Standard Course Syllabus

**ARCH 100-3 ANCIENT PEOPLES AND PLACES**

Calendar Description: A broad survey of human cultural development from the late Palaeolithic/ PalaeoIndian periods (ca 40,000 BP) to the rise of civilization and empires, in both the Old and New Worlds. Breadth-Social Sciences.

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Example Course Outline Description[[1]](#footnote-1): Because of its long view of human cultural development, archaeology gives us a perspective of our origins, who we are, and how culture affects our lives. This course provides an overview of the last 40,000 years in the development of cultures worldwide. We will begin with the Upper Palaeolithic period and cover archaeological finds in both the Old and New World, including case study examples such as Egyptian, Mayan, and Indus Valley civilizations.

The following topics must be covered:

* Archaeological Methods
  + What is archaeology? What is a site? What is an artifact? Recognizing stone tools.
  + Introduction to site formation
  + Survey, excavation, artifact analysis
  + Dating techniques
* Hunter-Gatherers
  + Nature of hunter-gatherer societies (globally)
  + European Upper Palaeolithic (may include a brief overview of earlier cultural, technological, and evolutionary developments)
  + Early peopling of North America, with emphasis on recent data and models, including discussion of the “Solutrean Hypothesis”
  + Nature of Mesolithic/Archaic complexity (globally)
* Early Food Production
  + Concepts/theories of origins of agriculture and animal domestication
  + Recognizing domesticated plants and animals
  + Technology associated with agriculture
  + Social changes because of agriculture and social role of domestication
  + Regional examples (e.g. Southwest Asia, Mesoamerica, East Asia)
* Development of Complex Societies
  + Concepts/theories of origins of social complexity and the state
  + Complex non-state societies: (e.g. Northwest Coast, Stonehenge, the American Southwest, Moundbuilders)
  + Early States: Old World (e.g. Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Indus)
  + Early States: New World (e.g. Central Mexico, the Maya region, Andean South America)
  + Concepts/theories of state collapse

Possible Textbooks:

(2016) Department currently uses:

Chazan, Michael. 2011. *World Prehistory and Archaeology*, Second Canadian Edition. Pearson. 9780205005925

Other choices could include:

Price, Douglas and Gary Feinman. 2009. *Images of the Past* (6th edition). McGraw-Hill.

Feder, Kenneth. 2010. *The Past in Perspective* (5th edition), Oxford U.P.

Olszewski, Deborah L. 2016 *Archaeology and Humanity’s Story*. Oxford.

1. Course coverage and materials are at the discretion of the instructor, but major changes in ARCH 100 course content should be approved by Archaeology Department Chair well in advance of the first day of classes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)