

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 at the onset of bipedalism followed with Neanderthal interactions with pre-modern humans, through civilization in the early Neolithic. We will explore the gradual development of social groups and the 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.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

CLO7 Investigation into the impact of human activity and culture on the prehistoric and historic environment.

CLO8 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:

CLO9 Knowledge of scientific methods as applied in archaeology and the techniques used in modern archaeological contexts to generate new knowledge.

CLO10 Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing archaeological evidence.

CLO11 Students will learn research skills applicable across academic disciplines.

Values and limitations of science and scientific inquiry:

CLO12 Students will gain experience forming specifically testable hypotheses, recognizing research questions, and evaluating cases of research.

CLO13 Students will learn of the interdisciplinary nature of modern archaeology.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

. T. Douglas Price and Gary M. Feinman, 2020. McGraw Hill. Eight Edition (ISBN-9781264177820 (loose-leaf edition with Connect feature). Also ISBN 9781264178995, a more economical version which students can purchase directly from Connect within Canvas.

Or any older edition of this book (which will not have Connect feature).

Note: Connect is a program to help you study, retain concepts and evaluate your knowledge, while it's recommended it's not mandatory for this class.

. Kenneth Feder, 2017. McGraw Hill. Ninth Edition (earlier editions acceptable). ISBN: 9780190629656

Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format will be available on the course Canvas page.

Course Requirements

“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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)

introduced material. These are to further discuss current issues in the field. Dates, topics and other details will be provided in Canvas.

- **Class written discussions (participation):**

There will be a number of class interactive discussions in individual and group format

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5pm) and within 24 hours during the week. I do not answer emails during the weekend or holidays, or after the official closing of the semester. If you have complex questions regarding course material or many questions regarding missing classes, please make an appointment or utilize office hours. **For all issues**

