

ANT 310H5 S - COMPLEX SOCIETIES

Dr. Heather M.-L. Miller

Anthropology, University of Toronto, Mississauga

Spring 2008: Thursdays, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Room 263 North Building

Course Web Page: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/~w3hmlmil/310S2008.pdf>

Course CCNet page: <https://ccnet.utoronto.ca/20081/ant310h5s/>

Staff	Office	Phone	Email	Office Hours
Heather M-L Miller Professor	Room 208 North Bldg.	905-828-3741	heather.miller "at" utoronto.ca	Tues after class Wed 12:00-1:00
Jennifer Campbell Teaching Assistant	--	--	jenn.campbell "at" utoronto.ca	By appointment only

Course Description

This survey of ancient state-level societies will be focused on understanding the processes involved in 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. In particular, we will examine theories that have been used to explain state organization, and how various political, social, economic, and religious orientations affected state formation, cohesion, maintenance and dissolution.

The goal of the course is 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 of the readings. Lectures, films, tutorials and readings will provide overlapping material, but students are responsible for all material covered in any of these formats.

Required Course Materials Available at UTM Bookstore:

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

Evaluation

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

QUIZZES (10%)

The quizzes on the readings will be worth a total of 10% of the course grade.

These quizzes will be composed of 4-5 true/false questions designed to reward those who do the readings assigned for each class period. Therefore, they will test major points covered in the assigned reading (such as the information in the introductions, headings and conclusion), not minor details. They 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.

MULTIPLE CHOICE and SHORT ESSAY TESTS (25 + 25 = 50%)

The two tests will be worth 25% each, for a total of 50%.

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

The multiple choice section will 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.

*****MISSED TESTS*****

Avoid missing the tests, and contact the instructor by email *as soon as possible* after a 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 ASSIGNMENTS (10 +30 = 40%)

The two assignments related to your essay will be worth a total of 40%.

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

You are strongly encouraged to have your choice of outside article approved by Dr. Miller BEFORE the Thesis & Outline is due.

The two assignments 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 your outside article. - 10%
- (2) a 5-6 page Essay, well researched and well written - 30%

****More information on the assignments is available on the [Essay Instructions handout](#).****

Regulations for Essay Assignments

(1) Late assignments will lose 20% of their total value (eg, 20 points out of 100 points) per calendar day, including weekends. 10% 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 your responsibility to turn in late assignments to me in my office, at my convenience. On most Thursdays I am not available, and on Fridays I am only available at St. George.

(2) When you hand in your assignments, you must sign the submission form. This form will be available on the due date during class, or by special arrangement in advance with the instructor. DO NOT submit your assignment to the secretary nor to anyone else in the Department of Anthropology. DO NOT slide your assignment under the instructor's office door. The assignment has not been officially submitted until you sign the submission form. You are also advised to make a copy of your assignments before submitting them.

(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 topic for their essay -- if two of you have exactly the same topic, I will assign a different topic 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. Be sure to cite ideas as well as direct quotations, even if these ideas are paraphrased. All quotes should be either in quotation marks or indented if longer than two sentences. Essays in which plagiarism is detected will be severely penalized. For more details, see Section 7.11 "Academic Honesty" and Section 11.2 "The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" in the UTM Calendar for 2007-2008. It is your responsibility to be familiar with this code, and adhere to it. Be sure to read the link to the information on plagiarism on the web site, <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings (for class on date listed)
Jan 8	Course Introduction Background to the Study of Ancient States/"Civilizations"	
Jan 15	quiz (on Readings plus Essay Instruction sheet) Theories, Evidence, and Comparative Studies of States (overview of course topics) Definitions: States & Civilizations; Dynamic Cycling	Trigger Ch. 1-4: pp. 1-67
Jan 22	quiz Political Organization & Hierarchy States and Cites <i>Tutorial:</i> Library Presentation on Research & Writing	Trigger Ch. 5-7: pp. 71-141
Jan 29	quiz Class Systems Kinship & Gender Systems <i>Next week is the last chance to have your choice of outside article approved by Dr. Miller BEFORE the Thesis & Outline is due!</i>	Trigger Ch. 8-9: pp. 142-194
Feb 5	quiz Bureaucracy & State Operations Warfare, Status and Force in States <i>Tutorial:</i> Academic Skills Centre Presentation - Essay	Trigger Ch. 10-12: pp. 195-263
Feb 12	Test 1 – 2 hours (10-12)	REVIEW for TEST
Feb 19	READING WEEK	
Feb 26	quiz; Essay Thesis & Outline (& Abstract Copy) due Sources of Power: Wealth, Legitimacy, Order The Political Economy of States, Part I: Food Production & Land Ownership	Trigger Ch. 13: pp. 264-275, Ch. 14-15: 279-337
Mar 4	quiz The Political Economy of States, Part II: Trade and Craft Production	Trigger Ch. 16-18: pp. 338-406

Mar 11	quiz The Role of Ritual and Religion in States, Part I Film: <i>Pyramid</i> , by David Macaulay (Egypt)	Trigger Ch. 19-20: pp. 409-471
Mar 18	quiz The Role of Ritual and Religion in States, Part II	Trigger Ch. 21-22: pp. 472-521 Skim Ch. 23: pp. 522-540
Mar 25	quiz Art, Architecture, Literacy (“Elite Culture”)	Trigger Ch. 24-25: pp. 541-625
Apr 1	quiz; Essays due Summary of Sources of Power in States Comparative States - Reprise Overview and Conclusion	Trigger Ch. 26-27: pp. 626-650; Ch. 28-29: pp. 653-688
Apr 8	Test 2 – 2 hours (10-12)	REVIEW for TEST

VIDEO:

Macaulay, David. 1995 [1988]. *Pyramid*. Unicorn Projects Inc. PBS Home Video. Atlanta, GA: Turner Home Entertainment. VHS Videocassette, 60 min.
(Available in St. Michael’s College Library, U of T, DT63 .P9 1995 VHS SMC).