

ORIGINS OF CITIES

Wednesday 5:15-8:00 (Synchronous online)

INSTRUCTOR

Preah Khan, Angkor, Cambodia

Dr. MIKAEL HALLER
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Virtual Office Hours:
 Tues 2–3:30pm
 Wed 2:30–5pm
 Thurs 12:30–2pm
 or by Appointment
 (Collaborate/MS Teams for office hours)



Course Summary

Urban living is an increasingly common experience for humans across the globe. City life, however, is not strictly a modern phenomenon. This course is a broad introduction to the process of urbanism and the rise of early pre-industrial cities. Specific cases from the Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, China, Mesoamerica, the Andes, and modern North America are examined in order to elucidate the varying roles cities played in ancient civilizations, the specific factors that led to urban development in each area and how this can aid in our current understanding of modern urban life.

Course Delivery This is an online synchronous course using a combination of the following programs: Collaborate, Moodle, and Microsoft Teams.

Course Goals

This course is designed to explore the similarities and differences of the world’s earliest cities. Students will discover that even though great spans of time separate ancient and modern cities there are commonalities to urban life. In studying ancient cities, we attempt to better recognize not just how cities came about, but that despite the many problems of urban life people continued and continue to flock to cities. One of the main goals of this class is for students to better understand why people were motivated to adopt urban life in different areas of the world. Additionally, it should be remembered that when compared to the long history of humankind, cities are a recent development in social organization with which we continue to experiment through both our failures and successes.

Course Requirements

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|----|--|------------|
| 1) | READING SUMMARIES (14 in total) | 14% |
| | These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, due on the day assigned before class. Follow specific format. | |
| 2) | EXAMS | |
| | Mid-term (February 24) | 25% |
| | Final exam (April 15) | 25% |
| 3) | URBAN ASSIGNMENTS | |
| | Paper #1 Angkor (March 10) | 15% |
| | Urban Planning at Machu Picchu (April 7) | 15% |

- 3) **PARTICIPATION** **6%**
 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, tardiness, etc.) will be subtracted and can end up as a negatively score.

Summaries

2 typed pages double-spaced for the class's readings (1-inch margins, 11 font). These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, 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.**

Follow specific format. **Use headings.**

Title: (complete bibliographic information; single-spaced)

Description: (include a detailed description of the main themes and arguments of the reading; 1 page).

Relevance: (Describe how this reading relates to the course and our class discussions; 1 page).

(Summaries are worth 1% each)

Assigned Readings

Each class has been broken down into individual reading assignments that are expected to have been read **prior** to each class.

ARTICLE LIST

Section 0: Introduction

- Sabloff, Jeremy A.
 2008 Why Cities? In *Archaeology Matters*, pp. 69-77. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA (Just read, but no summary). (Moodle)

Section 1: Urban Anthropology: The City and Society

- Marconis, John J. and Vincent N. Parrillo
 2013 The Origins and Development of the World's City (Chapter 2), In *Cities and Urban Life*, sixth edition, pp. 23-54. Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ. (Moodle)

Section 2: Origins and Development of Urbanism: Theoretical Perspectives

- Marconis, John J. and Vincent N. Parrillo
 2013 Spatial Perspectives: Making Sense of Space (Chapter 6), In *Cities and Urban Life*, sixth edition, pp. 149-171. Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ. (Moodle)

Section 3: Origins and Development of Urbanism: Archaeological Perspectives

- Smith, Michael E.
 2007 Form and Meaning in the Earliest Cities: A New Approach to Ancient Urban Planning. *Journal of Planning History* 6(1):1-47/
<http://jph.sagepub.com.libproxy.stfx.ca/content/6/1/3.full.pdf+html>

Section 4: Mesopotamia: The First Cities

- Van De Mierop
 1999 Chapter 4 "The Urban Landscape". In *The Ancient Mesopotamian City*, pp. 23-41. Oxford University Press, Oxford. (Moodle)

Section 5: Egypt: A Civilization without Cities?

