ANTH 257W: NEAR EASTERN PREHISTORY
FALL 2004

INSTRUCTOR: Natalie Munro
OFFICE: Room 434 Beach Hall
TELEPHONE: (860) 486-0090
E-MAIL: Natalie.Munro@uconn.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 10.00-11.00 PM
Thursday 2.00-3.00 PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT
MEETS: Tues/Thurs 12.30-1.45 PM
WHERE: Koons Hall 202

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Prehistory is the period of human history that precedes the appearance of written records. This course covers the prehistory of the Near East from the arrival of the first humans (around 1 million years ago) to the rise of city states and urbanism and the development of writing (ca. 2350 B.C.). The course adopts a chronological perspective that both outlines the cultural history of the region, and documents major trends, transitions and developments in Near Eastern prehistory. We will cover a range of topics including the migration of anatomically modern humans out of Africa, the Neandertals, the settlement of the first villages, the domestication of plants and animals, the innovation of irrigation agriculture, ceramics, and metallurgy, the construction of the first temples and palaces, and the appearance of the first state administrators.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
ANTH 257 is a W course and thus includes an intensive writing component with instructor feedback. To fulfill the writing requirement each student will participate in 5 inclass writing workshops and complete one research paper (12-15 pages). Three of the workshops will require a short written assignment, but only your top two workshop scores will be tallied into your final workshop grade (10%). The research paper (40%) will be submitted in three stages: (1) an outline with five annotated references; (2) a rough draft; and (3) the final paper. I will provide feedback on the writing and content of all written submissions and return them to you. Paper topics must be approved by the instructor by Tuesday Sept 28. The remaining portion of the grade consists of a midterm (20%), a final exam (20%), a map quiz (5%) and class participation (5%). Your grade for class participation can make or break your final grade. To do well in this course it is imperative that you read the assigned paper prior to each class, hone your writing skills, participate in writing workshops, contribute to class discussion and attend class regularly.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:
Map Quiz 5% TU 14 September
In-Class Writing Workshops (best two of three) 10% TH 23 Sept, TH 21 Oct, TU 16 Nov
Midterm Exam 20% TH 28 October
Research Paper (12-15 pages) 40% TH 9 December
Final Exam 20% Tu 14 December 1-3.00pm Tentative
Participation 5%
RESEARCH PAPER SCHEDULE:
Last Day for Topic Approval     TU September 25
Outline and Annotated Bibliography (5 References)   TU 12 October
Rough draft       TU 4 November
Final Draft        TH 9 December

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:
The course readings are available for sale at Copy Run: 1244 Storrs Road.
I have an additional copy of the course readings in my office.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:
Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Please read Part VI from Uconn’s student code below.  

Part VI from UCONN’s Student Code: Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research

The following policy on undergraduate academic integrity was originally formulated by the Scholastic Standards Committee. It was revised and adopted at the (April 10,2000) meeting of the University Senate. This part of The Student Code describes the types of acts that shall be considered academic misconduct by undergraduates, and it presents the process for imposing sanctions for such acts.

A. Academic Integrity

A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty; academic work depends upon respect for and acknowledgement of the research and ideas of others. Misrepresenting someone else's work as one’s own is a serious offense in any academic setting and it will not be condoned.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for academic evaluation (e.g. papers, projects, and examinations); any attempt to influence improperly (e.g. bribery, threats) any member of the faculty, staff, or administration of the University in any matter pertaining to academics or research; presenting, as one's own, the ideas or words of another for academic evaluation; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will receive credit or be evaluated; and presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors involved.

A student who knowingly assists another student in committing an act of academic misconduct shall be equally accountable for the violation, and shall be subject to the sanctions and other remedies described in The Student Code.
COURSE SUMMARY:

DATE       TOPIC
TU 31 Aug  Introduction to Course and Writing Requirements
TH 2 Sept  Geography, Environment and Peoples of the Near East
TU 7 Sept  History of Archaeological Research in the Near East
TH 9 Sept  The Lower Paleolithic: The First Human Occupation in the Near East
TU 14 Sept The Origin of Modern Humans

MAP QUIZ
TH 16 Sept Life in the Middle Paleolithic: The Quintessential Cavemen?
TU 21 Sept The Upper Paleolithic Transition
TH 23 Sept The Epipaleolithic: The Last Hunter-Gatherers

WRITING WORKSHOP
TU 28 Sept The First Human Settlements: The Natufian and Zarzian periods

LAST DAY FOR RESEARCH TOPIC APPROVAL
TH 30 Sept The Adoption of Agriculture: Models and Evidence
TU 5 Oct Plant and Animal Domestication
TH 7 Oct The Aceramic Neolithic Village: Households, Architecture and Ritual
TU 12 Oct The end of the PPNB: Abandonment of the Southern Levant? AND Pyrotechnology: The Invention of Pottery and Plaster

RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE AND ANNOTATED BIB DUE
TH 14 Oct Life, Religion, and Society in the Ceramic Neolithic
TU 19 Oct Late Neolithic Societies in Mesopotamia: Hassunan and Sammaran
TH 21 Oct The Halafian period in Mesopotamia

WRITING WORKSHOP
TU 26 Oct INSTRUCTOR AWAY CLASS CANCELLED
TH 28 Oct MIDTERM EXAM
TU 2 Nov The Chalcolithic in the Levant: The Formation of Social Classes
TH 4 Nov Models for the Origins of the State

RESEARCH PAPER ROUGH DRAFT DUE
TH 9 Nov The Foundations of Civilization: The Ubaid Period
TH 11 Nov Uruk: The Rise of the State and the Elite
TU 16 Nov The Uruk Expansion

WRITING WORKSHOP
TH 18 Nov The Development of Writing
TU 23 Nov THANKSGIVING RECESS NO CLASS
TH 25 Nov THANKSGIVING RECESS NO CLASS
TU 30 Nov Craft Specialization in Near Eastern States
TH 2 Dec Sumerian Religion and the Temple
TU 7 Dec Competitive Mesopotamian City-States: The Early Dynastic Period
TH 9 DEC LAST CLASS: Overview: Major themes and trends in Near Eastern Prehistory

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

TU 14 DEC FINAL EXAM TU 14 December 1.00-3.00 pm
TENTATIVE DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
READINGS

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TU 7 Sept  History of Archaeological Research in the Near East

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TU 12 Oct  The end of the PPNB: Abandonment of the Southern Levant? AND Pyrotechnology: The Invention of Pottery and Plaster

TH 14 Oct  Life, Religion, and Society in the Ceramic Neolithic

TU 19 Oct  Late Neolithic Societies in Mesopotamia: Hassunan and Sammaran
NO READING

TH 21 Oct  The Halafian period in Mesopotamia
NO READING

TU 26 Oct  INSTRUCTOR AWAY NO CLASS

TH 28 Oct  MIDTERM: NO READING

TU 2 Nov  The Chalcolithic in the Levant: The Formation of Social Classes

TH 4 Nov  Models for the Origins of the State

TU 9 Nov  The Foundations of Civilization: The Ubaid Period

TH 11 Nov  Uruk: The Rise of the State and the Elite
TU 16 Nov  The Uruk Expansion

TH 18 Nov  The Development of Writing

Tu 23 Nov  THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS!
Th 25 Nov  THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS!

TU 30 Nov  Craft Specialization in Near Eastern States
NO READING

TH 2 Dec  Sumerian Religion and the Temple

TU 7 Dec  Competitive Mesopotamian City-States: The Early Dynastic Period

TH 9 DEC  Overview: Major themes and trends in Near Eastern Prehistory
NO READING