Course Syllabus

Jump to Today Edit

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

- Course Name: Archaeology of Complex Societies
- Course ID & Section: ANT 3145 Section 0W59
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2021

- Location: W

Course Overview

For nearly two million years human societies consisted of small nomadic bands whose members relied

on hunting, fishing, and foraging wild plants. Between 10,000 and 5,000 years ago, after the end of the last Ice Age, some of these societies began to change dramatically. At several places in the world- Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, China, Mesoamerica- human societies adopted entirely new characteristics. Small bands settled into agricultural villages then into larger towns and eventually into bustling cities. For the first time, settlements incorporated monumental architecture, elaborate art styles, and advanced technologies; life was characterized by great differences in wealth and power, long-distance trade, large-scale warfare, and complex religions—all of the characteristics which, for better or worse, compose "civilization." Over the past 500 years, nearly all of human civilization has developed into a close world of adjacent "nations" that thrive on industrial technologies and capitalist economies. But until our present era, most complex societies were grounded in what might seem to us "bizarre" cultures and practices.

In this course we will examine the processes that fostered the rise (and sometimes the fall) of early civilizations. We will examine the dynamics behind the process of "cultural evolution" and will ask- and attempt to answer- why ancient civilizations experienced repeated cycles of rise, expansion, and collapse. How were these processes similar in Sumer, Egypt, India, Africa, and Mesoamerica, and how do they differ? We will consider the role of specific elements in the rise and collapse of these civilizations, not only material elements such as ecology, farming, pastoralism, trade, and exotic goods, but also ideological elements like religious beliefs, cosmology, and worldview.

Throughout the course, we will examine certain ancient practices and attempt to make sense of them in the context of their specific society and worldview. For example: How and why did the Egyptians build such massive pyramids? Why did Maya kings and queens pierce their tongues and genitals with obsidian blades to draw their own blood? These practices are addressed as scientific questions, and as we move along we'll discuss some of the various methods archaeologists use- deciphering ancient languages, interpreting native art, examining indigenous landscapes, reading primary conquest accounts, and of course, archaeological excavation itself. We will emphasize recent discoveries and current controversies, and lectures will include plenty of slides and films to illustrate significant finds. We will seek insights into the process of cultural evolution and the meaning of human difference.

University Course Catalog Description

ANT 3145 COS-ANTHRO 3(3,0) Archaeology of Complex Societies: PR: ANT

2140 or C.I. Theoretical perspectives on ancient hierarchies of power.

Course Objectives

1. To define what constitutes early civilizations of the world, culturally, ethnically, and geographically.
2. To identify and describe the major cultural and political developments that occurred in early civilizations.
3. To synthesize and evaluate theories and current research regarding these developments using well-supported and sustained arguments

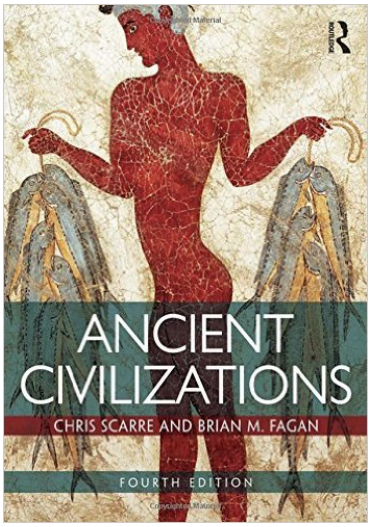
supported and sustained arguments.

4. To appreciate the cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity that characterized early civilizations expressed by sharing reflections verbally during discussions and on paper in exams and assignments.

Course Prerequisites

ANT 2140 or Consent of Instructor

Required Texts and Materials



Ancient Civilizations, 4th Ed. (2016) C. Scarre and B. Fagan, Routledge Press- Print OR Digital version may be purchased.

This is a concise and comprehensive text describing the most recent archaeological discoveries on the rise of the first civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Mexico, and the Andes.

