

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**The College at Brockport**  
**Department of Anthropology**  
Anth 110.01 Introduction to Archaeology - Fall 2009

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Jennifer Ramsay
<b>E-mail:</b>	jramsay@brockport.edu
<b>Class time and location:</b>	Mon, Wed & Fri. 9:30-10:30 am Cooper Hall C0003
<b>Office:</b>	C13B Cooper Hall
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays from 10:30am – 11:30pm & 2:30 - 3:30pm Office Phone: 585-395-5706 or email for appointment

**Course Description:**

The course begins with a brief introduction to the discipline of archaeology and then provides an overview of the general development of human cultures from the emergence of the first humans to the rise of complex societies and empires in both the Old and New World. Lectures will be illustrated by slides, videos, and case study examples.

**Required Readings:**

Michael Chazan's World Prehistory and Archaeology, 2009 (Pearson).

**Grading:**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of two midterm quizzes (worth 20% each), one essay (worth 30%), in-class assignments (worth 5%) and one final exam (worth 25%). Quizzes and final exam will encompass materials covered by lectures, readings, and videos and will include definition, multiple choice, short answer, and short essay formats. Quizzes will be held during class as scheduled below. Final quiz will be in the December exam period.

**Term Paper:**

A seven to ten page paper is required for the course. The paper must be typed double-spaced, approximately 1750-2500 words. More information will be available in the form of a handout for the paper later in the term.

This will be evaluated in two stages. The first stage will be a paper outline. It will consist of a statement of the paper's thesis and an annotated bibliography of references that will be used to write the paper. The second stage will be the completed paper.

**Course Requirements / Expectations:**

In order to succeed in this course you should read all assigned text material, attend all lectures (films as well) and complete assignments and exams on time.

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible through assignments and exams for the material presented in all lectures, whether or not they attend class (this includes videos).

**Policies**

Make up exams and deadline extensions will only be granted with a documented medical excuse or for observance of a religious holiday recognized by the College (which requires the student to provide two-weeks advance notice to the instructor). Submitted work must be clearly legible and will be marked for grammar, spelling, clarity and organization as well as content. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per school day they are overdue.

**Comment on Readings**

The text contains a lot of detailed information. We do not expect you to memorize every bit of it – but rather to have an understanding of the main ideas and examples that are presented. Obviously some detailed knowledge is necessary and for that you will have to use your judgment. As much as possible we will try to let you know what is the most important - but you must learn (if you do not already know) how to judge the importance of what you read, and to sort out what is not important.

**Comment on Web CT**

Class Power Point materials will be put on the Angel system at the end of each week. This material will not include detailed notes from the lectures just the slides shown in class. One of the goals of university courses is to have students learn to extract information from lectures and texts and to distil it and decide what is important and what is not. If you are having difficulties with this see me in office hours or make an appointment to discuss difficulties with me at a convenient time.

## Course syllabus – Anth 110.01 – Introduction to Archaeology – Fall 2009

### **Week 1**

August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Lecture 0 - Introduction and course outline	Chapter 1
Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lecture 1 – How do we do Archaeology?	
Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 1 – How do we do Archaeology? (Con't)	

### **Week 2**

Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Labour Day – No Classes</b>	
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 2 - The Origins of Archaeology – History, Theory and Method	Chapter 2
Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>		

### **Week 3**

Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	In-class exercise – Seriation and Stratigraphy exercise	
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 3 - Hominin Origins	Chapter 3
Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Film - <i>Search for the First Human</i>	

### **Week 4**

Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lecture 3 - Hominin Origins (Con't)	Chapter 3 (Con't)
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lecture 4 – <i>Homo erectus/ergaster</i> – Neanderthals	Chapter 4
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 4 – <i>Homo erectus/ergaster</i> – Neanderthals (Con't)	

### **Week 5**

Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Film – <i>Neanderthals on Trial</i>	
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 5 – Becoming Human	Chapter 5
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lecture 5 – Becoming Human (Con't)	

### **Week 6**

Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Midterm Quiz #1 - Lecture 1-5 and readings – chapters 1-5 (20%).</b>	
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 6 – Peopling Australia and the New World	Chapter 6
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Film – TBA	

### **Week 7**

Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 7 – Subsistence and Domestication – The Neolithic in the Old World	Chapter 7
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 7 – Subsistence and Domestication – The Neolithic in the Old World (Con't)	
Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Film – <i>The Hearth</i>	

### **Week 8**

Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mid-semester break – No Classes</b>	
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lecture 8 – The Neolithic in the Americas - Mounds and Maize	Chapter 8
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lecture 8 – The Neolithic in the Americas - Mounds and Maize (Con't)	

<b>Week 9</b>		
Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Film – <i>Myths and the Mound builders</i>	
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 9 – Causes and Consequences of Agriculture	Chapter 9
Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup>	(Con't)	
<b>Week 10</b>		
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Discussion groups on the causes and consequences of agriculture	
Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Midterm Quiz #2 – Lecture 6-9 and readings – chapters 6-9 (20%).</b>	
Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Film - <i>TBA</i>	
<b>Week 11</b>		
Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Essay Outline (annotated bibliography) due (10%)</b>	
Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 10 – Expanding Social Complexity – Complexity without state.	Chapter 10
Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Film – <i>Chaco Canyon</i>	
<b>Week 12</b>		
Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 11 – Ancient States in Mesoamerica and Mesopotamia	
Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	(Con't)	Chapter 11
Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Film - <i>Lost King of the Maya</i>	
<b>Week 13</b>		
Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	In-class exercise – Mayan Glyphs	
Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Classes</b>	
Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Classes</b>	
<b>Week 14</b>		
Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 12 - Early State Formation	
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	(Con't)	Chapter 12
Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Film – <i>Indus: the unvoiced civilization</i>	
<b>Week 15</b>		
Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Essays Due (20%)</b>	
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture 13 – Imperial Formation – States and Empires	Chapter 13
Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	(Con't) <b>Review</b>	
<b>EXAMS</b>	<b>Exams Begin Dec 12<sup>th</sup> (Ends on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Final Exam (25%)

### **Additional Readings:**

Additional readings may be assigned. These readings will be available on reserve in the library or on-line. A list of required additional readings will be circulated in class. Students will be tested on these additional readings.

**\*\*This will be the general guideline for the course but I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus when necessary.**