

Anthropology 160: Reconstructing Lost Civilizations

**Section 4, Fall 2012
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

Instructor:	Viviana Bellifemine
Office Location:	CL 402G
Telephone:	408-924-5712
Email:	vb266@cam.ac.uk
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 2:30-6:00PM
Class Days/Time:	Wednesdays 3:00-5:45PM
Classroom:	CL 310
Prerequisites:	Successful completion of a 100W course
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	This course satisfies Area R of SJSU Studies Earth and Environment. Courses to meet Areas R, S, and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments or distinct academic units.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/firstname.lastname> or 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).

Course Description

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 civilization in the early Neolithic. We will explore the gradual development of social groups and invention of agriculture, as well as 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.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Studies Learning Outcomes (LO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- LO1 demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation;
- LO2 distinguish science from pseudoscience; and
- LO3 apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Interaction of science and technology:

- LO4 Knowledge of the evolution of archaeological thought, and the role of key individuals in development of archaeology as a science.
- LO5 Broad understanding of human evolutionary history since the emergence of our species and the critical issues and problems of evidence.
- LO6 Understanding of the important role archaeology plays in modern nationalism, identity, and political ideology.

Differences between scientific, non-scientific, and pseudoscientific approaches:

- LO7 Critical examination of pseudoscience, frauds, scientific racism, and extraordinary claims made concerning past civilizations and human evolution.
- LO8 Scientific methods and philosophy contrasted to non-scientific approaches to the past.

Interaction of humans and the physical world:

- LO9 Working knowledge regarding several ancient civilizations that have historically been the focus of archaeology and their interaction with the environment.
- LO10 Investigation into the impact of human activity and culture on the prehistoric and historic environment.
- LO11 Critical understanding of the major theories and intellectual frameworks concerning human adaptations, invention of agriculture, and the rise of complex states.

Application of science and technology:

- LO12 Knowledge of scientific methods as applied in archaeology and the techniques used in modern archaeological contexts to generate new knowledge.
- LO13 Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing archaeological evidence.
- LO14 Students will learn research skills applicable across academic disciplines.

Values and limitations of science and scientific inquiry:

- LO15 Students will gain experience forming specifically testable hypotheses, recognizing research questions, and evaluating cases of research.
- LO16 Students will learn of the interdisciplinary nature of modern archaeology.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Pre-History. Brian Fagan, 2009. Prentice Hall. Thirteenth Edition (earlier editions acceptable). ISBN: 0205735673

Frauds, Myths and Mysteries. Kenneth Feder, 2010. McGraw Hill. Seventh Edition (earlier editions acceptable). ISBN: 007811697X

Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format. Available on course webpage.

Classroom Protocol

- Student participation and attendance is essential for academic success. Students are expected to attend class. Although no formal roll will be taken, students are encouraged to attend class regularly. Material presented and discussed in class may be additional to the information presented in the assigned textbook.
- Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable unless there is an exceptional circumstance or has been previously arranged with the instructor.
- Laptops are only permitted for note taking and under the approval of the instructor. Any other electronics need to be off during class. Activities such as texting, surfing the web, chatting, or emailing during class are disruptive and disrespectful behavior towards the instructor and other students. Please be courteous and respectful.
- **All assignments are due in class the date marked in the class schedule** unless the date has been officially changed by the instructor. **Emailed assignments are not accepted.** Missed exams may be made up only if there is documentation that can justify the absence (medical emergency, accident, funeral). If you miss an exam, the instructor needs to be contacted within the following 24 hours. Similarly, class assignments can not be made up.

- **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.
- All lectures and course materials, including exams, assignments, quizzes, handouts, and exercises, are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission from the instructor.
- 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.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

- A Midterm and Final Exam:

Conceptual understanding and application of knowledge is the principal objective of the course and will be targeted by assessment. Exams are multiple choice and short answer oriented. Objective questions are included to assess core content. *Failure to take the final exam will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.* (Midterm=200pts, Final=300pts).

- A Term Paper:

A research paper (minimum of 3000 words, 8-10 pages double spaced) including a reference section is required for this class. Topics must address one of the three main Learning Outcomes (LO1-3) referenced above. Details on the required guidelines for format will be provided during the semester. The student is encouraged to select a topic of his/her own choosing with the instructor's permission. The paper will be graded on original thinking, application of concepts developed in class, clear presentation, organization, use of citations, and proper grammar and spelling. References will follow *American Antiquity* style. Intentional plagiarism will result in an automatic grade of F. Papers will not be accepted after the deadline. The paper itself is worth 150 points. Additionally, a one page proposal (20 points), outline (10 points), and sources (20 points) are required components of this assignment contributing to a total of 200 points.

- A Short Paper:

A written critical essay (minimum of 1500 words, 4-5 pages double spaced) including a reference section is required for this class. Topics should relate to reading material, class discussion, a documentary, personal experience, a popular article or other additional readings. For extra credit you may choose to briefly present your work to the class to motivate further discussion (100pts).

