

Anthropology 2200
Fall 2009
M/W/F 11 TO 11:50
Hellems 252

COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Bamforth (492-7586 [office])
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office: Hale 176
office hours: M/Tu/W 12 to 1, Hale 176, or by appointment

TAs: Jakob Sedig (recitations: Wed/Fri 2 to 3)
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Welcome to Anthropology 2200, Introduction to Archaeology. This class will give you an overview of how archaeologists work and of the major developments in human history over the last 2.5 million years. We hope that, when we are done, you will understand both the basics of what we know about the human past and something about how we know it. We will begin by looking at the practice of archaeology and the historical development of the field. We will then turn to the earliest archaeological evidence for human occupation of the planet and trace that evidence up into the period of written records and the development of complex state-level societies, ending with aspects of the archaeology of the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The lecture portion of the class meets three times per week, 11:00 to 11:50 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The lectures will present basic course material through lectures, Powerpoint images, and videos. All of the material covered in lecture meetings (including videos) is fair game on the tests (see below). Please feel free to ask questions or request clarification during lecture: I will make a point periodically of asking for questions, but I can't always tell if you are wondering about something if you don't ask about it. Besides, if something is not clear to you, it is probably also not clear to other people, all of whom are waiting for you to ask about it. Lecture material often overlaps with the book but does not just cover the same stuff; you need to be familiar with both the readings and the lectures to do well on the exams.

In addition, you are required to attend a recitation. I do not take attendance in lecture, but your TA will take attendance in recitation. ***Three or more unexcused absences from***

recitation will lower your grade in the course by a full letter (from A to B, for example). The recitations will provide opportunities for discussion, exam reviews, and hands-on exposure to fossils and artifacts. All material from recitations is fair game for the tests.

Grading

Your grade in the class will be based on three exams that mix objective (multiple choice/true-false) and short-answer/essay and a series of short quizzes in recitation.

The exams cover *all* material presented in lectures, films, recitations, and the readings. These first two tests are *not* cumulative and are worth 100 points each; that is, each of the first two tests will cover one third of the class and neither test will repeat material from an earlier section of the class. The final exam *is* cumulative: it will be worth 125 points, with 100 points covering the last third of the class and 25 points coming from multiple choice and short answer questions copied from the first two exams that address important points from the first two thirds of the class. The dates of the exams are noted on the last page of this syllabus, with the schedule of readings.

The total points for the quizzes will be 50. About every two weeks, you will be asked to write answers to short, open-ended questions in the first 10 or 15 minutes of recitation. These questions will address issues from the readings and lecture. By “open-ended questions”, we mean questions that do not necessarily have a right or wrong answer. Once these are done and handed in, you will spend the remainder of the recitation discussing the issues that the questions address. Your grade on these quizzes will simply reflect whether or not you wrote answers that are relevant to the question: if you demonstrate that you understand the subject matter the quiz covers, you will get full credit for the quiz; if not, you will get no credit for it.

Your final grade in the class will be based on the total of your scores on the three exams and the quizzes: above 90 percent of the total possible points is an A, from 80 to 90 percent is a B, from 65 to 80 percent is a C, from 50 to 65 percent is a D, and below 50 percent is an F. Regardless of your final total, though, before I actually give you a grade, I will check your scores over the course of the semester to see if you have improved your performance. If you have, I will raise your grade as much as a full letter grade, depending on how much you have improved. I do not lower grades for deterioration in your performance, but I will lower them for having three or more unexcused absences from recitation.

