ANTH 381  The Archaeology of Armageddon  SPRING 2014  TR 9:30-10:45  HON 155
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Bettina Arnold  OFFICE: SAB 229 (Archaeology Lab)
OFFICE HOURS: T 1:00-3:00 or by appointment  TEL: x4175  E-MAIL: barnold@uwm.edu
COURSE SYLLABUS: Available on D2L

REQUIRED READINGS: Available on D2L

Excerpts from:


Viewings:

Clips from the following will be discussed: “Apocalypto” (feature film 2006); “Collapse” (National Geographic 2010); “The Day After Tomorrow” (feature film 2004); “Fall of the Roman Empire” (feature film 1964).

Course Description

What can archaeology tell us about how societies decline and collapse? How would we know if our own society was in peril and what could we do to prevent it—if anything? How have the portrayals of societal collapse in print and on film affected how we perceive this process? Does any society or culture ever truly disappear? Can archaeology help us understand current global cultural trends and possibly help us design a strategic response? This Honors seminar will explore these questions and others through reading, viewing, and discussion. We will study what happened to a select group of societies in the ancient Near East, Mesoamerica, and the Roman Empire. We will look at evidence from the past including social unrest, increased religious activity, environmental degradation, changes in social structure, and economic stresses. Most of us may already have had some exposure to this timely topic through popular publications (especially those of Jared Diamond) and TV programs like those found on the History and National Geographic Channels. This seminar will use the lens of archaeology to analyze our contemporary context which will allow us to engage in critical discussion regarding our society today.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend class regularly, read and prepare assignments, and actively participate in discussion.
Attendance and participation: 10% of the grade.
Two short papers (5 pages minimum), responding to specific issues related to readings: 40% of the grade.
15 page minimum research paper: 50% of the grade.
**Extra Credit:** You may earn up to **2 extra credit points** by attending talks sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America (see [http://www4.uwm.edu/archlab/AIA/lectures.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/archlab/AIA/lectures.cfm)) and the Wisconsin Archaeological Society (TBA in class).

A short research proposal, with preliminary bibliography, and a draft of the final paper will be submitted for comment and revision. A visit to the UWM Archaeology Lab will be scheduled during the semester.

This class satisfies Social Science (SS) GER because it will teach you to a) recognize and analyze the evidence and processes involved in human biological and social development and b) identify and apply physical, cultural anthropological and archaeological methods to the study of human biological and social development. After taking this course, you will have a solid understanding of basic archaeological and cultural evolutionary principles; be able to identify the fundamental traits that characterize all human societies; understand how and why human cultures developed and how and why they devolved in the past; and have a greater appreciation for the ramifications of the past record of societal collapse for our own future as a species.

The final paper for this course will be assessed for SS GER, which requires you to demonstrate the ability to identify, synthesize, and critically evaluate and derive conclusions from multiple lines of scientific evidence related to cultural behavior and how it related to archaeological evidence.

The rubric used to assess this aspect of the course involves a 0-1-2 scoring of your ability to link specific archaeological evidence presented in the sources utilized to your responses in the final paper:

- **Score = 0** If you fail to identify relevant and/or accurate data
- **Score = 1** If you identify relevant and accurate data but fail to explain clearly how they support your response to the essay questions.
- **Score = 2** If you identify relevant data and explain clearly how they support your response to the essay questions.

**Late penalties:** Assignment due dates are listed on the syllabus. Late assignments will be docked **one full point per day**, and penalties are non-negotiable unless discussed with the instructor **before** the due date or with a valid medical excuse. **Once a graded assignment has been handed back to the class, no make-ups are possible.**

**Workload Statement:** This class meets twice a week for a total of 2.5 hours x 15 weeks = 37.5 hours. You should expect to spend 5-10 hours per week (some weeks less, some more) over the course of the semester on required readings = 75-150 hours and another 40 hours on reading and writing the two short papers and the final paper. All told, this class should take no more than 200 hours of your time, but this is an estimate and may vary depending on how well you are able to read and absorb information and whether you attend the class regularly.

**UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES:**

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.
## WEEK BY WEEK: Assignments and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 1</td>
<td>January 21-23</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Diamond pp. 1-19; McAnany &amp; Yoffee pp. 1-17; Morris pp. 3-36; Tainter pp. 1-21</td>
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<td>Wk 2</td>
<td>January 28-30</td>
<td>Evolution of Complex Societies I</td>
<td>Morris pp. 81-134; Tainter pp. 22-38</td>
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<td>Wk 3</td>
<td>February 4-6</td>
<td>Evolution of Complex Societies II</td>
<td>Morris pp. 135-171; Tainter pp. 39-90; Yoffee pp. 176-206</td>
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<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>February 11-13</td>
<td>Case Study: The Maya</td>
<td>Demarest pp. 1-21; 53-88</td>
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<td><strong>Short Paper #1 due 2/13!</strong></td>
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<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>February 18-20</td>
<td>The Maya I</td>
<td>Demarest pp. 113-147; 208-239</td>
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<td>Wk 6</td>
<td>February 25-27</td>
<td>The Maya II</td>
<td>Demarest pp. 240-276</td>
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<td>Wk 7</td>
<td>March 4-6</td>
<td>The Maya III</td>
<td>Demarest pp. 277-297; Tainter pp. 152-177 &amp; 189-190</td>
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<td><strong>Final Paper Proposal due 3/6!</strong></td>
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<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>March 11-13</td>
<td>The Maya IV</td>
<td>Diamond pp. 157-177; McAnany &amp; Negrón pp. 142-175</td>
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<td>Wk 9</td>
<td>March 17-23</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK: No Class!</strong></td>
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<td>Wk 10</td>
<td>March 25-27</td>
<td>Case Study: Rome</td>
<td>Heather pp. xi-45</td>
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<td><strong>Short Paper #2 in class 3/27!</strong></td>
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<td>Wk 11</td>
<td>April 1-April 3</td>
<td>Rome I</td>
<td>Heather pp. 46-99</td>
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<td>Wk 12</td>
<td>April 8-10</td>
<td>Rome II</td>
<td>Heather pp. 100-142</td>
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<td>Wk 13</td>
<td>April 15-17</td>
<td>Rome III</td>
<td>Heather pp. 145-190</td>
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<td><strong>Final paper draft due 4/17!</strong></td>
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<td>Wk 14</td>
<td>April 22-24</td>
<td>Rome IV</td>
<td>Heather pp. 191-250; Tainter pp. 127-151 &amp; 188-189</td>
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<td>Wk 15</td>
<td>April 29- May 1</td>
<td>Learning from the Past I</td>
<td>Almond pp. 48-49; Diamond pp. 486-525; Errington &amp; Gewertz pp.329-351; Goldberg MJS 9A; Morris pp. 280-330</td>
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<td>Wk 16</td>
<td>May 6-8</td>
<td>Learning from the Past II</td>
<td>Hsiang, Burke &amp; Miguel p. 1212; Morris pp. 582-622; Running pp. 1276-1277; Tainter 193-216</td>
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PAPER GUIDELINES

1. Short papers must be a minimum of 5 pages long; final paper a minimum of 15 pages.

2. Papers must be typed; font should be 12 point. Paginate all pages beginning with Page 2!

3. Papers must be double spaced. (I also need to be able to write comments in the margins, so make sure these are 1” all around, no more, no less.)

4. You are expected to explore the assigned topic further in written form. This includes a) citations from the reading and b) original ideas/thoughts/opinions, backed up by cogent arguments.

5. You must cite at least THREE sources in constructing your argument for the short paper, at least FIFTEEN sources for the final paper.

6. If you choose a specific example or case study from the readings to discuss, you will still be expected to refer to relevant reading not directly associated with the topic you have chosen. This is meant to ensure that you get more than just a one-sided perspective on what are very complex problems/concepts.

7. When citing sources within the text, the following rules apply:

   Sources which are part of the assigned reading should consist of the author's last name (first initial if there are two authors being cited in the paper with the same last name) followed by the year of the publication, a colon and the page number(s). (This is the standard procedure in anthropological publications). Quotation marks should be used where appropriate, as in the examples below.

   Example #1: "The moon is made of green cheese" (McDonald 1989:123).
   Example #2: According to Williams, the moon is made of fried green tomatoes (1988:19-23).

8. You must include a bibliography with full references at the end of the paper. Use the syllabus for citations from the assigned readings and choose a format from one of the readings on which to base citations for additional final paper sources. If in doubt about a source, check with me!

Check with me if you have any other questions.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Please read carefully! Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in academic misconduct as defined below will receive an F in this course.

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.html

Student academic misconduct procedures are specified in Chapter UWS 14 and the UWM implementation provisions (Faculty Document 1686) as follows:

Academic misconduct is an act in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation, uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise, forges or falsifies academic documents or records, intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others, engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance, or assists other students in any of these acts.
Prohibited conduct includes cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

**UWM WRITING CENTER**

The Writing Center (Curtin 382) welcomes writers from any discipline, at all skill levels, inexperienced through advanced, freshmen through graduate students. No matter where students are in a task, whether still exploring a reading, brainstorming, drafting or revising, they can benefit from talking to one of the Writing Center's well-qualified and trained tutors.

Make appointments online 24/7: www.writingcenter.uwm.edu, call 229-4339 or walk in.