

Anthro 184: Old World Prehistory
Neolithic and Bronze Age in the Near East and Aegean
TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm, Rome 204

Dr. Eric H. Cline
George Washington Univ.
Spring Semester 2003

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTENT

This course introduces advanced undergraduate and graduate students to two major cultural transformations in human history: 1) the beginning of food production and settled life; and 2) the emergence of urban and state societies in the Old World. The course examines the methods, theories, and evidence that archaeologists use to study complex societies and to investigate changes that have occurred in the ancient environment, subsistence, technology, socioeconomic and political organization, and belief systems. This course will consider the time period from ca. 10,000 to 2000 BC in the Levant, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and the Aegean.

READINGS

The required textbooks for the course are:

Cullen, T. *Aegean Prehistory: A Review*. Archaeological Institute of America. 2001.

Kuijt, I. *Life in Neolithic Farming Communities*. Kluwer Academic. 2000.

Pollock, S. *Ancient Mesopotamia*. Cambridge University Press. 1999.

The reading assignments are listed according to the dates by which they are to be **completed**. In order for the lectures to be effective, it will be necessary for the student to keep up with the readings and to attend all class sessions. The lectures given by the instructor will amplify and synthesize the material covered in the textbook. The readings and lectures will be supplemented by audio/visual aids when appropriate.

EXAMS AND GRADING

There will be a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam, each worth 30 points. There will also be a 15-page Research Paper, due before the end of the semester, worth 40 points. Graduate students may be responsible for additional readings and a longer research paper. There will be no makeups given except in extreme emergencies and late assignments will not be accepted for a grade. The course grade will be determined by combining all possible points, for a total of 100 points. The standard University system will then be used to assign letter grades as follows:

A = 92-100; A- = 90-91; B+ = 88-89; B = 82-87; B- = 80-81; C+ = 78-79; C = 72-77; C- = 70-71; D+ = 68-69; D = 62-67; D- = 60-61; F = 0-59.

All examinations, papers, and other graded work products and assignments are to be completed in conformance with The George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity.

ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is strongly suggested. For every five unexcused absences, the final semester grade may be lowered by one full grade (an "A" drops to a "B") at the discretion of the instructor.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held after class on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:00 - 3:30 pm in 302 Phillips. VoiceMail messages can be left anytime, day or night, at (202) 994-0316; Email messages can be sent to ehcline@gwu.edu. Appointments may also be made to see the instructor at times other than the official office hours.

PROMETHEUS

You must register to gain access to our Prometheus on-line course. The Course ID number is '61875' and the Password is 'neolithic'. [NB: do not include the quotation marks.] Please register on-line as soon as possible.

LECTURES AND TOPICS

Date:

Topics:

Jan 14 (T)

Introduction. Course syllabus and objectives.

Jan 16 (R)

No Class

Readings:

Kuijt, Ch. 1; Pollock, Ch. 1; Cullen, Introduction

Jan 21 (T)

The Neolithic in the Levant and Anatolia: The Origins of Agriculture

Jan 23 (R)

Case Study: Abu Hureyra

Readings:

On reserve: Flannery (1973) 271-284; Redman (1978) 88-140; Moore (1983) 91-111; Bar-Yosef and Meadow (1995) 39-93

Jan 28 (T)

The Neolithic in the Levant and Anatolia: The Rise of Villages

Jan 30 (R)

Case Study: Hallan Çemi

Readings:

Kuijt, Ch. 2, 3 and 9

Feb 4 (T)

The Neolithic in the Levant and Anatolia: Religion and Belief

Feb 6 (R)

Case Studies: 'Ain Ghazal and Çatal Höyük

Readings:

Kuijt, Ch. 7, 10, and 11; Simmons et al. (1988) 35-39;
<http://catal.arch.cam.ac.uk/catal/catal.htm>

Feb 11 (T)

The Neolithic in the Levant and Anatolia: Death and the Afterlife

Feb 13 (R)

Case Studies: Jericho and Kfar Hahores

Readings:

Kuijt, Ch. 5 and 6

Feb 18 (T)

Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Mesopotamia: From Settlements to Cities

Feb 20 (R)

Case Study: Hassuna/Halaf/Ubaid and the Origins of Urban Society

Readings:

Pollock, Ch. 2, 3, and 4

Feb 25 (T)

Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Mesopotamia: The First Empires

Feb 27 (R)

