

ANTH 161
Old World Civilization

Mon/Wed 4:30-5:45
WSQ 04

Dr. Marco Meniketti

Office hours:

M/W 10:00-11:30

Tues 10:00-12:00

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This course is an introduction to the archaeology of ancient civilizations of Europe, Mesopotamia, and the Near East. The course will examine in-depth the rise of states and complex societies from the prehistoric to the early Roman period, and will explore through topical research the evidence for contact, trade, and cultural interaction among ancient civilizations that set the foundations cultural traditions experienced to this day.

The course has been constructed around Content Units having specific emphases on particular cultures. These are designed to form core themes for scaffolding learning objectives. Students should anticipate and schedule four to six hours weekly for readings and related assignments in support of the learning objectives.

Texts:

- Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Civilization. 2005 John Heywood.
- Handbook to Life in Ancient Mesopotamia. 2005 Stephen Bertman. Oxford University Press.
- Ancient Mediterranean Civilization. 2011 Ralph Mathisen Oxford University Press.

Additional readings, updates and assignments and various announcements will be available for download from the website established for this course at: www.sjsu.edu/people/marco.meniketti/courses/OldCiv
Students will also be required to use library reserve materials.

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 practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

Objectives

- Broad understanding critical issues in archaeological culture theory, and problems surrounding collection and interpretation of evidence.
- Development of library, internet, and topical research skills.
- In-depth knowledge of chronologies of cultural developments of ancient civilizations.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing environmental evidence for reconstructing past civilizations as applied in archaeology.

- Students will learn to critically assess various sources when interpreting the past.
- Obtain in-depth knowledge of specific ancient civilizations, their geographic distribution and achievements and the long term impact of interactions as they pertain to the modern world.

Theme	Readings	Highlight/Topics	Assessments
<u>Unit 1: Foundations</u>			
Week One Aug 22 Sources for study of the ancient world Geography	pdf readings		
Week Two Aug 27, 29 Origins of agriculture		Agriculture and religion	
Week Three Sept 3 Labor Day/No Class Sept 5 The first proto-cities	pdf readings		
<u>Unit 2: Rise of States</u>			
Week Four Sept 10, 12 Mesopotamia	Bertam chapters Heywood	Religion and power	
Week Five Sept 17, 19 Mesopotamia	Bertam chapters Readings on reserve		
Week Six Sept 24, 26 Europe and the megaliths Ancient myths	pdf readings Heywood	The power of place	
Week Seven Oct 1, 3 The Mediterranean Age of Heroes	Mathisen chapters Heywood	Power of myth	
Week Eight Oct 8, 10 The Mediterranean	Mathisen chapters Readings on reserve Herodotus		
Week Nine Oct 15, 17 The Mediterranean	Mathisen chapters		
<u>Unit 3: Power and Trade</u>			
Week Ten Oct 22, 24 Conflict and conquest	pdf readings Readings on reserve		
Week Eleven Oct 29, 31 Technologies			Midterm Exam (31st)
Week Twelve Nov 5, 7 Archaeology of interaction	pdf readings	Sea power	
Week Thirteen [Nov 12 Veterans Day No Class], Nov 14 Archaeology			

Unit 4: Cultural Achievements

Week Fourteen Nov 19, 21

Literature , Art, and Society

Readings on reserve

Week Fifteen Nov 26, 28

Egypt inn popular imagination

Week Sixteen Dec 3, 5

Special topics

Week Seventeen Dec 10

Special Topics

Topical Papers Due

Finals Week Dec 12-18

Final Exam: TBA

Final Exam TBA

Assessments:

Midterm Exam 100 pts

Topical papers 100 pts (Research 25%, References 25%, Content 50%)

Final Exam 100 pts

Total: 300 pts

Grades will be based on score percentages. 94-100% 4.0; 88-93% 3.5; 82-87% 3.0; 76-81% 2.5; 70-75% 2.0; 64-69% 1.5; 57-63% 1.0; <56% 0.0

Policies:

All lectures and handouts are copyrighted, including exams, and may not be distributed without written consent by the instructor.

- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or make appointments to discuss topics of interest.
- The instructor will make every reasonable effort to provide timely and constructive feedback to students concerning performance throughout the semester.
- The instructor will be available through regular office hours, through email, and by appointment.
- Students should expect to actively participate individually, through group work, class discussions, and in Q&A sessions.
- Students are expected to keep track of assignments, grades and readings.
- **No assignments will be accepted by email. No exceptions.**
- **Late assignments will be have scores deducted 20% for the first day and 10% for a second day. No assignment will be accepted later than two days for credit.**
- **No assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes.**
- Missed exams may be made-up only if a student provides appropriate documentation for legitimate cause for missing scheduled exam dates (funeral, medical emergency, family crisis; *per university policy*). *Absolutely no make-up will be given for reasons of course overloads, or personal time. Make-up exams will be by scheduled appointment in my office and will include oral discussion section.* Late research projects will not be accepted. Late assignments will be given a grace period of one class cycle (the next class) and a reduced score. Late assignments will not be accepted beyond the grace period. Assignments will not be accepted during finals week.
- Exam dates will not be altered. ***If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam date please make arrangements in advance (at least two weeks). The sooner the better.***
- ***You may not leave the room during an exam.*** The instructor will interpret this as a completed exam and it will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class or to introduce new elements that may arise.

Archaeology is an active science. New information becomes available weekly that may impact our course material.

- To receive a passing grade for this course you must complete and submit at least 2/3 of the assignments with sufficient scores and complete the Final Exam.
- Extra credit assignments will not be provided as substitutes for missing regular assignments.
- **Academic integrity and ethics will be upheld at all times.** Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated.
- **All lectures are copyrighted.** The use of recording equipment of any kind; tape, film, or digital, is forbidden without written consent from the instructor. This is not usually a problem. Students must agree not to use lectures in unauthorized formats or non-educational purposes.
- **All written projects should conform to the citation standards of American Antiquity. Examples are provided for use on my faculty webpage.**
- Students are expected to attend class. Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. Attendance does not count toward your grade, but will impact your learning. Attendance will be monitored informally.
- Please turn off your cell phones as a courtesy and in respect for fellow students and the instructor.
- **Please: Food or drinks are not allowed in the lab.**
- **It will be assumed that you have read and understand all policies and course criteria.**
- Texting in class is unacceptable behavior.

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Additional criteria may apply depending on assignments. Grading is criterion based and follows a set of rubrics so that assessment is consistent for all students. Final grade is all based on assessment trends rewarding consistent improvement.

Earning an A: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate thorough mastery of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful and critical analysis, 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 90% and above range. Projects complete and original or innovative.

Earning 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 85% and above range. Projects complete and original.

Earning 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 careful effort with minimal 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. Projects complete but of average quality as measured by content and scope.

Earning a D: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete no more than 60% of assignments. Only basic knowledge of conceptual material. Critical analysis not demonstrated. Assignments exhibiting a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and several errors in content. Failure to achieve seminar responsibilities or at 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. Project partial completed a basic level.

Earning an F: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete and submit more than 60% of assignments. Basic knowledge of conceptual material and critical analysis not demonstrated. No

evidence of general skills or course content acquired. Assignments exhibiting a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and significant errors evident in content. Papers will likely contain serious grammatical and typographical errors along with general writing problems, especially in word usage. Citation standards wrong. Exams may score below the 60% range. Final project possibly incomplete, late, or absent. Any intentional plagiarism will automatically result in a failing grade. Missing final exam will result in an F.

Grade I: Special circumstances (personal circumstances preventing student from academic completion of the course). Attendance below acceptable levels to have earned an I will in some instances be assigned an F grade per University policy. An Incomplete can not be given to avoid a F grade.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin a university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University.

Cheating

At SJSU, cheating is an act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

Copying in part or in whole from another's test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy; Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy; Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

Plagiarism

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 determine the severity of plagiarism and either fail the assignment or the entire course.*

Add/Drop Policy

The university has specific procedures for dropping a class. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. You are able to do this through My SJSU. Navigate to "Self Service>Student center>Drop a class"**

Check the schedule and be sure to drop prior to submitting fees to ensure your registration fees are properly assessed.

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, they are not required to do so. For students who wish to drop a course **it is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. For more information about "add" and "drop" deadlines go to:**

<http://info.sjsu.edu?web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-2.html>

S12-7, Policy Recommendation, Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material that the following language be included:

"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."

"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."

Please meet with the instructor to obtain permission.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a condition or situation that requires special accommodations must make arrangements through the Disability Resource center. This includes learning and physical disabilities that prevent you from fulfilling course requirements under expected conditions. If you feel you have a disability, you must go to the DRC and follow their guidelines in order to receive assistance. I will work with the DRC to assist you based on their recommendations. I am not authorized to make assessments of personal situations regarding disabilities, and request that you prepare well in advance for any special needs you may have, particularly for taking exams. You can find more information on SJSU's policy and the programs available as well as your rights at: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>