Great Archaeological Discoveries

Instructor: Dr. Sonia Harmand
Email: sonia.harmand@stonybrook.edu
Office & Phone: Soc. Behav. Sci. N-517
Office Hours: Mo, Fr 2:30 - 3:30 pm or by appointment

Classroom: Melville Library E4315
Class Time: Mo, Fr 1:00 - 2:20 pm
Course Web Site: See Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Archaeology is the systematic study of the human past based on the recovery and analysis of the material record and its context. Archaeology is worlds away from Indiana Jones. It is not just about treasure, not just about rich burials, it is a serious scientific discipline. This course explores the astonishing variety of human achievement, the remains of humanity’s past, the end-products of our ancestors’ ingenuity, through the study of a number of spectacular archaeological discoveries and the scientific methods that makes them possible, following a generally chronological scheme. It seeks to explain when, where, how and why things happened and changed in the past. It also explains what archaeologists do and why. The lectures focus on several topics including the evolution of hominins and the emergence of modern humans, the peopling of the regions of the earth, the rise of farming communities, the development of complex societies and civilization, and the collapse of ancient cultures. The course will also describe the history of archaeology, its aims and methods, and its role in contemporary society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course meets Stony Brook Curriculum's “Engage Global Issues” category. Students must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interconnectedness of the world, past and present, and of a society or culture outside of the United States. This course meets Stony Brook's SBS Understand, Observe, and Analyze Human Behavior and Societal Constructs. Students must demonstrate knowledge of a list of human behaviors and experiences in the context of human interaction. Students will gain a detailed understanding of a number of great archaeological and learn to interpret the archaeological data that informs the current state of research. This course will teach students the methods of archaeological reasoning and show how the applications of new interdisciplinary scientific techniques are helping to illuminate our past.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Students are expected to attend all classes. My PowerPoint presentations will not be up on Blackboard.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING
Final grades will be determined by:
Midterm exam = 30 points. It will consist of multiple choice, matching, and fill-in-the blank questions (i.e., evaluating your knowledge more than your ability to express that knowledge). You will also have short answer questions and you will be asked to briefly discuss a few of the “Great Discoveries” and show how they contributed to our broader understanding of the topic at hand. Midterm covers only material from the beginning of class to the midterm. Midterm is March 11th.
Cumulative final exam = 35 points. Same format as the midterm, but covering material from the entire course. Week of finals (May 10-18).
Attendance and Class participation = 5 points. Class participation will be evaluated based on your attendance and your participation in class. Students who are not present receive minus points for that class session.
In class presentation = 30 points. The instructor will distribute a list of topics. The research project will be presented individually and by alphabetical order to the class on April 25th, 29th or May 2nd. Each student will have 10 minutes. The aim of this course is for you to develop your critical thinking skills and your ability to express your ideas. Presentations should include figures, maps, stratigraphic sections, other necessary material, and have at least 10 bibliographic references from the primary academic literature.
COURSE RESOURCES
Additional resources and readings if needed for this course will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES
Classroom etiquette:
While students are in class, they are expected to give their full attention to the lecture. Reading, talking, eating, texting or browsing on cell phones, leaving or packing up to leave before the professor has dismissed the class are inappropriate classroom behaviors and disruptive to other students. If for some reason you know that you will need to leave lecture early, let me know before class begins, sit near a door, and leave quietly and unobtrusively. If you come to class late, be sure to enter quietly and take care not to disturb the class in progress. Also, please make sure that your watch alarms, pagers, and cell phones do not go off during class.

Attendance and preparation of assignments:
Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please email me to inform me. Unexcused absences will lower your grade. Computer glitches (such as computers that die, hard disks that crash, flash drives that are lost, etc) will not be accepted as excuses for failure to do assignments on time, to study for exams, etc.

Americans with Disabilities Act:
If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work, please contact the Disability Support Services office in the Educational Communications Center (ECC) Building, room 128 (632-6748). DSS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

Academic Integrity:
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

Critical Incident Management:
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.
COURSE SCHEDULE AND SYLLABUS

Week 1
(January 25): Introduction to the class, course requirements. The Nature and Aims of Archaeology
(January 29): The rise of archaeological science: history of Archaeology, first excavations and pioneers

Week 2
(February 1): The oldest archaeological site in the world: Lomekwi 3
(February 5): Laetoli foot prints and the first Australopithecines from Africa

Week 3
(February 8): Olduvai: stone tools and fossil bones
(February 12): Out of Africa and the spread of modern humans

Week 4
(February 15): Ice Age art: the first cave artists and the Venus
(February 19): The antiquity of human religious practices: the spectacular graves of Shanidar and Sungir

Week 5
(February 22): Nataruk: the earliest evidence of war
(February 26): Çatalhöyük and the Neolithic of the Near East

Week 6
(February 29): The oldest golden treasure in the world: the Varna necropolis
(March 4): Civilizations of the Near East and Mesopotamia: Uruk and Ur

Week 7
(March 7): Ötzi the Iceman
(March 11): Mid-Term Exam

Week 8
(March 14): NO CLASS – Spring Break!!
(March 18): NO CLASS – Spring Break!!

Week 9
(March 21): The rise of standing stones: Stonehenge, Carnac and Newgrange
(March 25): The Peopling of the Americas: Folsom, Clovis, Monteverde, and the Kennewick Man

Week 10
(March 28): One of the New Seven Wonders of the World: the Inca Machu Pichu
(April 1): Ancient Egypt and Tutankhamen

Week 11
(April 4): Angkor and the impressive monuments in South-East Asia
(April 8): The Maya civilization in Mesoamerica

Week 12
(April 11): The Terra Cotta Army of warriors and horses
(April 15): The three scripts of the Rosetta stone

Week 13
(April 18): The cities of Petra and Palmyra
(April 22): Pompeii and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius

**Week 14**
(April 25): In class presentation (part 1)
(April 29): In class presentation (part 2)

**Week 15**
(May 2): In class presentation (part 3)
(May 6): Guest Lecture TBD

**Week 16**
(May 9): Reading day
(May 17): Finals 2:15-5:00 pm