- Unscheduled in-class exercises/quizzes:

Five exercises/quizzes will be given during class throughout the semester based on the readings listed in the syllabus. These are to promote class attendance and encourage currency in reading assignments. All written activities are due the same day during class and can not be made up (5x20pts=100pts).

- Class participation/discussion:

There will be a number of class interactive discussions in individual or group form throughout the semester. Student participation is important to promote critical thinking and evaluate the understanding of class material (100pts).

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

Assignments and Grade Break-down

Midterm	200	20%
Final Exam	300	30%
Term paper (proposal, outline, sources)	200	20%
Short paper	100	10%
Unscheduled in-class exercises/quizzes	100	10%
Class participation	100	10%
Total	1000	100%

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments. Letter grades will be assigned based on score percentages, as follows.

A+ >98, A 94-97, A- 90-93 %

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 proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit exemplary writing appropriate to the discipline. Seminar responsibilities achieved. 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 innovative.

B+ 88-89, B 84-87, B- 80-83%

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.

C+ 78-79, C 74-77, C- 70-73%

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 75% and above range. Final project completed at average level of competence.

D+ 68-69, D 64-67, D- 60-63

To earn a D: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete more than 70% of assignments. Only basic knowledge of conceptual material demonstrated. Critical analysis not exhibited, suggesting minimal effort by student. Assignments lack careful or thoughtful effort and several errors in content. Failure to achieve seminar responsibilities or barely acceptable effort. Minimal engagement in class projects. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards ignored. Exams may score below 75% range. Final project completed.

F <60%

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 ignored. Exams may score below the 60% range. Final project possibly incomplete or late. Or, failure to take the final exam.

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.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five 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 practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires 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 [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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 your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

At SJSU **plagiarism** is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: the act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work; and representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own. In written works this may include the over use of quoted materials to build a paper that is otherwise lacking in original content. *The instructor reserves the right to fail the assignment or assign a failing grade for the entire course depending on the assessed severity of plagiarism.*

Classroom **recording policy** (S12-7): "Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent. Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material."

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 [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

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 inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit [the LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) for more information at <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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <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. The [Peer Mentor Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>

Anth 160 (sec.4)/ Reconstructing Lost Civilizations, Fall 2012, Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice- notice will be made available by email from the instructor and class announcements.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 22	<p>Topic: Introduction. What is Archaeology? Why we study the past? Prehistory and history. Epistemology.</p> <p>Reading: Feder 2. Fagan 1.</p> <p>Assignment:</p>
2	Aug. 29	<p>Topic: Science and pseudoscience. Frauds and hoaxes. The scientific method. Basic archaeological tools.</p> <p>Reading: Feder 1, 3. Fagan 1.</p> <p>Assignment:</p>
3	Sept. 5	<p>Topic: Human origins and migrations. First Americans.</p> <p>Reading: Feder 4, 5. Fagan: 2-5.</p> <p>Assignment:</p>
4	Sept. 12	<p>Topic: Intensification and social complexity. Environmental change. Megafauna extinction.</p> <p>Reading: Fagan 7</p> <p>Assignment:</p>
5	Sept. 19	<p>Topic: Global plant and animal domestication. First farmers.</p> <p>Reading: Fagan 8-13.</p> <p>Assignment:</p>
6	Sept. 26	<p>Topic: Rise of complex states. SW Asia: Mesopotamia: Anatolia, Sumerian Civilization.</p> <p>Reading: Fagan 14, 15</p> <p>Assignment: Term paper proposal due</p>
7	Oct. 3	<p>Topic: SE Asia: Indus Valley, Harappa,</p> <p>Reading: Fagan 17</p> <p>Assignment: Short paper due.</p>
8	Oct. 10	Midterm
9	Oct. 17	<p>Topic: Nile Valley. Egypt</p> <p>Reading: Feder: 9. Fagan 16</p> <p>Assignment: Term paper outline and sources due</p>
10	Oct. 24	<p>Topic: Mediterranean world. Troy, Minoans, Mycenaeans. Atlantis.</p> <p>Reading: Feder: 7. Fagan 19</p> <p>Assignment:</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	Oct. 31	Topic: Complex societies in North America. Chaco, Moundbuilders. Reading: Feder: 6. Fagan 13 [partial] Assignment: Short paper due.
12	Nov. 7	Topic: Complex societies in Mesoamerica. Olmec, Teotihuacan, Maya, Aztec. Reading: Fagan 21 Assignment:
13	Nov. 14	Topic: Complex societies in South America. Incas and their ancestors. Chavin, Moche, Tiwanaku, Wari, Inka. Reading: Fagan 22 Assignment: Term papers due (no exemptions)
14	Nov. 21	Topic: Presentations. Reading: Assignment:
15	Nov. 28	Topic: Archaeology and society today. The future of Archaeology. Reading: Feder: 8 Assignment:
16	Dec. 5	Topic: Review. Reading: Assignment:
Final Exam	Dec. 12	FINAL 12:15-14:30