

ANTH 2210: Archaeology and the Ancient Economy
Monday 1-4 pm
Spring 2015

<http://isites.harvard.edu/k110127>

Instructors:

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Course Description:

This seminar explores economic issues in ancient contexts, particularly through the lens of archaeological remains. We will begin with a focus on general concepts in economic anthropology, including some seminal debates in economic theory. We then turn to various economic topics as they relate to ancient societies including production, exchange, consumption, labor, markets, value and specialization. The course is designed for graduate students who wish to bring a cross-cultural perspective on production systems to bear on their own research in a particular region. Advanced undergraduates are very welcome. The goal of the class is not to instill any one particular perspective on the archaeological study of economies, but instead to provide students with a broad exposure to many of the contemporary issues in the field.

Requirements and Policies:

Students are expected to attend all seminar sessions and participate in discussion. All class discussions will be led by students in the class. Discussion leaders for particular topics will be assigned, but in order to make for a successful seminar, all students must be prepared to participate each week.

Throughout the semester, students will present their research topics during weeks that seem appropriate. These presentation dates will be assigned on the first day of class. The research paper and presentation are described more below.

Course Evaluation:

Weekly class participation: 20%
Discussion Leadership: 20%
Research Paper: 50%
Research Presentation: 10%

The course grade will be based on **participation** (contributing to class discussions) and **leadership** (thoughtful leading of discussions on the assigned articles and books) in addition to a **research paper** –due at the end of the term.

Research Paper: The research paper should cover a topic related to production in a specific archaeological context. The paper should be of near publishable quality and approximately 15-30 pages in length. Alternatively, the student may write a research proposal. In such a case, the ideal proposal will be one that will be competitive for funding from a major research institution. This option should be chosen only when the proposal is being prepared for submission to a real funding agency or as a thesis prospectus. Students should consider the topic of their research paper early in the term so that there is sufficient time to write it.

Presentation: Students will give presentations of their research or proposal topics during the second half of the term. These should be relatively brief and connect to themes that are discussed in the course.

Academic dishonesty of any sort will be referred to the Administrative Board. Please consult the [Student Handbook](http://www.registrar.fas.harvard.edu) (<http://www.registrar.fas.harvard.edu>) for information regarding [academic dishonesty](http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k69286&pageid=icb.page355695) (<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k69286&pageid=icb.page355695>).

Additional details concerning academic dishonesty in writing can be found in the “[Writing with Sources](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~expos/sources/)” pamphlet on-line at <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~expos/sources/>. Students must acknowledge any collaboration and its extent in all submitted work. Here is the official collaboration policy:

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to doing academic work. This is especially true in the context of a research seminar where weekly readings and discussion is a collaborative effort. Submitted work, in the form of a research paper or proposal due at the end of the term, must be your own, original work. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books and articles that you have used as sources for your work. Web sources are generally not considered peer-reviewed sources of high academic standard and should be used cautiously if at all.

Schedule of Classes

WEEK 1: (Jan. 26) – Introduction

WEEK 2: (Feb. 2) – Basic Issues and the Roots of Ancient Economic Research

Approximate Total Pages: 146

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

Enlightenment Prelude

Marouby, Christian (2007). Adam Smith and the Anthropology of the Enlightenment. The 'Ethnographic' Sources of Economic Progress. *The Anthropology of the Enlightenment*, edited by L. Wolff and M. Cipolloni. Stanford, Stanford University Press: 85-102.

Nisbet, Robert (1980). Progress as Freedom. *History of the Idea of Progress*, edited. New York, Basic Books: 179-237.

Classic papers in the “Formalist” / “Substantivist” Debate

Burling, Robbins (1962). Maximization Theories and the Study of Economic Anthropology. *American Anthropologist* 64: 802-821.

Dalton, George (1961). Economic Theory and Primitive Society. *American Anthropologist* 63: 1-25.

