

**ANTHROPOLOGY P200/E400/S362: Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology**  
*SPRING 2003—Christine Malcom, Instructor*

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**Required Texts:**

*Images of the Past*, Price & Feinman, 3rd Ed. [IOP]  
*Archaeology Annual Editions 01/02* [AE]  
Readings on Reserve as indicated in the syllabus

**Course Objectives:**

- To obtain an introduction archaeological methods and data analysis
- To learn how archaeologists construct narratives about past cultures
- To explore the prehistory of humankind and the process of cultural evolution

**Credits:**

You can register for either P200, S362, or E400, but you can never get credit for any two of the course numbers under which this class is listed. You can get credit twice for E400, which is a “topics” course, with two different topics (or any combination of E400 topics and A200 topics), but there is a 6-credit-hour limit on topics credit in anthropology. There is no prerequisite for P200, but it is more demanding than 100-level courses. To register for E400 or S362, you must have taken one course in anthropology (for E400) or sociology (for S362) and have at least Junior standing or consent of the instructor.

**Requirements:**

- Attendance at all lectures is mandatory. I reserve the right to alter grades downward based on poor attendance
- You are expected to complete all required readings, including those not explicitly covered in lecture
- There will be quizzes each Monday during the first 15 min of class. Quizzes emphasize the material covered in the previous week. There are 12 quizzes in all, but the two lowest scores are dropped. **There are no makeup quizzes. If you miss a quiz, you receive a zero for that quiz.**
- All students will submit a report on an Old World site that compares an excavation report with a general prehistory article on that site (A detailed handout will be provided)
- E400 and S362 students must submit a senior-level research paper (Topic to be developed with the instructor)

**Grade Calculation:**

Best of 10 quizzes	100 possible points
Midterm Exam	100 possible points
Site Report	90 possible points
Final Exam	110 possible points
Final Grade	(Your total points/400) x 100

**Inclement Weather:**

In the event that IUN is officially closed or if class is canceled, any scheduled quiz or examination will be given at the next scheduled class period. Official campus closings are announced on the radio and may be confirmed by calling campus police.

**Week 1—January 13 & 15:**

- What is Archaeology and why study it?
- Archaeology, Science, & Culture

**Readings**

IOP, Preface & Chapter 1  
AE “The Quest for the Past”  
RESERVE, Feder “Science & Pseudoscience,”  
RESERVE Feder, “Epistemology: How do we Know What We Know?”

**Assignments/Handouts:**

Quiz # 1, Take home

**Week 2—January 22**

**MONDAY January 20 is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday—NO CLASS!**

- The first Archaeologists
- The history of Archaeology as a discipline

**Readings:**

AE “Science, Commerce, and Control,” “Royal Tombs of Ur,” “All the King’s Sons”

**Assignments/Handouts:**

Quiz # 1 due Wednesday in class

### **Week 3—January 27 & 29**

- Archaeology & time depth
- Dating methods—relative dating versus absolute dating

#### Readings:

IOP, Ch.2, 3 (Focus on dating, stratigraphy, tools, and evidence of hominid behavior)  
AE, “High-Tech Digging” & “A Wasp’s Nest Clock”  
RESERVE, Peregrine “Dating Archaeological Materials”

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 2, Monday in class  
Site Report handout

### **Week 4—February 3 & 5**

- Finding sites—Archival research and geological survey
- Mapping sites: Horizontal and Vertical controls

#### Readings:

AE, “Space Age Archaeology” & “The Archaeologists Who Wouldn't Dig”  
RESERVE, Peregrine, “Survey Methods & Strategies,” “Measurement & Sampling”

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 3, Monday in class

### **Week 5—February 10 & 12**

- Neanderthals: The origins of art, religion, and language
- The Emergence and diaspora of modern humans

#### Readings:

IOP Chapters 3  
AE, “Bushmen” & “New Women of the Ice Age”

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 4, Monday in class  
Copies of articles for site report  
due Wednesday in class

### **Week 6—February 17 & 19**

- The Peopling of the New World

#### Readings:

IOP, Ch. 5  
AE, “Who Were the First Americans” & Who’s on First?”

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 5, Monday in Class  
Midterm Study Guide handout

### **Week 7—February 24 & 26**

- The origins of agriculture
- Bioarchaeology and the agricultural transition

#### Readings:

IOP, Chapter 6  
AE “The Slow Birth of Agriculture” & “What Did They Eat?”

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 6, Monday in Class  
Study for Midterm!

### **Week 8—March 4 & 6**

- **MIDTERM, MONDAY OCTOBER 15 IN CLASS**
- Stratification of Societies

#### Readings:

IOP, Ch. 6  
AE, “Yes, Wonderful Things,” “Life Blew Ground”

Assignments/Handouts:  
Midterm Exam, Monday in Class

### **Week 9—March 11 & 13**

- State-level societies
- Prehistoric North American societies

#### Readings:

IOP, Chapter 7  
AE “Archaeologists Rediscover Cannibalism”

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 7, Monday in Class  
E400 students paper topic due

**SPRING BREAK IS MARCH 18 & 20. NO CLASS.**

### **Week 10—March 25 & 27**

- Old World States I

Readings:  
IOP, Ch. 10  
AE, "A Tale of Two Obsessed Archaeologists"

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 8, Monday in Class

**Week 11—April 1 & 3**

- Old World States II

Readings:  
IOP, Ch. 10  
AE, "Rethinking Modern History"

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 9, Monday in Class

**Week 12—April 8 & 10**

- Emergence of complexity in Europe

Readings:  
IOP, Ch. 11  
AE, & "The Past as Propaganda"

Assignments/Handouts:  
NO QUIZ  
Site Reports Due

**Week 13—April 15 & 17**

- Emergence of Mesoamerican Civilization

Readings:  
IOP, Ch. 8  
AE "Life in the Provinces of the Aztec Empire"

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 10, Monday in Class

**Week 14—April 22 & 24**

- Andean Civilizations I

Readings:  
IOP, Ch. 9  
AE, "Solving the Mystery of the Nasca Lines"

Assignments/Handouts:  
Quiz # 11, Monday in Class

**Week 15—April 29 & May 1**

- Andean Civilizations
- The Chiribaya: A Case Study

Readings:  
IOP, Ch. 9  
AE "Tales From a Peruvian Crypt" & "Reading the Bones of La Florida"

**The final exam will be the week of May 5. Exact Date TBA in Class**