

ANT 310H5F - COMPLEX SOCIETIES

Anthropology, University of Toronto, Mississauga

Fall 2013: Wednesdays, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, Room 260 Instructional Building

Dr. Heather M.-L. Miller

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Phone: UTM: 905-828-3741 (email is better)

Office Hour: To be discussed

Matthew Mosher will be your marker, and can be contacted through Professor Miller

Course Description and Goals

- This survey of ancient state-level societies is focused on understanding the functioning of states.
- While we will briefly cover the history and details of many ancient states, the majority of the class will be devoted to the comparative analysis of state characteristics.
- We will examine theories that have been used to explain state organization, and how various political, social, economic & religious orientations affected state formation, cohesion, maintenance & dissolution.
- The goal of the course is for students to achieve an understanding of the wide range of ways that ancient states operated, which offers insights into existing and possible organizational methods for states today.

As we will be covering a great deal of information, students must attend all lectures and complete all readings. Students are responsible for all material covered in any of these overlapping formats.

Required Course Materials Available at UTM Bookstore:

- (1) Feinman, Gary M. and Joyce Marcus (editors). 1998. *Archaic States*. Advanced Seminar Series. School of American Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico. ISBN: 0-933452-99-3, paperback.
- (2) Various pdfs of articles, available through Blackboard, as indicated on the Schedule.

Evaluation

The marked work for this course will consist of weekly quizzes on the readings, two tests, and an essay/short paper (5-6 typed pages). The essay will be composed of two stages of marked work.

Weekly QUIZZES on the Readings (9% of the course grade in total)

These quizzes will be composed of 4-5 true/false questions designed to reward those who do the readings assigned for each class period. They will test major points covered in the assigned reading (such as the information in the introductions, headings and conclusion), not minor details. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of every class. **If you are late to class, you may not take the quiz. There will be no make-ups** for these quizzes, under **any** circumstances. I will drop the two lowest quiz marks for every student, so missing a class due to illness, etc., will not affect your overall mark on the quizzes.

Two MULTIPLE CHOICE, SHORT ANSWER and SHORT ESSAY TESTS

(Test 1 **on Oct 16** is worth 30%; Test 2 **on Nov 27** is worth 21%; 51% of the course grade in total)

The tests are not cumulative -- the second test covers only the material after the previous test.

The multiple choice section will mostly focus on information about specific states/civilizations presented in the readings and in class. The short answer and essay sections will focus on comparative concepts and

theories rather than simply the prehistory of specific states. Your answers should include material from all of the assigned readings as well as all information presented in class sessions. During exams, try to sit far away from students with whom you have studied, in case your essays are similar in approach.

MISSED TESTS

Contact the instructor by email *as soon as possible* after a missed test; email should normally be received within two or three days after the missed test. A valid doctor's excuse or similar university-approved excuse will be required to take the make-up. **ONE makeup will be given** for each test, **the week after** the regular test. **All makeup tests will be essay format only, with no multiple choice section.**

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT (10 +30 = 40%)

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified (see below for more).

You must submit your choice of articles to Dr. Miller at least one week before the Thesis & Outline is due.

The two parts to the Essay Assignment are:

(1) Thesis & Outline, detailing your topic and showing the structure of your essay in outline format. You must also submit a **copy of the abstract** of all outside articles. - 10%, **due Oct. 23**

(2) a 5-6 page Essay, well researched and well written - 30%, **due Nov. 20**

****More information on the assignments is available on the Essay Instructions handout.****

Regulations for Essay Assignments

(1) Late assignments will lose 10% of their total value (e.g., 10 points out of 100 points) per calendar day, including weekends. 5% will be deducted for assignments turned in **after the first hour of class on the date due**, even if the assignment is turned in on the due date. It is the student's responsibility to turn in late assignments via Turnitin.com. A paper copy must also be submitted in class.

(2) Submission of Materials

Submissions may ONLY be through Turnitin.com AND/OR by paper copy to the instructor in person. We will be using Turnitin.com primarily to make on-time submission easier; you may opt out if you choose. **Be sure to read the Essay Handout for more information on assignment submission, and for the Turnitin.com specifications.**

When you hand in the paper copy of your assignments in class, **you must sign the submission form.**

DO NOT submit your assignment to the Anthropology secretary or anyone else. DO NOT slide your assignment under the instructor's office door. You MUST ALSO submit to Turnitin.com (unless opting out).

