Anthropology ANTH 310 World Prehistory

This course provides an interdisciplinary overview of the major developments in the early human past. Drawing upon archaeological, biological, linguistic, and anthropological sources, this global coverage of human prehistory examines ancient cultures and societies of Africa, Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific. We will explore human evolution, adaptive behavior, the hunter and gatherer Diaspora, plant and animal domestication, trade, the development of agriculture, and the origins of states. Through cross-cultural comparisons and anthropological theory, we will explore subject matters such as the origins of gender differences in the division of labor, the role of ideology in cultural adaptation, differential access to technologies, economic production, artistic expression and mechanisms of cultural change.

Prerequisites: Upper Division Standing

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this class, you should:
- Be familiar with the broad outlines of human prehistory
- Understand how this information is derived from archaeology and other related sources
- Be able to evaluate interpretations of archaeological data
- Understand how our view of prehistory affects our society today

Course Requirements:
Class meetings will consist primarily of lectures, discussion, films, and special presentations. Attendance is required; it is your responsibility to be aware of all assignments and deadlines. All students must turn in or take the exams on the dates assigned. No incompletes or make-ups will be allowed. The class will meet off-campus on several occasions. These will be announced at a later date. We will visit the San Diego Museum of Man, the San Diego Archaeological Center, and an ongoing archaeological excavation or a rock art site. Attendance at these events is mandatory. We have the prehistory of the WHOLE WORLD to cover and our time is limited. Please keep up with the readings, but be advised that the schedule may vary from the syllabus below.

Assignments and their Weights in Grading:
- 15%--Class attendance and participation. This particularly includes the off-campus classes, and participation in general class discussions.
- 30%--Midterm exam-take home. Format will consist of 5 short essay questions--you will answer 3. You are expected to answer your questions in a coherent essay. Your essays will be accepted in lieu of a term paper and will fulfill your writing requirement. I will provide you with a handout when the time is near.
- 30%--Final exam. The final will concentrate heavily on the second portion of the course, format to be determined.
- 10%--Events. You are required to attend 3 events (films, lectures, or events) pertaining to archaeology or one of the topics we will cover in this course. You will need to submit proof of your attendance-receipt or ½ page written paragraph on the event.
- 15%--Project. We will be focusing on human technological innovations through time. You will be required to choose one of these (stone tools, ceramics, grinding implements, art, etc) and recreate the process. You will also be required to explain the process used to recreate the ‘artifact’.
Readings and Course Supplements
There are required texts, readings, and videos for this course. The textbooks are available in the bookstore or online:

- **Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries** by Kenneth L. Feder (Sixth Edition)
- Videos will be screened during class. If you are absent, you are responsible for viewing the material. You can locate or request the videos from the library.
- **Supplemental readings** will be announced later and will be posted on the course website (WebCt).

Course Schedule (subject to change):

**Week One**
Introduction. Outline of course, syllabus, class mechanics: What is Anthropology? Introduction to Archaeology

**Week Two**
Geologic Time; Evolution, and Archaeology
READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 1; Feder
Chapter 1: Science and Pseudoscience: pp 19-43

**Week Three**
Explore exhibits: Journey to the Copper Age; Footsteps through Time; Maya; Ancient Egypt; Kumeyaay
Feder: Chapter 2: Epistemology: How You Know What You Know

**Week Four**
The First Humans READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 2; Feder: Chapter 3: Anatomy of an Archaeological Hoax: 49-72

**Week Five**
Out of Africa READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 3; Feder: Chapter 4: Hoax at Piltdown, pp. 73-100

**Week Six**

**Week Seven**
Postglacial Foragers Price and Feinman: Chapter 5
Handout Mid-term

**Week Eight**
The Origins of Agriculture
Price and Feinman: Chapter 6

**Week Nine**
Native North Americans READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 7; Feder: Chapter 6: The Myth of the Moundbuilders, pp. 161-190

**Week Ten:**
Ancient Mesoamerica READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 8; Feder Chapter 8: The Fantasy of Ancient Astronauts, pp. 225-248: Chapter 12, pp. 346-352

Week Eleven Break

Week Twelve
Civilizations of South America
READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 9

Week Thirteen
The Origins of States: West and East Asia and Africa READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 10; Feder Chapter 9: Mysterious Egypt, pp. 252-282

Week Fourteen
Field Trip- Archaeological Site Readings: Feder: Chapter 7, Lost Continent of Atlantis
Paper Due at the beginning of class

Week Fifteen
Prehistoric Europe READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 11; Feder Chapter 12: Stonehenge, pp. 352-364 Film: The Iceman (in class)

Week Sixteen
The Past as Present and Future READINGS: Price and Feinman: Chapter 12: Feder: Chapters 10 and 11: Psychics and Dowsers; Old Time Religion

Final Exam

Academic Honesty:
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 California State University San Marcos’s policy on academic misconduct can be found at: (http://www.csusm.edu/academic_programs/catalog/).

ADA Statement:
Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disabled Student Services (DDS). This office is located in Craven Hall 4300A, and can be contacted by phone at (760) 750-4905, or TTY (760) 750 4909. Students authorized by DDS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with the Department Chair during his or her office hours in order to ensure confidentiality.