

**Anthropology ANTH 3 Global Archaeology (formerly World Prehistory)  
Spring 2016**

**Tuesday Thursday 9:30 am – 10:50 am**

CENTR 105 Center Hall

Thomas E. Levy, Distinguished Professor

Office Hours: Atkinson Hall 2015, by appointment [tlevy@ucsd.edu](mailto:tlevy@ucsd.edu)

TA: Brady Liss, Office Hours SSB 280, Tu 3pm – 4pm [bliss@ucsd.edu](mailto:bliss@ucsd.edu)

**Course Goals:**

Prehistory, by definition means 'before history' or written records. As such, this class will introduce you to the methods and theories that prehistorians (one kind of archaeologist) use to study world prehistory. To decipher the past where no, or very few, written records exist, prehistorians and archaeologists have come to rely more and more on scientific approaches to the investigating the mute archaeological record. Accordingly, this class will give you a taste of how it is possible to establish robust and vibrant understandings of the major transitions in the human past from the origins of anatomically modern humans to the earliest complex societies and early states around the world. Anthropologists use the term 'archaic states' to refer to these early examples of complex social systems. As most of them utilized some kind of early writing system, we include them in our discussions of world prehistory. As this is an anthropology course, the emphasis will be on theories, method and practice. To introduce you to many of the major cultural transformations and ancient cultures from around the world, we will draw on them for examples when we discuss these fundamental issues. We will also discuss job opportunities in archaeology, and the ethical implications of doing archaeology today.

**Course Requirements:**

Students will be responsible for all readings, lectures, any films and discussions. The *Powerpoint* lecture slides will be posted on TED. There will be one Midterm exam (50%) and a Final exam (50%) – both will be made up of multiple-choice questions. You will also have a weekly opportunity to earn up to 10% extra class credit points by carefully reading the weekly textbook assignments and taking the **in-class extra-credit quizzes**. **Every Thursday** at the beginning of class, 10 multiple-choice questions selected from the weekly readings will be shown in *Powerpoint* slides so that you can answer the questions using your **iClicker**. It is required to take the quizzes, however, the results are all for extra credit. Volunteer: There are some extra-credit volunteer opportunities in the Levant and Cyber-Archaeology Lab – just email Prof. Levy if you are interested.

**Required Reading:**

Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. 2010 *Archaeology Essentials – Theories, Methods and Practice (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*. New York: Thames & Hudson. (or latest edition)

**TA: Brady Liss** email: [bradyjliss@gmail.com](mailto:bradyjliss@gmail.com)

## **Week One** (Chapters 1 & 2)

### Lecture 1 - Tuesday March 29

Topic - Prehistory in Action – Journey to the Copper Age in the Holy Land. This lecture lays the groundwork for how UCSD archaeologists meld theory and method to interpret social evolution around 4,000 BCE. This is when the ‘metal revolution’ took place in the Middle East and a team I directed excavated some of the most important sites in Israel related to this (Chalcolithic) period.

### Lecture 2 - Thursday March 31

Topic - The History of Archaeology. This lecture will present a snapshot of the history of the development of social evolutionary theory. Most of the theorists have been archaeologists, but surprisingly – thinkers such as Darwin and Marx have had a significant impact on the development of archaeological theory.

## **Week Two** (Chapters 3 & 4)

### Lecture 3 - Tuesday April 5

Topic – The Nature of Archaeological Evidence. We have all heard of the Pompeii and the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius that ‘froze’ hundreds of people while they ate breakfast, creating an amazing ‘snap-shot’ of a moment in antiquity. However, this ‘Pompeii effect’ is rare for the archaeological record. Instead, archaeologists have developed the study of site formation processes to parse out how archaeological sites are formed.

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### Lecture 4 – Thursday April 7

Topic – Survey, Excavation and Dating. This lecture will present an overview of how archaeologists go about finding sites, how the methods they use to excavate and record the archaeological record, and the wide range of methods they use to date archaeological deposits. These activities provide the basic data for prehistoric and archaeological analyses.

## **Week Three** (Chapter 5, 6)

### Lecture 5 – Tuesday April 12

Topic – Nature and Scale of Societies. To put the ‘meat on the bones’ of extinct societies, ethnographic studies of traditional societies carried out by anthropologists over the past century provide a wonderful source of analogy for modeling the past. We will study the main social ‘types’ from bands, to tribes, to chiefdoms and archaic states in this lecture.

#### Lecture 6 – Thursday April 14

Topic – The Archaeology of Identity. After more than 2 million years of hominin existence in small egalitarian band level societies, sometime during the last 10,000 years, modern humans all around the world crossed the threshold to chiefdom level societies based on social inequality. This had a profound effect on social identity and the rise of ethnicity. Archaeology provides the only tools to investigate this process.