(3) You may work with other students in preparing for assignments, but what you submit must be your own work. You are encouraged to discuss questions together, or share source materials, or recommend readings and web sites. However, I will expect everyone in the class to have a different set of articles for their essay -- if two of you have exactly the same articles, I will assign different articles to both of you, after consultation.

(4) Please be especially careful to avoid plagiarism, which is a serious academic offence. Carefully read the section under "Citations" in the Essay Instructions. Cite ideas as well as direct quotations, even if these ideas are paraphrased. Cite ideas as well as direct quotations, even if these ideas are paraphrased. All quotes should be in quotation marks or indented if longer than two sentences. **Written work in which plagiarism is detected will be severely penalized.** For more details, see "Academic Honesty" under "General Regulations" and "The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" under "Discipline Codes" in the UTM Calendar. It is your responsibility to be familiar with this code, and adhere to it. Also see the web site, <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings (for class on date listed)
Sept 11	Course Introduction Background to the Study of Ancient States/"Civilizations"	
Sept 18	quiz Theories, Evidence, and Comparative Studies of States (overview of course topics) Definitions: States & Civilizations; Dynamic Cycling (example of Mesoamerica)	Feinman & Marcus (Preface & Intro) in F&M 1998, pp. xiii-13 Marcus in F&M 1998, pp. 59-94
Sept 25	quiz Archaeological Indicators of States Scale & Social Organization of States	Flannery in F&M 1998, pp. 15-57 (For Flannery, skim particular details, focus on patterns) Feinman in F&M 1998, pp. 95-114 ONLY (not entire article); especially note pp. 112-114
Oct 2	quiz Political Organization & Hierarchy Bureaucracy & State Operations (example of Mesopotamia) States and Cities (example of Jenne-jeno, W. Africa) <i>Next week is the last chance to have your articles approved by Dr. Miller BEFORE the Outline is due!</i>	Wright in F&M 1998, pp. 173-197 S. McIntosh 1999
Oct 9	quiz Warfare, Status and Force in States	Morris in F&M 1998, pp. 293-310 Webster in F&M 1998, pp. 311-35
Oct 16	Test 1 – 2 hours (3-5) Film after	REVIEW for TEST
Oct 23	quiz Essay Thesis & Outline (& Abstract Copy) due The Political Economy of States Surplus: Food Production & Land Ownership Trade and Craft Production	Morehart & De Lucia in press
Oct 30	quiz The Role of Ritual & Religion in States (example of China) Class Systems; Kinship & Gender Systems	Flad 2008 Extracts from Trigger 2007
Nov 6	quiz Cultural Systems (Civilization) vs. Political Systems (States) Sources of Power: Wealth, Legitimacy, Order Art, Architecture, Literacy ("Elite Culture") (example of Egypt & Mesopotamia)	Baines & Yoffee in F&M 1998, pp. 199- 260

Nov 13	quiz Summary of Sources of Power in States Non-state States? Re-visiting the Definition of a State (example of the Indus)	Blanton in F&M 1998, pp. 134-172 Possehl in F&M 1998, pp. 261-292 (For Possehl, skim details, focus on definitions and evidence)
Nov 20	Quiz on Essay Instructions; Essays due Summary of Sources of Power in States Comparative States – Reprise, Overview and Conclusion	Read your essay instructions carefully!
Nov 27	Test 2 – 2 hours (3-5)	REVIEW for TEST

References:

Flad, Rowan, 2008. Divination and Power: A Multiregional View of the Development of Oracle Bone Divination in Early China. *Current Anthropology* 49(3):403-437.

McIntosh, Susan Keech, 1999. Introduction. In S.K. McIntosh (editor), *Beyond Chiefdoms: Pathways to Complexity in Africa*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Pp.

Morehart, Christopher T. and Kristin De Lucia, in press. Introduction. In C.T. Morehart & K. De Lucia (editors), *Surplus: The Politics of Production and the Strategies of Everyday Life*. University of Colorado Press, Denver, Colorado.

Trigger, Bruce G., 2007. *Understanding Early Civilizations: A Comparative Approach*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. ISBN-13: 9780521705455 (Paperback).