

Syllabus

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Spring 2011

Lecturer: Aida Abdykanova

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Class time: M.W.:

Course goals:

Archaeology is the study of past cultures and societies through their material remains. We will explore different varieties of archaeology and examine theory, methods, and techniques for investigating, reconstructing, interpreting, preserving, and ultimately, *learning from* the past. We will then briefly review human cultural chronology from the time of the first people, the earliest Paleolithic ages, to the present, and deal with not only the artifact remains but also important social, economic, and even ideological questions, such as those on the origins of food production, social inequality, and civilization. We will also examine exciting discoveries that make the news during the semester

Requirements:

Class Participation: Classes include lectures, discussions on basis of readings and articles, films, and slide presentations. Readings must be done IN ADVANCE so you can DISCUSS the material in class. Lectures include materials *beyond* that in your texts for which you will be responsible on exams, so *note-taking and attendance are required*. You are encouraged to bring in pertinent articles from the current news media to discuss.

Class participation will be graded, usually when attendance is taken. It includes:

(1) General discussion, asking/answering questions in the classroom, quizzes within seminar classes.

(2) A specific assignment to find additional material about the subject of one chapter of the texts (whether an archaeological technique or a specific site or research question) from the library, Internet, or any source, and report to the class when we get to that chapter (students can choose or be assigned a topic). Reporting will be done orally in class and in written/electronic form (presentation) posted on the class.

(3) Review will be written for one article by student's choice.

Exams: There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Both include essay-type questions as well as so-called objective questions, and each will cover assigned readings for that time period as well as lectures and other class materials. The final will be cumulative to a small degree in that you will need to know the basic concepts of archaeology to interpret the record of prehistory and early history. *There will be NO makeup exams* except in fully documented serious circumstances. A makeup exam must be taken within one week of the missed exam, and will consist of all essay questions.

Grading Policy:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Presentation	15%
Review	20%
Active participation	15
Attendance	10%
Total	100%

A	96-100%
A-	88-95%
B+	84-87%
B	77-83%
B-	74-76%
C+	70-73%
C	64-69%
C-	61-63%
D+	56-60%
D	51-55%
D-	46-50%
F	<45%

Class policies

Cheating and other academic dishonesty are dealt with severely, according to AUCA policy. Respectful behavior in the classroom is required: do your errands, phone calls, and pit stops before class; turn off cell phones; do not arrive late, leave early, or otherwise disrupt the class.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

1. Why study archaeology? Archaeology, anthropology and history. Goals of archaeology. Diversity of archaeologists.
2. Short history of Archaeology. "New Archaeology", Processual Archaeology and Postprocessual Archaeology.
3. Data and context. Human culture. Site-Formation processes. Archaeological data.
4. Relative chronology and Ice Age. The three-age system.
5. Chronometric and relative dating.
6. Finding archaeological sites. Archaeological survey.
7. The process of archaeological excavation. Preservation. The archaeological record.
8. Homo evolution. Theories of origin and settlement. Archaeological sites. Paleoanthropology.
9. Paleolithic Age. Rock Art. Paleoecology.
10. Mesolithic Age. Changes of climate.
11. Neolithic Age. Neolithic revolution.
12. Eneolithic and Bronze Ages.
13. Early and late Iron Age.
14. The problems of archaeological sites' preservation. Convention of preservation world cultural and natural heritage. Ethics in archaeology.

Required Textbook:

1. Brian M.Fagan Archaeology. A brief introduction, Santa Barbara 1987.
2. Brian M.Fagan In the Beginning: An Introduction to Archaeology, Santa Barbara 1991.
3. Colin Renfrew, Raul Bahn Archaeology (Theories, Methods, and Practice), New-York, 2004.
4. Jane McIntosh The Practical Archaeologist, New-York, 1986.

Web-sources:

- <http://www.saa.org/publications/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/archaeology/>