#### **Week Four** (Chapter 6, 7)

**Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> – Required – Attend Open House for ‘Center for Cyber-Archaeology and Sustainability at Qualcomm Institute, Atkinson Hall 11 am to 3 pm. Be sure to sign in with Brady.**

#### Lecture 7 – Tuesday April 19

Topic - *How to Reconstruct a Paleoenvironment and Ancient Diet*. Look out the window. You can't assume the landscape and environment you live in and interact with today was the same, even 100 years ago. This lecture will explore the methods archaeologists, in collaboration with their geo-science colleagues; use to define changes in environment on global, regional and local scales. Understanding the paleoenvironment is key for clarifying how societies adapted and failed to adapt to their natural environments.

*The Bioarchaeology People and the Archaeology of Death*. Archaeology today is interdisciplinary relying on many fields of expertise to work together to understand the past societies. One of the most important sources of collaboration is with the biological sciences. In this lecture we learn the basics of how to identify physical attributes of the dead. We also look at the ‘archaeology of death’ and how researchers can identify social rank, relations, health and conflict amongst the dead we encounter in our excavations.

#### Lecture 8 – Thursday April 21 – Guest Lecture – Prof. Ioannis Liritzis

Topic – **Aegean Maritime Archaeology**

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#### **Week Five** (No assigned readings – Quiz based on lectures)

#### Lecture 9 – **Tuesday April 26 – MID-TERM**

#### Lecture 10 – Thursday April 28 – **Guest Lecture – Prof. Ioannis Liritzis**

Topic: **Disaster Archaeology: The Eastern Mediterranean Case**

#### **Week Six**

Lecture 11 – Tuesday May 3, 6:00 pm. Location - TBA **Guest Lecture – Prof. Ioannis Liritzis** Topic: *Delphi, Skyscapes and Archaeological Science*  
NO CLASS – REQUIRED ATTENDANCE AT EVENING LECTURE

Lecture 12 – Thursday May 5 - **Guest Lecture – Prof. Ioannis Liritzis.**  
Topic: Paleo-environments in the Eastern Mediterranean

### **Week Seven** (Chapter 9)

Lecture 13 – Tuesday May 10

Topic – **Cognitive Archaeology** – Understanding how the ancients thought. What were the concerns of people we encounter in the archaeological record? Were they similar to us today? When do the qualities that mark us as distinctly human emerge? Cognitive archaeology, the study of past ways of thought and symbolic structures from material remains offers a window on how these profound qualities emerged.

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Lecture 14 – Thursday May 12 – AAAS TEL

Topic – The Impact of **Writing** and the Rise of Archaic States in the Old and New World. While our course focuses on prehistory, the penultimate phase of social evolution was the development of the earliest states in both the Old and New World. Key to this process was the development of writing systems. This lecture takes a global look at this ancient process.

### **Week Eight** (Chapter 7, 10)

Lecture 15 – Tuesday May 17

Topic – **Technology**, trade and Exchange. Here we present an overview of stone tool technologies from the Lower Paleolithic to Early Bronze Age (ca. 1.5 million to 2,000 BCE – in one lecture! We also take a look at how archaeologists study prehistoric trade and exchange. By understanding ancient exchange systems, it is possible to identify the nature of ancient social organizations as well as how they grew, sustained themselves and collapsed.

Lecture 16 – Thursday May 19 – (Chapter 10, 11)

Topic - **Explanation** in Archaeology Today: Why did things change? In the early days of archaeological research, the discipline was mostly descriptive with little attention paid to the large questions of why cultures arose, maintained themselves, and ultimately collapsed. In this lecture we will examine different anthropological theories for explaining change in the prehistoric archaeological record.

## **Week Nine** (Chapter 3, 7)

### Lecture 17 – Tuesday May 24

Topic – **Guest lecturer – Matt Howland**, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Archaeology – Organizing Spatial Data for the Study of the Past. GIS is perhaps the most important tool for archaeologists and all field scientists (Earth Sciences - ecology, oceanography, geology, meteorology; Life Sciences – biology, zoology, botany; and other fields of Social Science). GIS enables us to visualize, question, analyze, interpret, and understand special data to tell us about relationships, patterns, and trends. It is the perfect tool to organize archaeological data. Matt will present an overview how GIS works, its potential and how it can help you get a job with a BA!

### Lecture 18 – Thursday May 26

Topic – **Guest Lecturer – Brady Liss** – Topic: Archaeometallurgy Through the Ages. This lecture looks at the role of technology in social evolution – in particular, ancient mining and metallurgy in the Middle East.

## **Week Ten** (Chapter 11, 12)

### Lecture 19 – Tuesday May 31

Topic – Ethics and Archaeology. Archaeologists are committed to conduct their work to a high standard of professionalism that are developed by professional societies and international bodies such as the UN's

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### Lecture 20 – Thursday June 2

Topic – Archaeology and the Public: Whose past is it? Identity and archaeology, nationalism, and popular versus pseudo-archaeology. How do people use the past for nationalistic purposes? Is this a healthy endeavor or can the past be manipulated for nefarious purposes (think of the recent Russian take-over of the Crimea)? How Cyber-Archaeology promotes Archaeo-Diplomacy. This lecture will examine how archaeology plays a role in nationalism.