

ANTH 3: WORLD PREHISTORY: THE RISE & FALL OF EARLY CIVILIZATIONS

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Summer 2025
Units:	4
Hours:	4 lecture per week (48 total per quarter)
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Area 4: Social & Behavioral Sciences
Transferable:	CSU/UC
Grade Type:	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

Student Learning Outcomes

- Analyze material culture, including how to hypothesize and build a model of past behavior from archeological evidence.
- Analyze similarities and differences in subsistence strategies, social organization, and technological innovations in past societies from different world regions.
- Illustrate and explain the processes of culture change and recognize the patterns of past processes in present day society.

Description

Survey of world prehistory as reconstructed by archaeologists. Human culture history from Stone Age beginnings to establishment and collapse of the world's first major civilizations. Covers societies from Asia and Africa to Europe and the Americas. Introduction to archaeological methods and interpretation. First use of tools, social complexity, urbanization, domestication of plants and animals, and the rise and fall of civilizations.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Gain knowledge of the origin of human beings as traced to the origin of culture.
- Become familiar with the archaeological evidence that led to the evolution of humans using methods of prehistory, theories of culture growth, and the material evidence of humans.
- Expand important insights into contemporary human behavior.
- Apply analytical, critical thinking, and research skills to models and theories of social change.

Course Content

- Introduction to prehistory and archaeology
- Methods in prehistory and archaeology
- Methods of dating organic and inorganic materials
- Human origins

- Hadar
 - Laetoli
 - Swartkrans
 - Olduvai
 - First tools: Oldowan
- Great Diaspora
 - Homo erectus
 - Zhoukoudian
 - First Europeans
 - Acheulean
 - Cultural beginnings
 - Rise of Homo sapiens
 - Origins of language
 - Neanderthals
 - Lascaux
 - Pleistocene
 - First Americans
 - Kennewick Man
 - Monte Verde
 - Clovis
 - Complex hunters and gatherers
 - Postglacial foragers
 - Elands Bay
 - Contemporary hunters and gatherers
 - First farmers
 - Origins of agriculture
 - Domestication
 - Paleoethnobotany
 - Staple crops
 - Jericho
 - Archaeozoology
 - Catalhoyuk
 - Pottery
 - Southeast Asia and rice
 - Native Americans and maize
 - Tehuacan
 - Valley of Oaxaca
 - Native North Americans
 - Hopewell
 - Cahokia
 - Monumental architecture
 - Moundville
 - Grave offerings
 - Snaketown
 - Southwest
 - Chaco Canyon
 - Anasazi
 - Chiefs
 - Caribbean
 - Mesoamerica
 - Early state development
 - San Jose Mogote
 - Olmec

- i. La Venta
 - ii. San Lorenzo
- d. Monte Alban
- e. Teotihuacan
- f. Maya
 - i. Tikal
 - ii. Ballgame
 - iii. Calendar
 - iv. Monuments
 - v. Rise of kings
 - vi. Collapse
 - vii. Chichen Itza
- g. Aztec
- 11. South America
 - a. Chavin
 - b. Moche
 - c. Nazca
 - d. Tiwanaku
 - e. Chan Chan
 - f. Inca
- 12. Southwest Asia
 - a. Eridu
 - b. Uruk
 - c. Harrappa
- 13. Africa
 - a. Egypt
 - b. Great Zimbabwe
- 14. Asia
 - a. China
 - b. Angkor
- 15. Europe
 - a. Iceman
 - b. Stonehenge
 - c. Bronze Age
 - d. Knossos
 - e. Mycenae
 - f. Bog people
- 16. Past as present and future

Lab Content

Not applicable.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

When taught as an online distance learning section, students and faculty need ongoing and continuous internet and email access.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Midterm
Final examination
Oral class reports
Written research papers

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture
Discussion
Cooperative learning exercises
Oral presentations
Field trips

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Feder, Kenneth. *The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Prehistory*, 9th ed., 2024.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

1. Midterm examination designed to cover the first half of the class with multiple choice questions, short answers, and essay questions.
2. Final examination that is similar and covers the second half of the course.
3. Oral class reports designed to cover the research topic assigned. Each student will formulate a research project and present the results.
4. Written research papers due at the end of the quarter.

Discipline(s)

Anthropology