Polanyi, Karl (1957). The Economy as Instituted Process. In, *Trade and Market in the Early Empires: Economies in History and Theory*, edited by Karl Polanyi, Conrad M. Arensberg, et al. Glencoe: The Free Press: 243-269.

WEEK 3: (Feb. 9) – Beyond Polanyi: Substantive Formalism or Formal Substantivism?

Approximate Total Pages: 124 + Graeber & CCLK

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

Hudson, Michael (2000). How interest rates were set, 2500 BC - AD 1000. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 43(2): 132-61.

Kahneman, Daniel and Amos Tversky (2000). Choices, Values and Frames. *Choices, Values and Frames*, edited by D. Kahneman and A. Tversky. Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University Press: 1-17.

van der Mieroop, Marc (2002). A History of Near Eastern Debt. *Debt and Economic Renewal in the Ancient Near East*, edited by M. Hudson and M. v. d. Mieroop. Bethesda, MD, CDL Press: 59-94.

Veenhof, Klaas R. (2010). Ancient Assur: The city, its traders and its commercial network. *Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient* 53: 39-82.

Recommended (but not required) additional reading:

Graeber, David (2014). *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*. Brooklyn, NY, Melville House. Pp. (Introduction).

Lamberg-Karlovsky, C. C. (2009). Structure, Agency, and Commerce in the Ancient Near East. *Iranica Antiqua* XLIV: 49-88.

WEEK 4: (Feb. 16) – PRESIDENT’S DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

WEEK 5: (Feb. 23) – From Slavery to Modernity?

Approximate Total Pages: 90

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

Finley, Moses (1990). The Emergence of a Slave Society. *Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology*. Viking Press, New York: 67-92.

Goldstone, Jack (1998). The Problem of the Early Modern World. *Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient* 41(3): 249-284.

Meer, Peter van der (1998). The Global History of Modernity. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 41(3): 285-294.

Stol, Matthew (1995). Women in Mesopotamia. *Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient* 38(2): 123-144.

WEEK 6: (Mar. 2) – Globalization and World Systems

Approximate Total Pages: 199

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

Algaze, Guillermo (1989). The Uruk Expansion: Cross-cultural Exchange in Early Mesopotamian Civilization. *Current Anthropology* 30(5): 571-608.

Chase-Dunn, Christopher and Thomas D. Hall (1991). Conceptualizing Core / Periphery Hierarchies for Comparative Study. *Core/Periphery Relations in Pre-capitalist Worlds*, edited by C. Chase-Dunn and T. D. Hall. Boulder: Westview Press. Pp. 5-43.

Kohl, Philip L. (1987). The Use and Abuse of World Systems Theory: The Case of the Pristine West Asian State. *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory*, edited by Michael B. Schiffer. San Diego, CA, Academic Press: 1-35.

- Stein, Gill J. (2002). Colonies without Colonialism: A Trade Diaspora Model of 4th Millennium BC Mesopotamian Enclaves in Anatoli. *The Archaeology of Colonialism*, edited by C. Lyons and J. K. Papadopoulos, Getty Research Institute: 26-64.
- Jaffe, Yitzchak and Rowan K. Flad (in press). Prehistoric globalizing processes in the Tao River Valley, Gansu, China? . *Ancient Globalizations and people 'without' history*, edited by N. Boivin and M. Frachetti. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: TBD.
- Jennings, Justin (2011). *Globalizations and the Ancient World*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 1-34.

