

Classics/History 240, Section 1: World Archaeology Fall 2010

Class Meeting: M, W, F: 10:00-10:50; Wallace Hall 114

Instructor: Ben Costello

Office: 16 Wallace Hall

Office Hours: T: 10:00-10:50; Th: 2:00-2:50 (or whenever the door is open)

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Course Description and Goals:

This course is intended to provide a broad introduction to the discipline of archaeology - 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. Using archaeology as a guide, the course will briefly review human cultural chronology from the earliest Paleolithic ages and examine not only the artifacts of ancient civilizations but also important social, economic, and even ideological questions such as the origins of food production, social inequality, and urbanization.

By the end of this course students should be able to do the following:

- Discuss what archaeology is and trace its evolution into to the scholarly discipline of today.
- Recognize the various categories of material evidence that make up the archaeological record.
- Be familiar with basic archaeological techniques: how to locate, record, investigate, analyze, and interpret sites
- Discuss in class and analyze in writing scholarly arguments concerning details of past important cultures worldwide, describing major transitions that occurred and why this knowledge is important.

Required Texts:

Scarre, C. 2009. *The Human Past: World Prehistory & the Development of Human Societies*; Second Edition. London: Thames & Hudson

Course Requirements and Policies:

The following procedures will be implemented in order to maintain an optimal learning environment for all students.

- **Attendance:** The nature of the engaged college classroom requires attendance and active participation at all class lectures and events. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each session. While it is understandable that emergencies and illness may interfere with class attendance, due to the visual nature of the course, missed classes can seriously compromise student performance. Each student is

permitted three unexcused absences without penalty, with each additional unexcused absence resulting in a 2% deduction.

If a class is missed it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to arrange any make-up work.

Note regarding Student Athletics, Religious Holidays, and/or Academic Commitment (i.e. Conference): Absences related to these situations must be pre-approved by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to provide a complete list of any classes missed during the semester by the end of the second week of the classes. In some cases further documentation may be required. Please pay particular attention to conflicts with dates of exams.

- **Make Up Policy:** The only way to make up an exam is with an excused absence. For the absence to be excused, you must provide acceptable documentation from a qualified professional of a serious crisis. If such an event occurs, the instructor must be notified within 24 hours.
- **Extra Credit:** Opportunities for extra credit will take the form of attendance at Classics Department and Archaeological lectures during the course of the semester. Attendance will be taken at the lectures, and each student is responsible for signing in to receive credit. No extra credit assignments will be given other than that offered on exams and/or quizzes. Requests for individual extra credit assignments will not be considered.
- **Accessibility/Office Hours:** I encourage students to come to my office to discuss any questions, concerns, ideas, special considerations or other important issues. If you have class during my office hours, I will schedule appointments at other times with advance notice. Students are welcome to stop by and see me whenever my office door is open. If my office door is closed, please feel free to e-mail me and I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours.
- **Academic Honesty:** Students in this course are encouraged to do their homework together. All other classwork, especially quizzes and exams, must be the student's own work. Plagiarism, i.e., copying someone else's work without giving credit, is to be avoided. Such copying--from a book, another classmate's paper, or any other source--is dishonest. At Monmouth College we view academic dishonesty as a threat to the integrity and intellectual mission of our institution. Any breach of the academic honesty policy – either intentionally or unintentionally - will be taken seriously and may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or expulsion from the college. It is each student's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the general academic honesty policy at Monmouth College, as defined in the Scots Guide (<http://department.monm.edu/stuserv/student-handbook/academic.htm>) and to the specific guidelines for each course, as elaborated on the professor's syllabus.

The following areas are examples of violations of the academic honesty policy:

1. Cheating on tests, labs, etc.
2. Plagiarism, i.e., using the words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit – THIS INCLUDES WEBSITES.
3. Improper collaboration between students, i.e., not doing one's own work on outside assignments unspecified as group projects by the instructor. If two papers

with identical or nearly identical work are submitted by different students, **both papers will receive a failing grade.**

4. Submitting work previously submitted in another course, without previous authorization by the instructor.

(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

- **Miscellaneous:**

- Please be sure to turn off all electronic devices before class begins. If you use a computer to take notes, please insure that the sound is turned off, or power up before class.
- Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to Disability Services (mellinger@monm.edu or 309-457-2257) and to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. All discussions will remain confidential.
- Please do not bring children and/or pets to class.
- Please be punctual. Late arrivals disrupt the entire class.

