

**Archaeology and Physical Anthropology
Moravian College
Syllabus**

Sociology Department - SOC/IDIS 299

Fall 2006

Wednesday 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Room: PPHAC 330

Instructor: Michael L. Young

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Office Hours: Wednesday 5:15 - 6:15 PM

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Course Description:

This course will provide students with an overview of two of the four subfields of anthropology: archaeology and physical anthropology. These disciplines are a major source of the empirical evidence which allows scholars to understand the rise of human cultures, especially in prehistoric times. Thus, they are also important to our understanding of the development of classical and modern civilizations. For example, much of our knowledge about the creation of various cultural traditions around the world (e.g., religions, kinship systems, forms of aesthetic expression, etc.) is based upon the work of archaeologists and physical anthropologists. The primary focus will, therefore, be on the methods of inquiry used by such scholars and the kinds of insights about human societies that their work has made possible. Major developments in human cultural development, such as the origins of the domestication of plants and animals and resulting systems of food production as necessary foundations for the rise of civilizations, will also be considered. The benefits of these developments, as well as the costs in terms of environmental degradation and increased social inequality, will be discussed.

Texts:

Kottak, Conrad Phillip

2006 *Physical Anthropology and Archaeology*, Second Edition. The McGraw Hill Companies, Inc, New York, New York.

Fagan, Brian M.

2007 *People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory*, Twelfth Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

Goals of the Course:

This course will provide an overview of archaeology and physical anthropology, two of the subfields of anthropology. Anthropology is the comprehensive study of human beings, and this course will provide a comprehensive overview of this subject. Anthropologists study humans both biologically and culturally, in both the present and the past. Students will learn the key concepts central to both of these subfields. Expected student goals from this course include the following:

- Students will learn the methods used by archaeologists and physical anthropologists in acquiring and evaluating evidence of earlier societies (finding and identification of fossils, excavation techniques, methods of dating artifacts, etc.).
- Students will gain a thorough knowledge of the techniques and concepts employed by physical anthropologists in the study of evolution, human variation, race, living and extinct primate species, human evolution, and the various extinct hominid species.
- Students will also gain a thorough knowledge of the techniques and concepts employed by archaeologists in the study of early tool-making hominids, prehistoric hunter-gatherers, the origins and spread of food production, and the development and/or rise of Civilizations and The State.
- This course will emphasize the impact of the disciplines of archaeology and physical anthropology on our understanding of the development of ancient and, ultimately, modern cultures.
- Students will gain an understanding and awareness of the role archaeology and physical anthropology play in his/her life and contemporary society through discussions of the scientific methods and techniques employed by the practitioners of these fields.

Class Evaluations:

Students will take a Midterm and Final examination, complete two take-home essay assignments, and prepare a 4 to 6 page paper during the course of the semester. Class participation will also be considered in evaluating student performance. Grades will be calculated by the instructor on a quantitative and qualitative basis and assigned according to the following system:

	A	93-100	A-	90-92
B+	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	D	60-66		
F		Below 60		

Student grades will be calculated on the basis of performance on class assignments in the following manner:

Essays	10% (5% each)
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Paper Assignment #1	10%
Assignment #2	10%
Final Paper	15%
Class Participation	10%

Course Requirements:

Issues and Questions

Students are responsible for doing the assigned reading before class. The reading assigned for each week is clearly indicated below. Each week I will give you a sheet of **Issues and Questions** to contemplate during the next week's reading assignment and to guide discussions. These sheets have a dual purpose:

- 1) to stimulate critical thought and opinions which will be openly discussed in the following class; and
- 2) to provide study aides for the exams.

A significant portion of these questions and discussions, along with essay assignments, will be focused upon understanding the significant contributions archaeology and physical anthropology offer for reconstructing past societies and what the potential impact of these contributions are for contemporary society.

Essays

You will prepare two take-home essay assignments for this course, based upon one of the Issues and Questions sheets assigned for a particular week's readings. The due dates for these assignments are indicated in the Class Topics and Assignments section below. You should write a short essay on each question, using your textbook and class notes to prepare the best answer possible.

Midterm Exam

The midterm will cover all material, from class activities and from readings, covered during the first eight weeks of class. Many questions, but by no means all, will be drawn from the **Issues and Questions** sheets. You should be well

prepared if you review your class and reading notes weekly and study the **Issues and Questions** sheets as the semester progresses.

Final Exam

The final exam will cover all material, from class and from readings covered throughout the course, including the first 8 weeks prior to the midterm. To avoid the need to learn a large body of new material at the end of this course it is highly recommended that you study your notes from class and the readings throughout the semester.

Paper Assignment

Students will prepare a research paper on a topic relating to the material covered in this course, focusing upon how particular scientific research in physical anthropology and/or archaeology has generated significant information regarding past societies. More guidelines for choosing a topic can be found on the **Paper Requirements** document and will be provided in class. You will be given a list of potential topics, though you are also welcome to generate your own. A list of recommended academic journals and books will also be provided.

#1 - All students must turn in an introductory paragraph and a bibliography with at least one reference (other than the texts) in class on **September 13** (see Class Topics and Assignments section below). The introduction must include a **thesis statement**, which is a concise statement of the focus of your paper.

#2 - All students must turn in a revised introductory paragraph, with an outline, and a full bibliography in class on **October 18** (see Class Topics and Assignments section below). Introductions should be revised according to the instructor's comments and suggestions.

Final Paper - A final version of your paper, incorporating the suggestions made on assignments 1 and 2, is due in class on **November 15** (see Class Topics and Assignments section below). This paper must be **4 to 6 pages**, double spaced, in 12 point font.

