

Anthropology 217, Old World Prehistory
McBrearty, Fall, 2004
Tues & Thurs, 2:00-3:15, 443 Beach Hall

This course provides an overview of human life in Africa, Asia & Europe before the advent of the written word. We will examine some of the evidence for the earliest behavior of our prehuman ancestors, the appearance of a hunting & gathering way of life, the domestication of animals & plants, and the emergence of early urban centers. The spatial & temporal range of Old World prehistory is vast, and we will focus on certain key sites and events that illustrate these developments.

Course objectives

Having taken this class you should 1) be familiar with the broad outlines of early human prehistory, 2) understand how this information is derived from archaeology, and 3) be able to evaluate interpretations of archaeological data.

Required textbooks

1. **Feder, K.** 2003. *The Past in Perspective*, 3rd edition. Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing. ISBN 0-07-254938-6.
2. **Price, T. Douglas & Feinman, Gary M.** 2004. *Images of the Past*, 4th edition. Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing. ISBN 0-70-286311-0.
Both of these books cover the prehistory of both the Old World (Africa, Asia, and Europe) and the New World (the Americas). You are not required to read the sections dealing with the New World, but you may find it useful to do so, because they provide general information and comparisons with the Old World material. Available at the UConn Coop.
3. **Course Pack.** A volume of readings can be purchased at Copy Run on Route 195 opposite EO Smith High School. The journal articles and book chapters, listed on page four of this syllabus, have been selected to complement the textbooks, to cover some topics not addressed in the textbooks, and to examine additional ideas and points of view.

Course organization & expectations

Class meetings will consist primarily of lectures. You should attend all class meetings and it is a good idea to take careful notes, because some important material will be introduced in class that is not contained in the textbooks. You are also strongly advised to do the reading at the times suggested in the class schedule; otherwise you will get far less out of the course, and can't expect to do well on the exams. There are no formal discussion sections, but we will have discussions of issues that arise in class or in the readings, and you will be expected to be current in the reading.

Course requirements

Exams & Quizzes: There will be a midterm, a final exam, and two map quizzes. The midterm will cover all material covered in lectures and assigned readings up to that point. The final exam will be cumulative but will stress material covered in the

second half of the semester. There will also be two map quizzes to familiarize you with the places and regions where prehistoric events took place.

Papers: You will write two short papers (5-10 pages) on topics relevant to the course. I will circulate lists of possible paper topics. You are strongly advised to discuss your paper topics with the Instructor or the TA before you begin. If you wish, you may submit a first draft of your paper to your TA for her to read and suggest revisions. You may then submit a revised version as your final draft. If you choose this option, you must submit your first draft by the deadline for first drafts.

Calculation of Grades

The midterm will count for 25% of your grade, the final exam 35%. Each paper will count for 15%, and each map quiz 3%. Class participation can contribute up to 4% of your final grade for the course. Note that map quizzes and participation combined make up 10% of your grade!

Academic misconduct. Courtesy and respect for people, their ideas, and their work is expected of all participants in the teaching, learning, and research enterprise. Cheating on exams, copying another's work, representing someone else's work as your own, or helping someone else to do any of these things show a lack of respect and will not be tolerated. Further details about the University of Connecticut's policy on academic misconduct can be found at:

(<http://www.ucc.uconn.edu/~PBALDWIN/cheat.html>)

Students with special needs should notify the appropriate university program, who will help the instructor and TA to devise the best learning environment for you. Useful information may be found at <http://vm.uconn.edu/~stusr2/> and <http://www.cped.uconn.edu/upld.htm>.

Instructor's whereabouts.

Office: Beach 449. Tel: 486-2857. Email: mcbrearty@uconn.edu Fax: 486-1719.
Office hours: Immediately after class, or by appointment.

Your TA is Cara Roue. Her whereabouts:

Office: Beach 304G. Tel: 486-1933. Email: cara.roue@uconn.edu. Fax: 486-1719
Office hours: Thursday 3:30-4:30 or by appointment.