



ARCHY 105: The Human Past
University of Washington
Autumn Quarter 2016



Instructor: Dr. Matthew Taylor
Office: Denny Hall 143
Office Hours: MTWTh 12:00 – 2:00
Friday by appointment

Course Time: 10:30-11:20
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Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the human past as seen by archaeological science. Humans have been on earth approximately 200,000 years and most of that time has not been recorded by history. Historical records date to only around 5,000 years ago, so roughly 95% of the human past is prehistory, or history before writing. Archaeology is one way to discover and interpret the vast unrecorded saga of humankind. By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

- 1) Understand the nature of and development of archaeological science
- 2) Discuss the emergence of *Homo sapiens* and their spread as a species all over the habitable world
- 3) Understand the complexities and rich traditions of hunter-gatherer cultures
- 4) Appreciate the invention of agriculture and how it led to the development of states, empires, villages, and cities
- 5) Discuss the development of complex societies in various parts of the world
- 6) Learn why archaeology is important and why it has applicability to our daily lives

Class Structure

Archaeology is the study of the human past. Most of the story of humankind occurred before the invention of writing. In order to discover and interpret that past, archaeologists employ scientific methods and theoretical constructs. Humans are biocultural creatures, which means our cultural practices and biology have interacted to create a truly unique species. By understanding the past, we seek to inform our present, and anticipate the future. The study of the past has great potential to change and improve our everyday lives.

The course will be broken down into four main parts:

- I. the development of science and its application to archaeology and archaeological theory
- II. the emergence of *Homo sapiens* and its spread around the world
- III. hunter-gatherer cultures and emergence of agriculture in various parts of the world
- IV. the rise of complex societies, such as chiefdoms and states, in several parts of the world

Text

There is one textbook for this course. It is entitled *The Human Past, Third Edition* edited by Chris Scarre. It is available at the campus bookstore or through various online catalogs. Supplementary readings may be assigned and uploaded on Canvas.

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. A lot of material will be presented during this course and time is not to be wasted.

Etiquette

Please turn off all cell phones before coming to class. Please refrain from texting or contributing to social media while in class.

If any student has special needs that must be met in order to take full advantage of the learning opportunities presented in this class, please contact me as soon as possible. Arrangements will be made to facilitate those with disabilities or other special needs.

Grading

There will be four exams in this course. They will be objective and will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. It is the student's responsibility to bring a scantron (the purple one) on test days. Each exam will be worth 25% of your grade.

On test days, cell phones and other electronic devices must be secured and put away. No earphones are permitted. No early exams will be allowed. Makeup exams will only be permitted with a valid doctor's note. The final will occur as scheduled.

Statement of Academic Integrity

You will do all work for this class during this quarter. The work done in this class should not be used for any other course. Plagiarizing, cheating, and other forms of academic malfeasance will be dealt with on an individual basis and in accordance with University's Code of Student Conduct.

Reading Assignments

You are required to read the assigned chapters in the book and any supplementary articles before each exam.



Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Pages</u>
9/28	Introduction		
9/29	What is Archaeology?	1	24 - 33
10/3	Archaeological Theory	1	33 - 36
10/4	Archaeological Methods	1	36 - 43
10/5	What are Humans?	2	46 - 57
10/6	Early Hominins	2	57 - 61
10/10	The First Stone Tools	2	61 - 83
10/11	<i>Homo erectus</i>	3	84 - 123
10/12	The Neanderthals	4	124 - 152
10/13	The Rise of "Modern" Humans	4	152 - 165
10/17	Catch-up Day		
10/18	Exam I		
10/19	Paleoenvironments	5	175 - 183
10/20	The Dawn of Agriculture	5	183 - 199
10/24	The Epidemiological Transition		
10/25	The Ancient Middle East	6	200 - 214
10/26	The Ancient Middle East	6	214 - 233
10/27	Holocene Europe	11	392 - 431
10/31	The Mediterranean World	13	472 - 493
11/1	Ancient Greece	13	493 - 503
11/2	The Roman Empire	13	503 - 517
11/3	Catch-up Day		
11/7	Exam II		
11/8	Holocene Africa	10	350 - 370
11/9	Ancient Egypt	10	370 - 391
11/10	Ancient Egypt		
11/14	East Asian Agriculture	7	234 - 263
11/15	Complexity in China	15	552 - 574
11/16	Complexity in Korea and Japan	15	574 - 585
11/17	Complexity in South Asia	14	518 - 551
11/21	Catch-up Day		
11/22	Exam III		
11/23	<i>Homo sapiens</i> in the Americas	4; 9	166 - 173; 307 - 313
11/24	Thanksgiving		

11/28	<i>Homo sapiens</i> in the Americas	4; 9	166 - 173; 307 - 313
11/29	Agriculture in the Americas	9	313 - 349
11/30	Mesoamerican Civilizations	16	594 - 639
12/1	The Maya and Aztecs		
12/5	Complex Societies in North America	18	678 - 715
12/6	The Mississippians		
12/7	The American Southwest		
12/8	Catch-up Day		
12/12	Final Exam	8:30 - 10:20	