- Morell, Virginia
2013 Pyramid Builders, In *Archaeology: Cities, Empires, Religion, Migrations of the Past*, pp. 2-27. National Geographic Learning Reader, Washington D.C. (Moodle)

Section 6: Angkor

- Stone, David
2009 Divining Angkor. *National Geographic* 216(1):27-54. (text only)
<http://search.proquest.com.libproxy.stfx.ca/docview/200962703/fulltext/C9FF62DFB1E84230PQ/1?accountid=13803>

Section 7: Social Psychology: The Urban Experience

- Marconis, John J. and Vincent N. Parrillo
2013 Social Psychology (Chapter 8), In *Cities and Urban Life*, sixth edition, pp. 202-229. Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ. (Moodle)

Section 8: Indus Valley and China

- Menon, Shanti
1998 Indus Valley, Inc. *Discover* 19(12):67-71.
<http://search.proquest.com.libproxy.stfx.ca/docview/205986270/fulltextPDF/3E3E4E1A07024C85PQ/67?accountid=13803>
- Yates, Robin D. S. 1997. The City-State in Ancient China. In *The Archaeology of City-States*, Deborah L. Nichols and Thomas H. Charlton, eds. pp. 71-90. Washington: Smithsonian.
<http://www.columbia.edu/itc/anthropology/v3922/pdfs/yates.pdf>

Section 9: Classical Cities

- Morris, A.E.J.
1994 Greek City States, In *History of Urban Form*. Third edition, pp. 35-54. Longman Press, London (Moodle)
- Ling, Roger
1990 A Stranger in Town: Finding the Way in an Ancient City. *Greece & Rome*, Second Series, 37(2):204-214.
<http://www.jstor.org.libproxy.stfx.ca/stable/pdfplus/643047.pdf?&acceptTC=true&jpdConfirm=true>

Section 10: Urbanism in the Americas: Ancient Andes

- Pringle, Heather
2013 Lofty Ambitions of the Inca, In *Archaeology: Cities, Empires, Religion, Migrations of the Past*, pp. 70-95. National Geographic Learning Reader, Washington D.C. (Moodle)

Section 11: Urbanism in the Americas: Ancient Mesoamerica

- Carballo, David M. and Brent Fortenberry
2015 Bridging Prehistory and History in the Archaeology of Cities. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 40(5):542-559. <https://www-tandfonline-com.libproxy.stfx.ca/doi/pdf/10.1179/2042458215Y.00000000019?needAccess=true>

Section 12: Urban Anthropology and the Ancient City

- Smith, Michael
2010 Sprawl, Squatters and Sustainable Cities: Can Archaeological Data Shed Light on Modern Urban Issues? *Cambridge Archaeology Journal* 20(2):229-253.
<http://www.public.asu.edu/~mesmith9/1-CompleteSet/MES-10-CAJ-SprawlSquatters.pdf>

Grading Policy

Submitting exercises late will result in losing 25% for each day. Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with in strict accordance to the StFX's Academic regulations (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-integrity>). If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining their own notes as I do not give out my class notes.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

I encourage students that require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications to contact Learning Services (http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible_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

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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MONTH	DAY	TOPIC	READINGS	HAND OUT	DUE	
JAN	13	Introduction	Sabloff 2008			
JAN	20	Urban Anthropology: The City and Society	Marcionis and Parrillo 2013:Chapter 2			
JAN	27	Origins and Development of Urbanism: Theoretical Perspectives	Marcionis and Parrillo 2013:Chapter 6			
FEB	3	Origins and Development of Urbanism: Archaeological Perspectives	Smith 2007			
FEB	10	Mesopotamia: The First Cities	van der Mieroop 1999	Angkor Paper		
FEB	17	Egypt: A Civilization without Cities?	Morell 2013			
FEB	24	Khmer Empire: Angkor	Stone 2009		Mid-term Exam	
MARCH	3	Social Psychology: The Urban Experience	Macionis and Parrillo 2013:Chapter 8			
MARCH	10	Shang China; Indus Valley	Menon 1998 Yates 1997	Machu Picchu Paper	Angkor Paper	
MARCH	17	Classical Cities: Greece, Rome, and Pompeii	Morris 1994 Ling 1990			
MARCH	24	Andes: Machu Picchu	Pringle 2013			
MARCH	31	Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan; Aztec City States	Carballo and Fortenberry 2015			
APRIL	7	Urban Anthropology and the Ancient City	Smith 2010		Machu Picchu Paper	
APRIL	15	FINAL EXAM				