Case Study: Uruk/Jemdet Nasr and the Origins of Writing

Readings:

Pollock, Ch. 5 and 6

Date:

Topics:

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| March 4 (T) | <i>Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Mesopotamia: Death and Ritual</i> |
| March 6 (R) | <i>Case Study: Royal Cemetery of Ur</i> |
| Readings: | Pollock, Ch. 7 and 8 |
| March 11 (T) | <i>Review for Midterm Exam</i> |
| March 13 (R) | *** MIDTERM EXAM *** |
| March 18 (T) | NO CLASS — SPRING BREAK. |
| March 20 (R) | NO CLASS — SPRING BREAK. |
| March 25 (T) | <i>The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in the Aegean: Cave-Dwellers</i> |
| March 27 (R) | <i>Case Study: Franchthi Cave</i> |
| Readings: | Runnels (Ch. IV in Cullen); Hansen (1992) 231-247; Jacobsen (1981) 303-319 |
| April 1 (T) | <i>The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in the Aegean: Towns and Villages</i> |
| April 3 (R) | <i>Case Study: Sesklo and Dimini</i> |
| Readings: | Andreou <i>et al.</i> (Ch. V in Cullen); Vermeule (1964/72) Ch. I |
| April 8 (T) | <i>The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in the Aegean: Early State Formation</i> |
| April 10 (R) | <i>Case Study: Lerna</i> |
| Readings: | Rutter (Ch. II in Cullen); Vermeule (1964/72) 22-42 |
| April 15 (T) | <i>The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in the Aegean: The Greek Islands</i> |
| April 17 (R) | <i>Case Study: Cycladic Figurines and the Antiquities Market</i> |
| Readings: | Davis (Ch. I in Cullen); Vermeule (1964/72) 45-57; Gill and Chippindale (1993) 601-659 |
| April 22 (T) | <i>The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in the Aegean: Early Crete</i> |
| April 24 (R) | <i>Case Study: Earliest Minoan Palaces [Paper Due]</i> |
| Readings: | Watrous (Ch. III in Cullen) |
| April 29 (T) | <i>The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age: World Systems Theory</i> |
| May 1 (R) | <i>Review for Final Exam</i> |
| Readings: | Frank (1993) 383-429; Kardulias (1996) 1-36; Cline (1999) 115-143 |
| May 8 (R) | *** FINAL EXAM *** 11:00 AM!! |

NB: The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Reserve Reading:

Bar-Yosef, O., and Meadow, R., "The Origins of Agriculture in the Near East," in *Last Hunters, First Farmers*, D. Price and A-B Gebauer, eds (SAR Press, 1995) 39-94.

Cline, E.H., "The Nature of the Economic Relations of Crete with Egypt and the Near East During the Bronze Age," in *From Minoan Farmers to Roman Traders: Sidelights on the Economy of Ancient Crete*, A. Chaniotis, ed. (G.B. Steiner, 1999) 115-143.

Flannery, K., "The Origins of Agriculture," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 2 (1973) 271-284.

Frank, A.G., "Bronze Age World System Cycles," *Current Anthropology* 34/4 (1993) 383-429.

Gill, D., and Chippindale, C., "Material and intellectual consequences of esteem for Cycladic figures," *American Journal of Archaeology* 97 (1993) 601-659.

Hansen, J., "Franchthi Cave and the Beginning of Agriculture in Greece and the Aegean," *Préhistoire de l'Agriculture: Nouvelles approches expérimentales et ethnographiques* (Paris 1992) 231-247.

Jacobsen, T.W., "Franchthi Cave and the Beginning of Settled Village Life in Greece," *Hesperia* 50 (1981) 303-319.

Kardulias, P.N., "Multiple levels in the Aegean Bronze Age World-System," *Journal of World-Systems Research* 2/11 (1996) 1-36.

Moore, A.M.T., "The first farmers in the Levant," in *The Hilly Flanks and Beyond*, P.E.L. Smith and P. Mortensen, eds (Chicago, 1983) 91-111.

Redman, C., "Chapter 4. The Origins of Agriculture," in *The Rise of Civilization* (W.H. Freeman and Co., 1978) 88-140.

Simmons, A., Kohler-Rollefson, I., Rollefson, G., *et al.*, "Ain Ghazal: A Major Neolithic Settlement in Central Jordan," *Science* 240 (1988) 35-39.

Vermeule, E.T., *Greece in the Bronze Age* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964/72).