

Anthropology 2031-01 (16818); 232-1
Rise of Civilizations
Spring Semester 2007
Dr. Ewa Wasilewska

COURSE OUTLINE

- Instructor:** Dr. Ewa Wasilewska
- Office hours:** By appointment only; please call the Department of Anthropology (581-6251) and leave your name, phone number, and class number.
E-mail: Mruczek@AOL.com
Website: www.ewas.us
- Time:** Each Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Location:** CAMPUS – ST 104
- Important dates:** January 17, 07 – last day to drop classes
January 22, 07 – last day to add classes
January 22, 07 – last day to elect CR/NC option or to audit classes
March 2, 07 – last day to withdraw from term length classes
- Required Texts:** All required articles/chapters (in chronological order) are to be found at the Reserve Desk at Marriott Library. Please check also electronic reserve by Marriott Library.
All articles/chapters are listed below as the required reading for specific weeks. Since it might be cheaper and faster to order Stiebing's book than to copy it, this book ([Stiebing, William H. Jr. *Uncovering the Past: A History of Archaeology*. Pp. 55-248. Oxford University Press. 1993](#)) has been ordered through the University Bookstore. This book is a lot of fun!
- Ewa Wasilewska: *Rise of Civilization. Notes. 2007.* (EW)**
- Notes can be purchased during the first three class meetings from an instructor.
- Future/Optional Texts:** Such texts are listed after required readings about any of the discussed civilizations. You don't have to read them this semester (or any other semester) but if you are interested in exploring any specific subject on your own, this is a start.
- Subject:** This course fulfills Social/Behavioral Science Integration. It focuses on the rise of various civilizations around the world. This class explores such famous complex societies as Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Maya, as well as those less known but equally important as the Indus Valley or nomadic empire of the Hsiung-Nu.
- Requirements:** Come to the lectures, enjoy them, do your readings, and pass required exams! And remember, always laugh at the instructor's jokes!

Week # 1 – January 10, 2007

Toward a definition of "CIVILIZATION." Part 1.

[From] Common understanding: "You know it when you find it," i.e., selected histories of

discoveries.

Origin of the term itself (Latin “civilis, civilitas, civis, civitas;” French “civilisation, civilisateur, civiliser;”).

Other terms (e.g., “prehistory versus history,” “complex versus primitive societies”).

Selected discoveries: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Minoan, and Mesoamerican civilizations.

Required reading (long, but a lot of fun):

Notes #1 & 2.

Stiebing, William H. Jr. *Uncovering the Past: A History of Archaeology*. Pp. 55-248. Oxford University Press.

Week # 2 – January 17, 2007**Toward a definition of “CIVILIZATION.” Part 2.**

[Through] Classical listing of elements of civilization (understood as “urbanization”).

Required reading:

Notes # 1 & 2

Childe, V. Gordon. The Urban Revolution. Pp. 6-14. In *Lamberg-Karlovsky, C.C. & Jeremy A. Sabloff. The Rise And Fall of Civilizations*. Cummings Publishing Company. 1974.

[To] Modern methodologies in comparative studies of various civilizations.**Required readings:**

Fagan, Brian M. Chapter 19. Study of Cultural Process: Processual archaeology. Pp. 507-523. In *In the Beginning: An Introduction to Archaeology*. Little, Brown and Company. 1985.

Buren, Mary Van & Janet Richards. Introduction: ideology, wealth, and the comparative study of “civilizations.” Pp. 3-12. In *Order, Legitimacy, and Wealth in Ancient States. Part I: Order, Legitimacy, and Wealth in Ancient States*. Cambridge University Press. 2000.

Baines, John & Norman Yoffee. Order, legitimacy, & wealth: setting the terms. Pp. 13-17. In *Buren, Mary Van & Janet Richards, eds. Order, Legitimacy, and Wealth in Ancient States. Part I: Order, Legitimacy, and Wealth in Ancient States*. Cambridge University Press. 2000.

Future/optional reading:

McGuire, Randall H. Core and Periphery Systems. Pp. 132-137. In *Ellis, Linda ed. Archaeological Method and Theory. An Encyclopedia*. Garland Publishing, Inc. 2000.

Week # 3 – January 24, 2007**Civilization out of clay: MESOPOTAMIA.**

Writing: the main or just contributing factor in the development of civilization.

Temples – centers of distribution.

Many “firsts” on which a civilization is supposed to be based.

From city-states to the first empire.

Rich people, “poor” neighbours.

Childe’s and others’ check lists.

Required readings:

Notes # 3.

Nissen, Hans J. The Period of Early High Civilization. Pp. 65-128. In *The Early History of the Ancient Near East*. The University of Chicago Press. 1988.

