

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Tuesday 4:00–5:15; Thursday 2:30–3:45 MULH 4034

INSTRUCTOR

Göbekli Tepe, Turkey: World's Oldest Temple

Dr. MIKAEL HALLER

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Office Hours (JBB 335K):

Tues: 2:30–4:00 pm

Wed: 2:00–5:00 pm

Thurs: 1:00–2:30 pm, or by Appointment



Course Summary

Archaeology and Physical Anthropology, with their long temporal framework, provide a unique opportunity to examine the development of human society; including how humans, and their ancestors, evolved both culturally and biologically over the past 5 million years. This course examines the nature of modern archaeological and physical anthropological research including topics on hominid evolution, origins of agriculture, and rise of states. We will examine how archaeologists and physical anthropologists work in the field, how they construct their interpretations and how analogical reasoning is crucial to this process. Through practical exercises, students will have an opportunity to apply this knowledge using real research data. More specifically, we will focus on human ecology and how lessons of the past can help understand current global socioenvironmental issues.

Course Delivery: Although this is an in-person course, online synchronous methods will be used if restrictions or quarantines are implemented (Collaborate, Moodle, and Microsoft Teams).

Course Text

Joy McCorriston and Julie Field

2019 *World Prehistory and the Anthropocene*. Thames and Hudson College, New York.

The text is available in the bookstore and also as an e-book at this link for a reduced cost, but you will only have access for 6 months:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/world-prehistory-and-the-anthropocene-joy-mccorriston-julie-field-v9780500842768>

Course Requirements (all assignments/exams will be submitted through Moodle)

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| 1) | READING SUMMARIES (2% each; 15 in total) | 30% |
| | These will consist of your answers to the <i>Chapter Questions</i> , due on the day assigned before class. | |
| 2) | Assignment Grade: Garbage Project (Due: Dec. 6) | 15% |
| 3) | Midterm Exam (Due: October 19) | 25% |
| | A MC/short answer and essay take-home exam based on the first part of the course (Chapters 1–7). | |
| 4) | Final Exam (Due: December 15) | 25% |
| | A MC/short answer and essay take-home exam based on the second part of the course (Chapters 8–15). | |

Exams will be based on information from lectures, readings, discussions, and videos.

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| 6) | PARTICIPATION | 5% |
| | Attendance will be taken and used in conjunction with your preparedness (did you read the text and articles) and your contributions to class discussions. Class disruptions (talking, lateness, etc.) will be subtracted and can end up as a negative score. | |

Summaries

2 typed pages double-spaced for the class's readings (1-inch margins, 11 font). These will be your answers to the *Chapter Questions* detailed at the end of each chapter of the textbook (range from 3 to 5 questions), due on the day assigned before class (no late submissions will be accepted). These are to be in your own words—**do not plagiarize the in-text summaries or use AI assistance**. Make sure to identify which *Chapter Questions* you are answering and put your name at the top. Submit your reading summary to the corresponding Moodle link. (Summaries are worth 2% each). Yes, you are encouraged to add in information from lectures.

Grading Policy

If a student misses an exam, it will be possible to write a make-up exam, but all make-up exams are essay format. Submitting exercises late will result in losing 25% for each day (late summaries will be accepted). Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with in strict accordance with [StFX's Academic regulations](#). If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining their own notes as I do not give out my class notes. (lectures will be recorded for online delivery classes)

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

I encourage students that require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications to contact [Learning Services](#). Please make arrangements within two weeks from the start of the course.

All StFX students have access to Microsoft Cloud services and should take advantage of this to ensure a backup of academic files. If you choose not to use this service, you are responsible for making your own backups to prevent losing data and not being able to submit required coursework.

Communication

All students have a StFX e-mail account, which must be checked regularly as notices and information pertaining to the course will be sent electronically. You can send electronic correspondence to my university e-mail address (mhaller@stfx.ca). Handouts and syllabus are available on the course Moodle site.

Students may drop a course, online in Banner, on or before the deadline of October 30, 2024.

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity. Please feel free to contact the Human Rights and Equity Advisor Megan Fogarty if you have questions or concerns about equity in the classroom or in the StFX Community in general. Megan can be contacted by email at mfogarty@stfx.ca or by telephone at 902-867-5306.

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St. Francis Xavier University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.
We are all Treaty people.

MONTH	Day	TOPIC	TEXTBOOK	HAND OUT	DUE (summaries)	DUE
SEPT	5	Introduction				
SEPT	10	Archaeology and the Anthropocene	Chapter 1			
SEPT	12	Discovering Diversity: Modern Human Origins	Chapter 2	Garbage Project	Chapter #1	
SEPT	17				Chapter #2	
SEPT	19	Technology Makes the Human	Chapter 3		Chapter #3	
SEPT	24					
SEPT	26	Peopling the World	Chapter 4		Chapter #4	
OCT	1	Responding to Climate Change	Chapter 5		Chapter #5	
OCT	3					
OCT	8	Extinctions in the Past	Chapter 6		Chapter #6	
OCT	10	Understanding Human Decisions	Chapter 7	MID-TERM	Chapter #7	
OCT	15-17	FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)				
OCT	22	Domestication and Its Consequences	Chapter 8		Chapter #8	MID-TERM (O19)
OCT	24					
OCT	29	Individuals and Identity Agency in History	Chapter 9		Chapter #9	
OCT	31					
NOV	5	Feeding Cities: Urbanism and Agriculture	Chapter 10		Chapter #10	
NOV	7					
NOV	12	Building Monuments, Building Society	Chapter 11		Chapter #11	
NOV	14					
NOV	19	Conspicuous Consumption	Chapter 12		Chapter #12	
NOV	21					
NOV	26	Writing: A History of Access to Information	Chapter 13		Chapter #13	
NOV	28	Extracting the Modern World: Fishing, Mining, and Slavery	Chapter 14		Chapter #14	
DEC	3	X-RING (NO CLASSES)				
DEC	5	The Future of the Anthropocene	Chapter 15		Chapter #15	Garbage Project (D6)
DEC	15	FINAL EXAM				