questions.

“Surprise” Quizzes: There will be 6 quizzes throughout the semester, roughly about one every other week. There will be minimal notice of these quizzes and they can not be made up. These quizzes will be based on course readings as listed in this syllabus. Remember you are expected to read these assignments **BEFORE** coming to class.

In-class assignments: There will be several in-class assignments. These are hands on activities that will be completed in class to assess your understanding of course material. There will be several of these throughout the semester depending on our progression. These assignments can not be made up.

Writing Assignment: Term projects must be minimally 3000 words and include a reference section. Intentional plagiarism will result in an automatic failure. Students are expected to use library resources in completing this project. References must conform to American Antiquity style. Guidelines will be provided.

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

Grading:

Final grades are based on the following point scale (in percentages of total points):
(+/- system) A = 100-90%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = <60%

The total points for the class are as follows:

Points:

Mid-term	65
Comprehensive Final	100
Quizzes	6 @ 10 points = 60 total
In-class assignments	75
<u>Term Project</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL	400

All the information you need to keep track of your own grade is provided in this syllabus. There are no surprises and you should at all times have a clear idea of where you stand in this class. I **WILL NOT** give out student grades via e-mail, do not ask me. E-mail is not considered a secure enough source, therefore information regarding your grade sent via e-mail is a violation of FERPA.

Philosophy of Grading: I do not give grades; students earn their grades. Your final grade is your responsibility. The only legitimate reason to change a grade is if there was a mistake in grading. Any questions about grading must be discussed with the instructor within the first week following the return of any graded material.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial affairs/Academic Integrity Policy S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial%20affairs/Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20S07-2.pdf).

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. [The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/).

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are

well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. [The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/).

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. [Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/) .

COURSE OUTLINE

This is a rough outline of what we will cover this quarter. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and e-mailed to students.

Week	Topics	Feder	Readings Price & Feinman	PDF articles	Assignment Due
1	Aug 24	What is Archaeology? What is prehistory?	Chapter 1		
2	Aug 31	Epistemology The Scientific Method	Chapters 1 and 2	PDF readings	
3	Sept 7	Science, Psuedoscience, Controversies and Mysteries	Chapters 3, 4, and 12	None	
	Sept 7	No Class – Labor Day			
4	Sept 14	The rise of Homo Old World Migration The Neanderthal Debate	None	Chapters 3, 4 (105-146)	PDF readings
5	Sept 21	The First Americans	Chapter 5	Chapter 4 (147- 157)	
6	Sept 28	Old World Civilizations Origins of Agriculture		Chapter 6 (197- 244)	PDF readings
7	Oct 5	Ancient Anatolia Bioarchaeological Data Çatalhöyük Case study		PDF readings	Paper Idea – Oct 7
8	Oct 14	MIDTERM			
9	Oct 19	The rise of Complex States Mesopotamia Egypt	Chapter 9	Chapter 10	
10	Oct 26	Preshistoric Europe		Chapter 11	
11	Nov 2	Lost Worlds Outer Space	Chapter 7 Chapter 8 (242-251)	PDF readings	
12	Nov 9	Americas I: Olmec, Maya, Aztec Ancient Diet/Weaning		Chapter 6 (245- 251) Chapter 8	Paper Outline – Nov 9
	Nov 11	No Class – Veteran’s day			
13	Nov 16	Americas II: Moche, Nazca, Inca	Chapter 8 (225-242)		
14	Nov 23	Americas III: Mississippian, Hopewell, Chaco	Chapter 6	Chapter 7	
15	Nov 30	Who owns the past? Mutlivocality The politics of archaeology (Nazis, scientific ego, governments)		PDF readings	Final Paper – Dec 2
16	Dec 7	Monday – last day – review for final			

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday December 15 – 9:45 – 11:00