ANTH 287: THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE –FALL 2004

INSTRUCTOR: Natalie Munro
OFFICE: Room 434 Beach Hall
TELEPHONE: (860) 486-0090
E-MAIL: Natalie.Munro@uconn.edu
OFFICE HOURS: MON 10.00-11.00 am
THURS 2.00-3.00 pm
OR BY APPOINTMENT
MEETS: TU/TH 9.30-10.45 A.M.
WHERE: Arjona 243

REQUIRED TEXT:

REQUIRED COURSE PACKET:
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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The origins of agriculture is one of the most significant events in human history. It forms the foundation of major subsequent changes in human societies in particular the rise of the state, urbanism and the population explosion. This course discusses the nature of the agricultural transition, its documentation in the archaeological record, and the changes it wrought on the social, ideological and religious aspects of daily life. The course can be roughly divided into two major components. First we adopt an evolutionary ecological perspective to discuss the process of plant and animal domestication and its possible causes. Second, we consider the archaeological record of diverse agricultural transitions worldwide. We begin by examining the Near East—the site of the earliest agriculture. We then move across the continents from East Asia, the South Pacific, and Africa, to North and South America. We will examine both independent innovations of agriculture and the diverse mechanisms of its spread into surrounding regions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The bulk of your grade (60%) will be determined by two examinations—a midterm (30%) and a final exam (30%). The final exam will be cumulative, but will emphasize material covered in the second half of the semester. We will use a text and a course packet, but lectures may also cover additional material for which you are also responsible. You must also submit two short 5-page papers (15% each) on controversial topics related to the origins of agriculture. The paper topics will be assigned later in the semester. The final 10% of the grade is based on class participation and may include participating in class discussions, asking questions in class, and demonstrating your knowledge of course readings in class. This 10% can make or break your grade. Overall, to do well in this course it is imperative that you read the assigned papers prior to each class, hone your writing skills, contribute to class discussion, attend class regularly, and take good notes.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>DUE: TH Sept 30</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>DUE TU Nov 16</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Thurs DUE TU Oct 26</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TENTATIVE: TU 14 Dec 8-10 am</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Discussion and Participation</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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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. http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/Code2.html#top

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 SCHEDULE:

DATE       LECTURE TOPIC
WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE
    TU AUG 31   Introduction to Course
    TH SEP 2    The History of Agricultural Origins Studies: Explanatory Models

WEEK 2: MODELS AND METHODS FOR STUDYING THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE
    TU SEP 7    Modern Frameworks: The Evolution and Ecology of Domestication
    TH SEP 9    Detecting Domestication: Genetics and Morphological change

WEEK 3: THE PROCESS OF DOMESTICATION
    TU 14 SEP   Early Plant Domestication in the Archaeological Record
    TH 16 SEP   Animal domestication in the Archaeological Record

WEEK 4: ANIMAL DOMESTICATION
    TU 21 SEP   Case Study: The dog, the first domestic animal
    TH 23 SEP   From foraging to farming: The impact of sedentism

WEEK 5: THE FIRST TRANSITION TO AGRICULTURE—SOUTHWEST ASIA
    TU 28 SEP   A Prelude to Agriculture: the Epipaleolithic cultures of Southwest Asia
    TH 30 SEP   Pre-pottery Neolithic villages in Southwest Asia

FIRST PAPER DUE
WEEK 6: THE NEOLITHIC OF SOUTHWEST ASIA
TU 5 OCT: The Ceramic Neolithic period in Southwest Asia
TH 7 OCT: Social structure and labour in the Neolithic

WEEK 7: SOCIAL CHANGES IN EARLY NEOLITHIC VILLAGES
TU 12 OCT: Neolithic demography, health and nutrition
TH 14 OCT: Death and ritual in the Neolithic

WEEK 8: THE ADOPTION OF AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE
TU 19 OCT: Europe: The Mesolithic period
TH 21 OCT: Europe: The spread of agriculture into Europe

WEEK 9: THE ADOPTION OF AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE CONTINUED…
TU 26 OCT: MIDTERM EXAM
TH 28 OCT: European Case Study: The transition to agriculture in Italy

WEEK 10: THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
TU 2 NOV: European Case Study: The Neolithic Monuments of Britain
TH 4 NOV: Independent Origin: Southeast Asia: Rice and millet

WEEK 11: THE ORIGINS AND SPREAD OF AGRICULTURE INTO THE PACIFIC
TU 9 NOV: The Spread of Agriculture: Japan
TH 11 NOV: New Guinea and the Pacific Islands

WEEK 12: AFRICA AND THE NEW WORLD
TU 16 NOV: Early agriculture in Africa: Indigenous and external origins
TH 18 NOV: SECOND PAPER DUE
TU 23 NOV: The origin of agriculture in Mesoamerica
TH 25 NOV: THANKSGIVING RECESS: NO CLASSES

WEEK 13: THE NEW WORLD
TU 30 NOV: The spread of agriculture into the American Southwest
TH 2 DEC: The origin of agriculture in North America

WEEK 14: THE NEW WORLD
TU 7 DEC: The origin of agriculture in South America
TH 9 DEC: Implications of the Origins of Agriculture: Themes and Review

FINAL EXAM: TENATIVE SCHEDULE: TU 14 DECEMBER, 2004: 8:00-10.00 am
READING LIST:
WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE


WEEK 2: METHODS FOR THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE

WEEK 3: THE PROCESS OF DOMESTICATION


WEEK 4: ANIMAL DOMESTICATION


WEEK 5: THE FIRST TRANSITION TO AGRICULTURE—SOUTHWEST ASIA

WEEK 6: THE NEOLITHIC OF SOUTHWEST ASIA

WEEK 7: SOCIAL CHANGES IN EARLY NEOLITHIC VILLAGES

WEEK 8: THE ADOPTION OF AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE
TEXT: Chapter 5: The origins of crop agriculture in Europe

WEEK 9: THE ADOPTION OF AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE CONTINUED…

WEEK 10: THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
TEXT: Chapter 2, Prehistoric plant domestication in East Asia, by Gary Crawford, pp. 7-38.

WEEK 11: THE ORIGINS AND SPREAD OF AGRICULTURE IN THE PACIFIC

WEEK 12: AFRICA AND THE NEW WORLD
TEXT: Chapter 8: The origins of agriculture in Mesoamerican and Central America, by Emily McClung de Tapia, pp. 143-171.

TU 23 NOV    THANKSGIVING RECESS: NO CLASSES
TH 25 NOV    THANKSGIVING RECESS: NO CLASSES

WEEK 13: THE NEW WORLD

WEEK 14: THE NEW WORLD
TEXT: Chapter 9: The origins of plant cultivation in South America, by Deborah Pearsall, pp. 173-205.