** See the additional **Paper Requirements** handout for more instructions on preparing these assignments.

Archaeological Site Visit

A visit to a nearby archaeological site will be arranged. The instructor works for a cultural resource management firm which conducts archaeological investigations throughout eastern Pennsylvania and the Middle Atlantic Region. If excavation is underway at a suitable site within a reasonable distance from Moravian College a fieldtrip will be arranged if possible. Students will be asked to substitute one Wednesday evening class for a Saturday morning for the event. If no suitable sites are being excavated within the region in September or October than other local sites, such as those maintained by Historic Bethlehem or the Hardyston Jasper Prehistoric Quarry sites in Macungie and Vera Cruz, may be visited instead.

Class Participation

The class participation portion of the grade for this class will be determined on the basis of class attendance and participation in class discussions. Attendance will be checked at the beginning of each class period and repeated absence will have a negative effect on class participation. Please advise the instructor in advance of a forthcoming absence due to illness or personal/family emergency. Grades for class participation will be calculated based upon both attendance and active participation in class discussions.

Readings

Assigned weekly readings are noted in the following schedule. The reading for each week is listed and should be completed before that class meets.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are expected and required to adhere to Moravian College's academic honesty policy at all times. At any point in essay or paper assignments when you use ideas or quotations obtained from another person you must **cite** them. Failure to do so would be plagiarism, which is in direct violation of the College's Academic Honesty Policy. You **must not plagiarize**. Plagiarism is defined as "...the use, deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgement." (For a fuller explanation of plagiarism, see the **Moravian College Student Handbook 2006-2007**, pp. 54-55.). Academic dishonesty will also include submitting, without the consent of the professor, an assignment already tendered for academic credit in another course.

Late Papers

Late essay and paper assignments will **lose 20%** of the grade for the assignment. Please advise the instructor in advance if unable to meet a deadline due to illness or personal/family emergency.

Changes to the Syllabus

In the event that changes should become necessary the instructor will hand out an addendum in class.

Learning Disabilities

Students who wish to disclose a disability and request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must meet with Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning services (for learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD) or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center (for all other disabilities).

Class Topics and Assignments:

Week 1

8/30 Introduction to Course; Introduction to Anthropology; Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology

Reading for Week 2: Kottak Chapters 1 and 3

Week 2

9/6 Introduction to Anthropology Cont'd; Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology; Methods in Physical Anthropology and Archaeology

Reading for Week 3: Kottak Chapter 2

Fagan Chapter 1

Week 3

9/13 Making Inferences about the Past from Archaeological Data; Applied Archaeology and Physical Anthropology

Essay #1 Due

Reading for Week 4:

Kottak Chapter 4, pp. 63-69, 72-79

Chapter 5, pp. 83-91, 97-98

Chapter 6, pp. 101-107, 118-124

Chapter 7, pp. 131-132, 142-146

Week 4

9/20 Evolution and Genetics; Race; Human Variation; Primates; and Primate Evolution

**Paper Assignment #1 Due - Introductory Paragraph
and Bibliographic References**

Reading for Week 5: Kottak Chapter 8
Fagan Chapter 2, pp. 26-49

Week 5

9/27 **Wednesday night class cancelled – Meet Saturday**

9/30 **Archaeological Site Visit – Saturday Morning Meeting**

More information to follow

Reading for Week 6: Fagan Chapter 2, 49-65
Fagan Chapter 3, pp. 66-91

Week 6

10/4 The Study of the Early Hominids; the Origins of Bipedalism

Reading for Week 7: Kottak Chapter 9
Fagan Chapter 3, pp. 92-110

Week 7

10/11 The Genus Homo; The Lower and Middle Paleolithic

Reading for Week 8: Fagan Chapter 4, pp. 112-133
Fagan Chapter 6, pp. 172-178
Fagan Chapter 7, pp. 190-199, 206-207

Week 8

10/18 The Upper Paleolithic; Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers - Bands and Tribes; The Peopling of North America; The Mesolithic

**Paper Assignment #2 Due - Revised Intro. paragraph,
Outline, and full Bibliography**

Week 9

10/25 **Midterm**

Reading for Week 10: Kottak Chapter 10
Fagan Chapter 8, pp. 212-218, 221-223, 227-233
Fagan Chapter 9, pp. 234-238, 248-249

Week 10

11/1 The Development of Human Culture: The Origins of Food
Production

Reading for Week 11: Kottak Chapter 11
Fagan Chapter 14

Week 11

11/8 The Development of Human Culture: Chiefdoms and the Origins
of Civilization and The State

Reading for Week 12: Fagan Chapter 15, pp. 352-363
Fagan Chapter 16, pp. 372-388
Fagan Chapter 17, pp. 406-416
Fagan Chapter 18, pp. 428-433

Week 12

11/15 The Study of Literate Societies; Ancient Civilizations in the Old
World Part I

Final Paper Due

Reading for Week 13: Fagan Chapter 5, pp. 142-149
Fagan Chapter 13, pp. 316-327
Fagan Chapter 19, pp. 444-455
Fagan Chapter 20, pp. 456-467

11/22 **THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS**

Week 13

11/29 Ancient Civilizations of the Old World Part II; The Study of the
More Recent Past - The Archaeology of Native Americans and
Colonial Historical Archaeology

Essay #2 Due

Reading for Week 14: Fagan Chapter 21, pp. 472-478, 481-502
Fagan Chapter 22, pp. 523-539

Week 14

12/6 Ancient Civilizations in the New World

12/13 **Final Exam**