Extra Credit

You can receive a maximum of 20 points of extra credit by writing essays on two different archaeological lectures offered by the Anthropology Department, on other lectures on archaeology (we will announce qualifying lectures as we hear about them, and you are welcome to let us know about lectures that you think might qualify as archaeological if you hear about them), or on television programs on archaeology (such programs are often on the History and Discovery channels, although they are not all equally good). Each essay will be worth a maximum of 10 points and should be from one to two pages long. Extra credit essays should discuss (1) the arguments presented, (2)

whether the evidence presented supports the conclusions, and (3) your thoughts on the content of the lecture. You cannot receive the full 10 points for any essay that does not do all three of these. As an alternative, you can write an essay on *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. If you choose this option, your essay *must* address the following questions: (1) did Dr. Jones (either or both of them) have a hypothesis, (2) if so, what was it and how did he test it, (3) did he use any archaeological methods or theories (for example, sampling techniques, Middle Range arguments, etc.) in his work or was he just treasure hunting? There is no definite answer to these questions (honest): we want to hear your perspective on them.

Readings

The readings are an integral part of the class, and I will assume in lecture that you are keeping up with them: lectures will not simply repeat the material in the readings, although they will overlap with them. *The exams will cover all of the material in the readings, whether it has been specifically covered in lecture or not.*

There is one required text for this class: *The Past in Perspective* (2007/4th ed.), by Kenneth Feder. The schedule for the readings is on the last page of this syllabus. PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT EDITION OF THIS BOOK: THE CONTENT AND PAGINATION HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE 3RD EDITION. I have put a copy of the book on four-hour reserve in Norlin Library.

Replacement Syllabi

We recognize that papers, even papers given to you by your professors, sometimes get lost; we lose things, too (although we do not lose your exams or essays). However, in order to minimize unnecessary use of paper and wear and tear on the Anthropology Department xerox machine, we will only give you one copy of the class syllabus. If you lose your copy, you can find the syllabus on the Anthropology Department home page (<http://www.Colorado.EDU/Anthropology/index.html>) and download or print it from there.

Students with Disabilities

If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that we can meet your learning needs appropriately. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services office in Willard Hall, Room 322 (303-492-8671, www.colorado.edu/sacs/disabilityservices), and they will provide a letter to bring to us.

Class Conflicts with Religious Holidays

If any of the exams or recitation meetings conflict with your observance of a religious holiday, please let us know **at least two weeks in advance** of the date on which the conflict occurs so that we can make an accommodation. Observing a religious holiday constitutes an excused absence from recitation, but we still need to know in advance.

Other Official Issues

The University has asked all faculty to remind all of our students that you are required to abide by the University policies regarding classroom and course-related behavior as well

as by the Student Honor Code. If you are uncertain about what these polices are, check them on the university web site (general classroom behavior: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_cod and honor code: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>). The issues covered by these policies that are most important for this class are (1) cheating and (2) classroom disruption. Basically, you need to turn in your own original work and take tests on your own without notes or other help, and you need to act in lecture and recitation in ways that do not interfere with the conduct of the course. We have not had problems in these areas in this class and we do not expect to, but, if we do, we will adhere to University policies and procedures to deal with them.

VIDEO SCHEDULE

(the dates for some of these are subject to minor changes)

Myths and Moundbuilders	Fri., August 28
Gatecliff: An American Indian rock Shelter	Fri., September 4
A Human Way of Life	Fri., September 11
Lascaux Cave	Fri., October 2
Iceman	Mon., October 26
Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River	Fri., November 6
Indus: The Unvoiced Civilization	Fri. November 13
Maya: Lords of the Jungle	Fri., November 20
Collapse	Wed., December 2
Other People's Garbage	Wed., December 9

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND EXAMS

Week Of	Pages in Feder
24 August	1-29
31 August	30-58
7 September	59-68
14 September	70-115
21 September	116-186
FIRST EXAM: MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER	
28 September	186-255
5 October	256-343
12 October	344-379
19 October	379-416
26 October	416-449
SECOND EXAM: MONDAY, 2 NOVEMBER	
2 November	450-482
9 November	482-527
16 November	590-630; 528-559
23-27 NOVEMBER: FALL/THANKSGIVING BREAK	
30 November	560-589
7 December	631-636

FINAL EXAM: SATURDAY, 12 DECEMBER, 4:30 TO 7:00PM
(sorry; not my fault)