This book can be purchased as EITHER print OR digital format. You don't need to have both, but I wanted to give you options. The digital version is fully searchable, so if you are looking for a term it can be easily found.

There are earlier editions of this book. If you are using an earlier version you may not have the full information that you need for the course. There have been updates to the book. The page numbers also may not be the same in reading assignments and this may cause you confusion. Use an old book at your own risk.

Additional Readings. Additional readings are required throughout the course and are available within the modules for download as PDFs.

Course Requirements

Your grade in this course will be based out of 485 **total points**. There will be one academic activity quiz due the first week and mini-quizzes at the end of each module worth a total of 75 points, assignments worth a total of 115 points, and 3 exams worth a total of 300 points. Modules close weekly every Monday, with the exception of the "Getting Started Module" which closes on the first Friday, then you Module 1 will be due the following Monday, so start working on that ASAP. You will have an extra week after Module 11 and 12 open, which is the beginning of a group project that may take some time to coordinate, so you will have two weeks to complete it. **I will not, under any circumstances, open a module for students because they missed the closing date**. This is something that all students are advised of since the beginning of the course. **All modules will close on Mondays on their assigned dates at 11:59 PM, the next module will open at 12 AM the following day. All exams will close on Fridays at 11:59 PM.** Please note the module closing dates below. You begin the course by clicking on the “weekly modules” button on the main page or on the "modules" tab at the left of webcourses. Each individual module, as well as the getting started module, is available from this page. You can work ahead at your own pace if you would like, but please note we will not grade exams and assignments until after the due date and you may need to return to discussions to comment after colleagues have posted to get full credit.

Academic Activity Assignment: As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the **Syllabus Quiz (%24CANVAS_COURSE_REFERENCE%24/assignments/%24CANVAS_OBJECT_REFERENCE%24/quizzes/ie9** by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than **Friday of the first week of class at 11:59 PM**. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Quizzes: Each module ends with a timed quiz and you will only see one question at a time. **Once a quiz is opened, it is your ONLY chance to complete the quiz** – there is no second chance! Any quiz problems that are the result of you waiting until the last minute to take the quiz will result in a “0” for the quiz. Also, you will receive a “0” for any assignment that is not completed by the time the module is closed such as discussions, internet assignments, and exercises.

It is your responsibility to check on your grades. Automatically graded quizzes should be available immediately after you submit them. If you check your grades and your quiz has not been graded please email me and I will manually grade it.

I will not release graded quizzes with answers and questions after you complete your quiz. This is to prevent someone from printing out the questions and answers after they take a quiz and then providing them to someone else in the class before they take their quiz. If you have a problem with a quiz question, note the question number on your quiz and email me an explanation. I will discuss the question with you via email after the module closes.

Exams: The course will include three exams (100 points each). These will consist of objective questions (e.g., multiple choice), short answer, and short essay questions drawn from class lectures, films, and

required readings. Exams will NOT be cumulative. Both exams and quizzes will draw on lectures, films, and required readings. Exams will be open for 4 days (72 hours) and will always close on Fridays, but I will post a Study Guide well before the exam opens so that you can begin studying. We will also have online review sessions a couple of days before the exams so that you can ask questions in real time.

Module Assignments:These will be due on Mondays at the close of a module. There is not an assignment for every module, but please see the schedule below to make sure that you know when assignments are present. These assignments may vary some in complexity, so be sure to check out the instructions at the beginning of the week so that you won't be caught by surprise.

Debate Participation: This will be a group module assignment that will take place over the last three modules of the semester. You will be able to choose whether you would like to participate as an individual or a group, but no matter what you will have a debate partner. If you choose group (to be done mid-semester) you will divide into groups of 10, then half of each group will take sides of a theory about the rise of complex society. You will use our course materials to create an opening statement, rebuttal, and closing statement during the course of three modules. Specific archaeological evidence from course materials must be used with supporting citations and bibliography. Each of these posts in a discussion board will be worth 20 points according to an assigned rubric. See **Preparing for the Debate** for more information. Each student will receive an individual grade for the assignment based on what the instructor observes of individual activity in the discussion boards.