Sweet, Ronald F.G. Writing as a Factor in the Rise of Urbanism. Pp. 35-49. In *Aufrecht, Walter E., Neil A. Mirau & Steven W. Gauley eds. Urbanism in Antiquity*. Sheffield Academic Press. 1997.

Future/optional reading (absolutely great and fun to read):

Kramer, Samuel Noah. *History Begins in Sumer*. The University of Pennsylvania Press. 1981.

Movie:

Iraq: The Cradle of Civilization. Legacy . #1. V-Cass CB 311 L43 1991.

Week # 4 – January 31, 2007

Cities of the dead but where were the living? EGYPT.

Religion: through battles to unity.

Pharaoh: a god left behind?

Writing: an independent invention?

Grand scale of public works.

Urban legend of the huts.

Childe's and others' check lists.

Required readings:

Notes # 4.

Redford, Donald B. The Ancient Egyptian "City": Figment or Reality? Pp. 210-220. In *Aufrecht, Walter E., Neil A. Mirau & Steven W. Gauley eds. Urbanism in Antiquity*. Sheffield Academic Press. 1997.

Routledge, Carolyn. Temple as the Center in Ancient Egyptian Urbanism. Pp. 221-235. In *Aufrecht, Walter E., Neil A. Mirau & Steven W. Gauley eds. Urbanism in Antiquity*. Sheffield Academic Press. 1997.

Patterson, Thomas C. Africa and Egypt. Pp. 187-207. In *Archaeology: The Historical Development of Civilizations*. Prentice-Hall Inc. 1993.

Future/optional readings (fun, fun, fun):

Almost anything about ancient Egyptian religion. (Avoid those without pictures).

Karl-Theodor Zauzich: Hieroglyphs without Mystery. University of Texas Press. 1996. (Impress your friends with knowledge of the ancient Egyptian script).

Movie:

Egypt: Quest for Immortality. Time Life's Lost Civilizations. #4. V-Cass CB 311 T54 1995 v. 1. 48 minutes.

Week # 5 – February 7, 2007

Summary with movies. Review.

Week # 6 – February 14, 2007

EXAM #1

Week # 7 – February 21, 2007

The greatest bazaars (markets) in the world. CANAAN/PHOENICIA.

It is all about neighborhood: trading competition.

The sea knows no limit: spreading "the word."

The price of peace: let foreign empires set up their rules.

A case of "megalomania": ancient Israel according to the Old Testamental authors.

Childe's and others' check lists.

Required readings:

Notes # 5-7.

Patterson, Thomas C. State Formation, Ethnogenesis, and Resistance: The Levant in the First Millennium B.C. Pp. 216-226. In *Archaeology. The Historical Development of Civilizations*. Prentice Hall. 1993.

Markoe, Glenn E. History. In *Peoples of the Past: Phoenicians*. University of California Press. Pp. 14-67.

Future/optional readings:

The rest of Markoe's book (somewhat boring but very informative).

For information about sailing the Atlantic see Cunliffe, Barry. Facing the Ocean. The Atlantic and Its

People. Oxford University Press. 2001.

Week # 8 – February 28, 2007

Staying in charge. The emergence of THE MINOAN and MYCENAEAN civilizations.

Palace-centered polities.

Mystery of its origin – the Minoan Linear A.

Continuation of the island culture on land: the Mycenaean civilization.

Heinrich Schliemann: reinventing the legend of Troy.

Childe's and others' check lists.

Required readings:

Notes # 8

Tsipopoulou, Metaxia. Palace-Centered Polities in Eastern Crete: Neopalatial Petras and Its Neighbors. Pp. 263-277. In *Aufrecht, Walter E., Neil A. Mirau & Steven W. Gauley eds. Urbanism in Antiquity*. Sheffield Academic Press. 1997.

Wolff, Walther. The Aegean. Pp. 165-203. In *Early Civilizations: Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Aegean*. The Herbert Press. 1989.

Future/optional readings:

Works of Homer. You should go through them at least once in your life.

Movie:

Aegean: Legacy of Atlantis. Time Life's Lost Civilizations. #4. V-Cass CB 311 T54 1995. 48 minutes.

Week # 9 – March 7, 2007

Galloping through the steppe to civilization. THE HITTITES and others OF ANATOLIA.

Çatal Huyuk – a city with no right to exist.

The Indo-Europeans and those whom they ruled.

From nomads to urban dwellers to an empire?

In the name of tolerance: let's worship them all.

Childe's and others' check lists.

Required readings:

Notes # 9

Dunstan, William E. Chapter VIII. The Hittites of Anatolia and Their Contemporaries. Pp. 154-175. In *The Ancient Near East*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers. 1998.

Hamblin, Dora Jane. Chapter III. The Shrines of «atal H_y,k. Pp. 42-67. In *The First Cities*. Time-Life Books. 1973.