Course Assessment and Evaluation:

Grades in this course will be determined by the following:

Midterm	:20%
Final	:20%
Quizzes	:15%
Presentation	:15%
Reading Responses	:15%
Attendance	:10%
Participation	:5%

Grading will be determined on the traditional straight scale (A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, etc.

*All grades are non-negotiable.

- **Exams:** Two 50 minute exams. A midterm covering roughly the first half of the semester will be given during class and a final covering the second half during the final exam period. . Each accounts for 20% of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to take the final at the scheduled time without exception. Please keep this in mind when making travel arrangements. **Final Exam:** Wednesday, December 15 – 1:00 PM.

All material presented in class (i.e. artifacts, buildings, maps, plans, etc.) is eligible to appear on the exam. The exams will consist of: image identifications/descriptions, matching, multiple choice and essay questions. Image identifications will consist of the object/monument’s name, date, culture and findspot/location and significance/ importance. The essay questions cover broader topics and in your answers you will be expected to incorporate information from both the lectures and readings.

- **Quizzes:** A total of six short multiple choice quizzes based on names, dates and other basic facts from both the lectures and readings. Dates will be announced roughly one week in advance.
- **Reading Responses:** In order to prepare for discussion of articles and readings assigned outside of the textbook, students will be asked to write a brief synthesis (600-900 words) for these readings. This typewritten document should be completed after reading the article and should consist of one paragraph where the author's position or argument is summarized and a second paragraph containing your opinion of the position and the evidence used.
- **Presentation:** Each student will prepare an 8-10 minute presentation to be given during class on an archaeological site in consultation with the instructor. A list of possible sites will be provided. This assignment has two components: the powerpoint presentation discussing the history of the site and its excavation, major monuments, contribution of the site to the understanding of the ancient world. An accompanying handout that includes an outline, bibliography, and site plan should be provided for each member of the class. Presentations must utilize at least 5 scholarly sources and no more than two internet sources.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to come to class each day having completed the assigned readings for that day and prepared to discuss all topic/s covered. Class participation is determined based on active involvement and engagement in the classroom during each class meeting.

Course Design and Tentative Schedule:

The professor reserves the right to make changes or additions to this schedule. Changes will be announced either in class or via e-mail. If you are not in class when such an announcement is made, it is the student's responsibility to obtain updated schedule information from either the professor or a classmate. Misunderstandings of the schedule will not be considered a sufficient excuse for lack of preparation or missing an assignment or exam.

Week 1:

- Introduction
- What Is Archaeology?

Week 2:

- History of Archaeology
- Types of Evidence

Week 3:

- Dating Methods/Chronology
- Archaeological Fieldwork

Week 4:

- Archaeological Fieldwork (cont.)
- Social Archaeology

Week 5:

- Cognitive Archaeology
- Archaeobotany/Bioarchaeology

Week 6:

- Archaeological Legacies
 - Early Humans
- Week 7:
- Early Humans (cont.)
 - Mesopotamia
- Week 8:
- Mesopotamia
 - Midterm Review (Midterm: Friday October 8)
- Week 9:
- Midterm Return
 - Egypt
- Week 10:
- Egypt (cont.)
 - Greece: Prehistory
- Week 11:
- Greece: Prehistory – Classical
 - Rome
- Week 12:
- Rome (cont.)
 - India
- Week 13:
- India (cont.)
 - China
- Week 14:
- China (cont.)
 - New World – Mesoamerica
- Week 15:
- Maya
 - Inca
- Week 16:
- Inca (cont.)
 - Aztecs
- Week 17:
- North America
 - Wrap-Up; Final Review