Course Schedule

Module	**# of Mini Quiz or Exam Points**	**Assignment Points**	**Closing Date for Module**
Getting Started	5	5	Friday, January 15th, 11:59 PM
1	**5**	**5**	**Monday, January 18, 11:59 PM**
2	5	5	Monday, January 25, 11:59 PM
3	**5**	**5**	**Monday, February 1, 11:59 PM**
4	5	0	Monday, February 8rd, 11:59 PM
Exam 1	***100***	***0***	***Friday, February 12th, 11:59 PM***
5	5	10	Monday, February 15, 11:59 PM

6	**5**	**10**	**Monday, February 22, 11:59 PM**
7	5	0	Monday, March 1, 11:59 PM
8	**5**	**10**	**Monday, March 8, 11:59 PM**
Exam 2	***100***	***0***	***Friday, March 12, 11:59 PM***
9	5	0	Monday, March 15, 11:59 PM
10	**5**	**10**	**Monday, March 22, 11:59 PM**
11	5	20	Monday, April 5, 11:59 PM
12	**5**	**20**	**Monday, April 19, 11:59 PM**
13	5	2	Monday, April 26, 11:59 PM
Final Exam	***100***	***0***	***Friday, April 30, 11:59 PM***
Total Points	**370**	**115**	

Grading

Please remember that final grades are final, I will not change a final grade under any circumstance unless there has been an error in the entry of the grade. If you are worried about your grade, please contact me early in the semester so that we can work on strategies for improvement. If you contact me during the final week of class there will be little I can do to help. (I do round up scores, anything .5 or higher. For example, a percentage of 89.5 would be rounded to a 90).

Grading Scale (%)

94-100	A

Grading Scale (%)	
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
70-76	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Course Policies: Grades

Make-up Policy: There are NO make-ups in this course. A module closes each week, and you have been given notice of due dates in advance. However, I do understand that there are circumstances that can interrupt your ability to finish modules on time. Some of these valid excuses include a death in the family, family emergency, or you are personally injured or ill or attending a sanctioned University activity. Documentation (doctor's note with dates, obituary, program verification form for University activities, etc.) of these incidences MUST be provided in order for a make-up to be allowed.

*****If you encounter an issue (internet outage, screen freezes, etc.) while taking a quiz or exam, please email the professor while the assessment is still running or as immediately as possible. Additionally, the student MUST take a screen shot of the issue and send it to the professor as documentation of the issue. Screen shots do not need internet to be taken. Please be aware that I can see when you leave a test to view other pages and/or if your browser freezes!**

Extra Credit Policy: Extra Credit will be offered at two times during the semester. This credit will be offered to the entire class and points given as points added to an exam and only for completed assignments. These assignments will be announced during the semester.

Group Work Policy: Everyone must take part in a group project. All members of a group will receive different scores based on the work they did that was observed by the instructor in interactions in your group page discussions.

Grade Dissemination: All grades will be returned within a period of 5 business days (weekends and

holidays don't count). Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. Please remember that Final Grades are FINAL! Please do not come to me to ask for a change of grade after the semester is over unless you think an error has been made.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Please email me with any questions, **brigitte.kovacevich@ucf.edu (mailto:brigitte.kovacevich@ucf.edu)** . I will usually respond promptly, but please be aware that it may be up to 48 hours until you get a response, especially if it is a weekend and I am out of town or at a conference. My hours are generally from about 8 AM to 9 PM, please note, I will never be checking in the middle of the night!

Webcourses: All course materials are available on Webcoures on the home page, syllabus, additional readings, handouts, power points, study guides (available the week before the test), etc. You will find your Academic Activity Quiz for the first week on the home page as well.