Future/optional reading (boring but very informative):

Macqueen, J.G. *The Hittites and Their Contemporaries in Asia Minor*. Thames and Hudson. 1986.

Week # 10 – March 15, 2006

Divine authority and divided reality of the empire. PERSIA.

The forgotten civilization: Elam.

Arrival of the "Aryans" and their dominance in the area (The Medes and the Persians).

Too nice to last? The empire of tolerance and moderation.

Between monotheism and polytheism: divine authority of Zaratushtra.

Childe's and others' check lists.

Required reading:

Notes #10 & 11

Dunstan, William E. Chapter XIII and XIV. Persia. *Persian Cultural Achievements*. Pp. 267-294. In *The*

Ancient Near East. Harcourt Brace College Publishers. 1998.

Future/optional reading (somewhat dry but quite informative):

Curtis, John. *Ancient Persia*. Harvard University Press. 1990.

Movie:

To be decided.

Week # 11 – March 21, 2007

SPRING BREAK!

Week # 12 – March 28, 2007

EXAM # 2

Week # 13 – April 4, 2007

Land without conflict? THE INDUS VALLEY civilization.

The Dravidian and Indo-Aryan question.

Land without social stratification?

Too much religion or not enough – can we even speculate?

Focus on hygiene? Disposable cups and bath-houses.

Childe's and others' check lists.

Required readings:

Notes # 12 & 13

Kenoyer, Jonathan Mark. Introduction. Pp. 15-19. In *Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley Civilization*. Oxford University Press. 1998.

Patterson, Thomas C. Harappan Society: Class-stratified or kin-based? Pp. 141-146. In *Archaeology. The Historical Development of Civilizations*. Prentice Hall. 1993.

Future/optional reading (very informative):

Kenoyer, Jonathan Mark. *Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley Civilization*. Oxford University Press. 1998.

Movie:

India: The Empire of Spirit. Legacy. #2. V-Cass CB 311 L43 1991

Week # 14 – April 11, 2007

Too many empires, too much conflict: CHINA AND HSIUNG-NU. Part 1.

Sedentary versus nomadic empires: China vs. Hsiung-Nu.

The Great Wall and Teracotta Warriors of Xi'an.

In search of defense: the Silk Road.

Is the conflict still there?

Childe's and others' check lists.

Required readings:

Notes #14 & 15

Barnes, Gina L. Chapter 12. The Making and Breaking of Empire. 220 B.C. – A.D. 500. Pp. 192-207. In *The Rise of Civilization in East Asia: The Archaeology of China, Korea and Japan*. Thames & Hudson. 1999.

Di Cosmo, Nicola. Those Who Draw the Bow. The Rise of the Hsiung-nu Nomadic Empire and the Political Unification of the Nomads. Pp. 161-205. In *Ancient China and Its Enemies. The Rise of Nomadic Power in East Asian History*. Cambridge University Press. 2002.

Future/optional reading (very interesting but also confusing at times):

Di Cosmo's whole book.

Movies:

China: Dynasties of Power. Time Life's Lost Civilizations. #6. V-Cass CB 311 T54 1995. v. 6. 48 minutes.

China: The Mandate of Heaven. Legacy . #3. V-Cass CB 311 L43 1991. Silk Road series.

Week # 15 – April 18, 2007

Too many empires, too much conflict: CHINA AND HSIUNG-NU. Part 2.

Week # 16 – April 25, 2007

The “enigma” of the New World: THE MAYA, THE AZTECS and THE INCAS.

Continuum of complexity: Mesoamerica as a scholarly dream.

>From prehistory to history: decipherment of the Mayan languages and writing.

Chocolate to die for: human sacrifices and commerce among the Aztecs.

Is the writing necessary? The Inca Empire.

Childe's and others' check lists.

Required readings:

Notes # 16

Smith, Michael E. & Marilyn A. Masson, eds. Part III. Political Organization. (6 articles by different authors). Pp. 252-359. In *The Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica. A Reader*. Blackwell Publishers. 2000.

Patterson, Thomas C. Chapter 15. South America. Pp. 327-348. In *Archaeology: The Historical Development of Civilizations*. Prentice Hall. 1993.

Future/optional reading (fun and informative):

Foster, Lynn V. Handbook to Life in the Ancient Maya World. Facts On File, Inc. 2002.

Movies:

Inca: Secrets of the Ancestors. Time Life's Lost Civilizations. #9. V-Cass CB 311 T54 1995. v. 9. 48 minutes.

Maya: The Blood of Kings. Time Life's Lost Civilizations. #9. V-Cass CB 311 T54 1995. v. 2. 48 minutes.

Week # 17 – May 2, 2006

FINAL EXAM!!!

