

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Tuesday 3:45–5:00; Thursday 2:15–3:30 (Synchronous online)

INSTRUCTOR

Aztec human-skull mask, Tenochtitlan, Mexico City

Dr. MIKAEL HALLER

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Virtual Office Hours:

Tues 2–3:30pm

Wed 2:30–5pm

Thurs 12:30–2pm, or by Appointment

(Collaborate/MS Teams for office hours)



Course Summary

Archaeology and Physical Anthropology, with their long temporal framework, provide a unique opportunity to examine the development of human society; including how humans, and their ancestors, evolved both culturally and biologically over the past 5 million years. This course examines the nature of modern archaeological and physical anthropological research including topics on hominid evolution, origins of agriculture, and rise of states. We will examine how archaeologists and physical anthropologists work in the field, how they construct their interpretations and how analogical reasoning is crucial to this process. Through practical exercises, students will have an opportunity to apply this knowledge using real research data.

Course Delivery

This is an online synchronous course using a combination of the following programs: Collaborate, Moodle, and Microsoft Teams.

Course Text Olszewski, Deborah I.

2020 *Archaeology and Humanity's Story: A Brief Introduction to World Prehistory*. Second Ed. Oxford University Press, New York. (Book store; and available as e-book: <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/archaeology-and-humanity-39-s-story-deborah-i-olszewski-v9780190930134>)

Course Requirements (all assignments/exams will be submitted through Moodle)

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|----|--|------------|
| 1) | READING SUMMARIES (1% each; 15 in total) | 15% |
| | These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, due on the day assigned before class. Follow specific format. | |
| 2) | Assignment Grade | 20% |
| | The Assignment grade will consist of 2 assignments | |
| | 1) Ötzi, the Ice Man (Feb 23) | (10%) |
| | 2) Domestication and Social Complexity (April 6) | (10%) |
| 3) | Quizzes (2 multiple-choice and matching quizzes) | 10% |
| 4) | Midterm Exam (Due: March 2) | 25% |
| | A short answer, MC, T/F, and essay take-home exam based on the first part of the course (Chps. 1–8). | |

- 5) **Final Exam** (Due: April 16) **25%**
 A short answer, MC, T/F, and essay take-home exam
 based on the second part of the course (Chps. 9–15).
Exams will be based on information from lectures, readings, discussions, and videos.

- 6) **PARTICIPATION** **5%**
 Attendance will be taken and used in conjunction with your preparedness (did you read the text and articles) and your contributions to class discussions.

Summaries

2 typed pages double-spaced for the class's readings (1-inch margins, 11 font). These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, due on the day assigned before class (no late submissions will be accepted). These are to be in your own words—**do not plagiarize the in-text summaries**.

Follow specific format. **Use headings.**

Title: (complete bibliographic information; single-spaced)

Description: (include a detailed description of the main themes and arguments of the reading; 1 page).

Relevance: (Describe how this reading relates to the course and our class discussions; 1 page).

(Summaries are worth 1% each)

Grading Policy

Submitting exercises late will result in losing 25% for each day. Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with in strict accordance to the StFX's Academic regulations (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-integrity>). If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining their own notes as I do not give out my class notes.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

I encourage students that require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications to contact Learning Services (http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible_learning/services). Please make arrangements within two weeks from the start of the course.

All StFX students have access to Microsoft Cloud services and should take advantage of this to ensure a backup of academic files. If you choose not to use this service, you are responsible for making your own backups to prevent losing data and not being able to submit required coursework

Communication

All students have a StFX e-mail account, which must be checked regularly as notices and information pertaining to the course will be sent electronically. You can send electronic correspondence to my university e-mail address (mhaller@stfx.ca). Handouts and syllabus are available on the course Moodle site

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity. Please feel free to contact the Human Rights and Equity Advisor Megan Fogarty if you have questions or concerns about equity in the classroom or in the StFX Community in general. Megan can be contacted by email at mfogarty@stfx.ca or by telephone at 902-867-5306.

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MONTH	DAY	CLASS	TOPIC	TEXT	HAND OUT	DUE (summaries)	DUE	
JAN	14	1	Introduction					
JAN	21	2	Acquiring and Interpreting Data	Chapter 1		Chapter #1		
JAN	26	3	Acquiring and Interpreting Data	Chapter 1				
JAN	28	4	Humanity's Roots	Chapter 2	A #1	Chapter #2		
FEB	2	5	Becoming Human	Chapter 3		Chapter #3		
FEB	4	6	Otzi Assignment					
FEB	9	7	Modern Humans	Chapter 4		Chapter #4		
FEB	11	8	Hunting, Gathering, Foraging, Farming	Chapter 5		Chapter #5	Quiz #1	
FEB	18	9	Ancient Mediterranean	Chapter 6		Chapter #6		
FEB	23	10	North American Southwest	Chapter 7		Chapter #7	A #1	
FEB	25	11	Eastern North America	Chapter 8		Chapter #8		
MARCH	2	12	Early Dynastic Mesopotamia	Chapter 9	A #2	Chapter #9	MT EXAM	
MARCH	4	13	Early Dynastic Mesopotamia	Chapter 9				
MARCH	9	14	Pharaonic State and Old Kingdom Egypt	Chapter 10		Chapter #10		
MARCH	11	15	Pharaonic State and Old Kingdom Egypt	Chapter 10				
MARCH	16	16	Shang China	Chapter 11		Chapter #11		
MARCH	18	17	Indus Valley	Chapter 12		Chapter #12	Quiz#2	
MARCH	23	18	Mesoamerica and Classic Maya	Chapter 13		Chapter #13		
MARCH	25	19	Andean South America and Inka Empire	Chapter 14		Chapter #14		
MARCH	30	20	Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe	Chapter 15		Chapter #15		
APRIL	6	21	Complex Societies in Perspective	Epilogue			A #2	
APRIL	16		FINAL EXAM					