WEEK 7: (Mar. 9) – Production

Approximate Total Pages: 155

Discussion Leader_____

Research Presentation_____

- Costin, Cathy L. (2005). The Study of Craft Production. *Handbook of Methods in Archaeology*, edited by H. D. G. Maschner and C. Chippendale. Walnut Creek, CA, Alta Mira Press: 1034-1107.
- Flad, Rowan K., and Zachary X. Hruby (2007). "Specialized" Production in Archaeological Contexts: Rethinking Specialization, the Social Value of Products, and the Practice of Production. In, *Rethinking Craft Specialization in Complex Societies: Archaeological Analyses of the Social Meaning of Production*, edited by Zachary X. Hruby, and Rowan K. Flad. Berkeley: American Anthropological Association and the University of California Press: 1-19.
- Gosselain, Olivier P. (1998). Social and Technical Identity in a Clay Crystal Ball. *The Archaeology of Social Boundries*, edited by M. T. Stark. Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Institution Press: 78-106.
- Miller, Heather M. L. (2013). Types of Learning in Apprenticeship. *Archaeology and Apprenticeship: Body Knowledge, Identity, and Communities of Practice*, edited by W. Wendrich. Tucson, AZ, University of Arizona Press: 224-239.
- Wendrich, Willeke (2013). Archaeology and Apprenticeship: Body Knowledge, Identity, and Communities of Practice. *Archaeology and Apprenticeship: Body Knowledge, Identity, and Communities of Practice*, edited by W. Wendrich. Tucson, AZ, University of Arizona Press: 1-20.

WEEK 8: (Mar. 16) – SPRING RECESS – NO CLASS

WEEK 9: (Mar. 23) - Exchange

Approximate Total Pages: 168

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

- Adams, Robert McCormick (1974). Anthropological Perspectives on Ancient Trade. *Current Anthropology* 15 (3): 239-258.
- Caldwell, Joseph R. (1964). Interaction Spheres in Prehistory. *Hopewellian Studies*, edited by J. R. Caldwell and R. L. Hall. Springfield, Illinois State Museum: 135-143.
- Dalton, George (1975). Karl Polanyi's Analysis of Long-Distance Trade and His Wider Paradigm. *Ancient Civilization and Trade*, edited by J. A. Sabloff and C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky. Albuquerque, NM, University of New Mexico Press: 63-132.
- Earle, Timothy K. (1982). Prehistoric Economics and the Archaeology of Exchange. *Contexts for Prehistoric Exchange*, edited by J. E. Ericson and T. K. Earle. New York, Academic Press: 1-12.
- Renfrew, Colin (1975). Trade as Action at a Distance: Questions of Integration and Communication. *Ancient Civilizations and Trade*, edited by Jeremy A. Sabloff and C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press. Pp. 3-59.

WEEK 10: (Mar. 30) – Gifts, Barter, Consumption

Approximate Total Pages: 163

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

- Campbell, Roderick B., Zhipeng Li, Yuling He and Jing Yuan (2011). Consumption, exchange and production at the Great Settlement Shang: bone-working at Tiesanlu, Anyang. *Antiquity* 85: 1279-1297.
- Godelier, Maurice (2004). What Mauss Did Not Say: Things You Give, Things You Sell, and Things That Must Be Kept. *Values and Valuables: From the Sacred to the Symbolic*, edited by C. Werner and D. Bell. Walnut Creek, Altamira Press: 3-20.
- Mauss, Marcel (1990 [1922]). *The Gift: The Form and Reason for Exchange in Archaic Societies*. New York, W. W. Norton.
- Weiner, Annette B. (1992). *Inalienable Possessions: The Paradox of Keeping-While-Giving*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press. (Intro, Chapter 5, and Afterword).

WEEK 11: (Apr. 6) – Political Economy

Approximate Total Pages: 165

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

- DeMarrais, Elizabeth, Luis J. Castillo, and Timothy K. Earle (1996). Ideology, Materialization and Power Strategies. *Current Anthropology* 37(1): 15-32.
- Hudson, Michael (1999). From Sacred Enclave to Temple and City. *Urbanization and Land Ownership in the Ancient Near East*, edited by M. Hudson and B. Levine. Peabody Museum Bulletin 7. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University: 117-166.
- Lehner, Mark (2000). Absolutism and Reciprocity in Ancient Egypt. *The Breakout: The Origins of Civilization*, edited by M. Lamberg-Karlovsky. Cambridge, MA, Peabody Museum Monographs: 69-98.
- Peregrine, Peter N. (1991). Some Political Aspects of Craft Specialization. *World Archaeology* 23(1): 1-11.
- Saller, Richard (2005). Framing the Debate Over Growth in the Ancient Economy. *The Ancient Economy: Evidence and Models*, edited by J. G. Manning and I. Morris. Stanford, Stanford University Press: 223-238.
- Storey, Glenn (2004). Roman Economies; A Paradigm of their Own. *Archaeological Perspective on Political Economies*, edited by G. M. Feinman and L. M. Nicholas. Salt Lake City, UT, University of Utah Press: 105-128.