Hardware and Software: By signing up for an online class, students assume the responsibility for having a functioning computer and programs necessary for viewing videos. A broken computer or non-functioning software is not a valid excuse for missing a deadline. Additionally, if a student waits until after 5pm on the due date to work on an assignment and experiences an issue, they are responsible for finding a solution (Unless there is a mass issue that effects every student in the class...if this is the case, the professor will produce a solution.) Software needed for this class: Adobe Acrobat Reader, Word processing software (Word or Pages), adobe flash player may be needed to watch video lectures.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must connect with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Professionalism Policy: The discussion board is to be used by students to discuss topics concerning our class. Feel free to discuss topics covered in the video lectures, articles you may have found online, or archaeology in general. As stated in the golden rule, please do not share or discuss specific quiz/exam answers or answers to assignments. Additionally, please do not use the discussion board to launch personal attacks against the professor or fellow students. If there is an issue, please do not hesitate to contact me privately. I am happy to help in any way I can.

Students have the right to privacy and non-solicitation in an online environment. Thus, students are NOT

permitted to send out mass emails to the entire class via inbox or knights.ucf.edu without explicit permission from the professor. If a student wants to bring up a subject to the class, the student must use the **Discussions** board and select the appropriate discussion thread for conversing. I have provided an area under Discussions for students to message and contact each other. I will not tolerate students harassing, spamming, or inciting each other when discussions can be handled and monitored in one location via the Discussions tab. If you are being spammed or bullied by a fellow student, please report to me and I will handle the issue. The Office of Student Conduct may be used if a solution cannot be found.

***This applies to mass emails, you are obviously more than welcome to email individual friends in the class

Academic Conduct Policy: Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Turinitin.com: In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all written assignments through Webcourses and they will automatically be run through turnitin software. To find out more, you can visit

http://www.turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com) .

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

Religious Observances: Please notify me in within the first week of class if you intend to miss work due to observe a holy day of your religious faith.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students: Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Emergencies: Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <**http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html (http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html)** >.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <**http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF (http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF)** > (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <**https://my.ucf.edu (https://my.ucf.edu/)** > and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<
  You CAN Survive an Active Shooter (https://youtu.be/NlKYajEx4pk)

  (https://youtu.be/NlKYajEx4pk)

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be

required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Third-Party Software from Panopto and Zoom may be used in this class, follow these links for accessibility statements:

https://support.panopto.com/s/article/Learn-About-Accessibility-Features (https://support.panopto.com/s/article/Learn-About-Accessibility-Features)

https://zoom.us/accessibility (https://zoom.us/accessibility)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Jan 15, 2021	**Academic Activity Syllabus Quiz** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920455)	due by 11:59pm
	Introduction Discussion (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920462)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 18, 2021	**Archaeology of Your Room** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920492)	due by 11:59pm
	Module 1 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920420)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 25, 2021	**Module 2 Quiz** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920419)	due by 11:59pm
	Tweets from Social Theorists (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6947459)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 1, 2021	**Heterarchy Discussion** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920465)	due by 11:59pm
	Module 3 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920422)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 8, 2021	**Module 4 Quiz** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920446)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Fri Feb 12, 2021	Exam 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920421)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 15, 2021	Flow Chart (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920495)	due by 11:59pm
	Module 5 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920426)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 22, 2021	Ancient Egyptian Monopoloy (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920490)	due by 11:59pm
	Module 6 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920436)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 1, 2021	Module 7 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920418)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 8, 2021	Indus Script Assingment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920496)	due by 11:59pm
	Module 8 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920440)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 12, 2021	Exam 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920417)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 15, 2021	Module 9 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920451)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 22, 2021	Module 10 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920425)	due by 11:59pm
	Space and Place Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920501)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 5, 2021	Maya Debate-Reminder Opening Arguments Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920498)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	Module 11 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920423)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 19, 2021	Module 12 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920428)	due by 11:59pm
	Maya Debate Reminder: Rebuttals Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920499)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 26, 2021	Module 13 Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920432)	due by 11:59pm
	Maya Debate Reminder: Closing Statements Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920497)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 30, 2021	Exam 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920424)	due by 11:59pm
	Extra Credit #1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920493)	
	Extra Credit #2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1373478/assignments/6920494)	