

ECON 452W: SEMINAR IN ECONOMIC PREHISTORY

SPRING 2022

READING LIST

1. The attached schedule says which readings will be used on which dates. You should do each reading before it is to be discussed in class.
2. Items marked by (b) are books you should purchase; those marked by (c) are in the electronic course pack available through the bookstore; and those marked by (d) can be downloaded electronically from the SFU library. I will say more about how to get the readings at our first class meeting.
3. You should plan to read at least the first 14 chapters of Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond during the semester. In order to stay on track, you should finish chapter 9 by Feb. 15 and chapter 14 by Mar. 29. The midterm and final may include questions on some of the first 14 chapters from GGS that were not explicitly discussed in class.
4. A draft of the first paper is due on **Friday February 4**. Comments will be provided on February 11 and the final version is due on **Friday February 18**. A draft of the second paper is due on **Friday March 25**. Comments will be provided on April 1 and the final version is due on **Friday April 8**.
5. The midterm exam is on **Friday March 4** (an hour and 50 minutes). The final exam date and time will be announced later (you will have three hours).

The Pre-Agricultural World

I. Human Origins (Jan. 11 and 14)

(b) Diamond, Jared, 1997, Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies, Norton, New York (prologue and chapter 1, pp. 13-52).

(c) Campbell, Bernard G., James D. Loy, and Kathryn Cruz-Urbe, 2006, Humankind Emerging (9th ed.), Pearson, Boston (chapter 15, the evolution of modern humans, pp. 389-416).

II. Climate, Technology, and Culture (Jan. 18 and 21)

(c) Fagan, Brian, 2006, People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory, Prentice Hall, New Jersey (chapter 4, Europeans and Northern Asians, pp. 121-153).

(c) Kelly, Robert I., 1995, The Foraging Spectrum: Diversity in Hunter-Gatherer Lifeways, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. (chapter 5, sharing and land tenure, pp. 161-203).

III. Population Dynamics (Jan. 25 and 28)

(c) Harris, Marvin and Eric B. Ross, 1987, Death, Sex, and Fertility: Population Regulation in Preindustrial and Developing Societies, Columbia University Press, New York (chapter 1, early human foragers, pp. 21-35).

(d) Caldwell, John C. and Bruce K. Caldwell, 2003, Pretransitional population control and equilibrium, Population Studies 57(2), July, 199-215.

(d) Kremer, Michael, 1993, Population growth and technological change: One million B.C. to 1990, Quarterly Journal of Economics 108(3), August, 681-716.

IV. Foraging Equilibrium (Feb. 1 and 4)

(d) Weiss, Ehud, Wilma Wetterstrom, Dani Nadel, and Ofer Bar-Yosef, 2004, The broad spectrum revisited: Evidence from plant remains, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 101(26), June 29, 9551-9555.

(c) Mithen, Steven, 2003, After the Ice, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London (chapter 4, early Natufian hunter-gatherers, pp. 29-39).

(d) Dow, Gregory K. and Clyde G. Reed, 2011, Stagnation and innovation before agriculture, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization 77(3), March, 339-350.

The Agricultural Transition

I. Pristine Transitions (Feb. 8 and 11)

(b) Bellwood, Peter, 2005, First Farmers: The Origins of Agricultural Societies, Blackwell, Oxford (chapter 3 on Southwest Asia, pp. 44-66; chapter 5 on Africa, pp. 97-110; chapter 6 on East Asia, pp. 111-127; chapter 8 on the Americas, pp. 146-179).

II. Natural Endowments (Feb. 15)

(b) Diamond, Jared, 1997, Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies, Norton, New York (chapters 8 and 9 on plants and animals, pp. 131-75).

III. Theories of the Transition (Feb. 18 and Mar. 1; no classes during Feb. 21-25)

(d) Richerson, Peter J., Robert Boyd, and Robert L. Bettinger, 2001, Was agriculture impossible during the Pleistocene but mandatory during the Holocene? A climate change hypothesis, American Antiquity 66(3), 387-411.

(d) Weisdorf, Jacob L., 2005, From foraging to farming: Explaining the Neolithic revolution, Journal of Economic Surveys 19(4), September, 561-586.

MIDTERM EXAM: FRIDAY MARCH 4

IV. One More Theory of the Agricultural Transition (Mar. 8 and 11)

(d) Hillman, Gordon, Robert Hedges, Andrew Moore, Susan Colledge, and Paul Pettitt, 2001, New evidence of lateglacial cereal cultivation at Abu Hureyra on the Euphrates, The Holocene 11(4), 383-393.

(d) Dow, Gregory K., Clyde G. Reed, and Nancy Olewiler, 2009, Climate reversals and the transition to agriculture, Journal of Economic Growth 14(1), March, 27-53.

The Post-Agricultural World

I. Inequality (Mar. 15 and 18)

- (c) Ames, Kenneth M., 1995, Chiefly power and household production on the northwest coast, ch. 6 in T. Douglas Price and Gary M. Feinman, eds., Foundations of Social Inequality, Plenum Press, New York, 155-187.
- (c) Earle, Timothy, 1997, How Chiefs Come to Power, Stanford University Press, Stanford CA (case study of Hawaii, pp. 33-46 and 75-89).
- (d) Dow, Gregory K. and Clyde G. Reed, 2013, The origins of inequality: Insiders, outsiders, elites, and commoners, Journal of Political Economy 121(3), June, 609-641.

II. Warfare (Mar. 22 and 25)

- (c) Johnson, Allen W. and Timothy Earle, 2000, The Evolution of Human Societies: From Foraging Group to Agrarian State, Stanford University Press, Stanford CA (pp. 141-170 on the Yanomamo; 179-193 on the Tsembaga Maring; and 217-233 on the Central Enga).
- (d) Dow, Gregory K., Leanna Mitchell, and Clyde G. Reed, 2017, The economics of early warfare over land, Journal of Development Economics 127, July, 297-305.

III. The State (Mar. 29 and Apr. 1)

(d) Allen, Robert C., 1997, Agriculture and the origins of the state in ancient

Egypt, Explorations in Economic History 34(2), April, 135-154.

(c) Johnson, Allen W. and Timothy Earle, 2000, The Evolution of Human

Societies: From Foraging Group to Agrarian State, Stanford University Press, Stanford CA (pp. 315-329 on the Incan empire).

(b) Diamond, Jared, 1997, Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies,

Norton, New York (chapter 14, evolution of government, pp. 265-292).

IV. Social Collapse (Apr. 5 and 8)

(c) Diamond, Jared, 2005, Collapase: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed,

Penguin, New York (chapter 2, Easter Island, pp. 79-119)

(d) Brander, James and Scott Taylor, 1998, The simple economics of Easter

Island: A Ricardo-Malthus model of renewable resource use, American Economic Review 88(1), March, 119-138.