WEEK 12: (Apr. 13) – Labor

Approximate Total Pages: 101 + Hudson

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

- Arnold, Jeanne E. (1996). Organizational Transformations: Power and Labor Among Complex Hunter-Gatherers and Other Intermediate Societies. *Emergent Complexity: The Evolution of Intermediate Societies*, edited by J. E. Arnold. Ann Arbor, MI, International Monographs in Prehistory: 59-73.
- Hudson, Michael (2015). How the Organization of Labor Shaped Civilization's Takeoff. *Labor in the Ancient Near East and Aegean*, edited by P. Steinkeller and M. Hudson. Bethesda, MD, CDL Press: TBD.
- Janusek, John W. (1999). Craft and Local Power: Embedded Specialization in Tiwanaka Cities. *Latin American Antiquity* 10: 107-131.
- McGuire, Randall (2014). Won with Blood: Archaeology and Labor's Struggle. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 18(2): 259-271.
- Saitta, Dean (1997). Power, Labor, and the Dynamics of Change in Chacoan Political Economy. *American Antiquity* 61(1): 7-26.

Silliman, Stephen W. (2006). Struggling with Labor, Workers and Identities. *Historical Archaeology*, edited by M. Hall and S. W. Silliman. Oxford, Blackwell Publishing: 147-166.

Stein, Gil J. (1996). Producers, Patrons, and Prestige: Craft Specialists and Emergent Elites in Mesopotamia from 5500-3100 B.C. In *Craft Specialization and Social Evolution: In Memory of Gordon Childe*, University Museum Monograph, edited by Bernard Wailes. Philadelphia, PA: Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania: 25-38

WEEK 13: (Apr. 20) – Value (Date needs rescheduling.... Flad in CA from 4/15 – ca. 4/23)

Approximate Total Pages: 170

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____

Earle, Timothy K., Robert B. Edgerton, et al. (1982). The Ecology and Politics of Primitive Valuables. *Culture and Ecology, Eclectic Perspectives*, edited by John G. Kennedy. Washington, DC. 15: 65-83.

Englund, Robert K. (2012). Equivalency values and the command economy of the Ur III period in Mesopotamia. *The Construction of Value in the Ancient World*, edited by J. K. Papadopoulos and G. Urton. Los Angeles, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology: 427-458.

Flad, Rowan K. (2012). Bronze, Jade, Gold and Ivory: Valuable Objects in Ancient Sichuan. *The Construction of Value in the Ancient World*, edited by J. K. Papadopoulos and G. Urton. Los Angeles, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology: 258-287.

Lesure, Richard G. (1999). One the Genesis of Value in Early Hierarchical Societies. *Material Symbols: Culture and Economy in Prehistory*, edited by John E. Robb. Carbondale, IL, Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University: 23-55.

Papadopoulos, John K. and Gary Urton (2012). Introduction. *The Construction of Value in the Ancient World*, edited by J. K. Papadopoulos and G. Urton. Los Angeles, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology: 1-50.

Sallaberger, Walter (2014). The Value of Wool in Early Bronze Age Mesopotamia. On the Control of Sheep and the Handling of Wool in the Presargonid to Ur III Periods (c. 2400-2000BC). *Wool Economy in the Ancient Near East and the Aegean*, edited by C. Breniquet and C. Michel. Oxford, Oxbow Books: 94-114.

WEEK 14: (Apr. 27) – FINAL CLASS

Discussion Leader _____

Research Presentation _____