

Making of the Modern World, 1 Prehistory and the Birth of Civilization

Track A, Fall 2009

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by appointment

Track A Website: <http://webct.ucsd.edu>

Shared Website: <http://anthro.ucsd.edu/mmw>. This website has important information applicable to all three MMW 1 tracks, including links to the online readings. A few pages will ask you for a login ("____") and a password (also "____").

Course Description and Goals

MMW 1 begins your journey into our investigation of the human experience by defining what it means to be human. Our goal in MMW1 will be to study the different ways societies have organized themselves as a response to their environmental and social situation. Social organization includes how people interact with one another; the foods they eat; marriage patterns; religion and mythology; how jobs in the community are delegated; political leadership; economic activities; and just about any other activity you can think of. Part of what it means to be human is embedded within our biology so we will begin our course with look at hominid evolution. From there, we will examine how our biology and our culture shape our behavior. To do so, we will look at examples of societies from every different kind of known social organization: foragers, tribes, chiefdoms, and states. *To help focus our discussions we will be guided by two themes: Social organization as a form of adaptation; and the methods different societies use to try to encourage cooperation and peace.* At the end of MMW 1 you will be able to make and evaluate scholarly arguments and you will have a solid foundation for understanding our human heritage.

Course Requirements

Midterm #1	Friday, October 23	20%
Midterm #2	Monday, November 9	25%
Final Exam	Friday, December 11	35%
Section Attendance and Assignments		20%

Note: See the shared website for more detailed information on Grades and Grading

Required Readings

Rand McNally Quick Reference World Atlas. Chicago: Rand McNally.

RICHARDS, I.A. 1958. *The Wrath of Achilles: The Iliad of Homer*, New York: W.W. Norton.

TURNBULL, Colin M. 1962. *The Forest People: A Study of the Pygmies of the Congo*. New York: Touchstone.

ZIMMER, Carl. 2005. *Smithsonian Intimate Guide to Human Origins*. Washington DC: Smithsonian Books. Harper Collins: New York.

SOURCEBOOK. 2009. This is a collection of articles and study aids written specifically for MMW 1. This reader is available on-line as printable PDF files (found linked to shared website), or may be purchased at the UCSD bookstore as a printed spiral-bound paper copy. The Sourcebook is under constant revision, and the content varies from year to year. If you intend on using an older copy, be sure to check that you have all of the newest and up to date readings.

WEB SOURCE READINGS. Articles can be found on the shared website

Note: You probably have already noticed that there is a lot of reading in this course. It is important that you keep in mind that professors assign books and articles for very particular reasons. If you always ask yourself “how does this reading assignment fit with the larger goals of this course?” you will be able to read more critically and effectively.

Schedule of Readings and Lectures

All items should be completed in the order shown. Readings should be done by the day indicated; the lecturer will assume your knowledge of the reading. Section meetings will assume familiarity with all readings assigned up to and including those for the day when the section meets. This list is subject to modification as announced in class.

UNIT I.A: Reconstructing Our Hominid Past

Week 0

Friday, 9/25 – Course Introduction: Overview of the course material, policies, and study tips

Week 1

Monday, 9/28 – Reconstructing the past: Evolution and Natural Selection

Zimmer: Chapter 1

Sourcebook 1-C: Theory: Variables and Models

Sourcebook 1-H: Theory: The Idea of Evolution

Web Source II-5: Stones & Bones: Early Evolutionary Theory (optional)

Web Source II-5: Stones & Bones: Heredity and Evolution (optional)

Wednesday, 9/30 – Reconstruction the Past: Models and Methodology

Zimmer: Chapter 2

Sourcebook 1-B: Theory: Lumping and Splitting

Sourcebook 1-D: Theory: Imagining Prehistoric Behavior

Sourcebook 1-A: Theory: Two Kinds of Definitions (optional)

Web Source II-5: Stones & Bones: Primate Models of Human Evolution (optional)

Web Source II-5: Stones & Bones: Experimental Archaeology (optional)

Friday, 10/2 – Bipedalism: *Australopithecus*

Zimmer: Chapter 3

Web Source Reading II-1: Human Birth & Bipedalism

Atlas: Africa (reference)

Web Source II-5: Stones & Bones: Bipedalism (optional)

Week 2

Monday, 10/5 – Out of Africa: *Homo erectus* and Tool Technologies

Zimmer: Chapters 4-5

Atlas: Eurasia (reference)

Web Source II-5: Stones & Bones: Early *Homo erectus* / *ergaster* (optional)

Wednesday, 10/7 – Big Bodies and even Bigger Brains: Neanderthals

Film: Neanderthal

Zimmer: Chapter 6

Atlas: Europe (reference)

Friday, 10/9 – Face off: Neanderthal meets *Homo sapiens* and a Look at Upper Paleolithic Culture

Zimmer: Chapter 7

Sourcebook 2-B: Mitochondrial Eve

Web Source II-5: Stones & Bones: The Evolution of our Hallmark Traits (optional)

UNIT I.B: Foraging Societies

Week 3

Monday, 10/12 – Are We Still Evolving?

Zimmer: Chapter 8

Web Source Reading II-2: Rensberger: Racial Odyssey

Web Source Reading II-4: Prehistoric Beringia

Atlas: North and South America (reference)

Wednesday, 10/14 –Harsh Environments: Hunting as a means of Survival in the Arctic

Film Nanook of the North

Atlas: Canada (reference)

Turnbull: Forward, Maps 1-3, and Chapters 1-3

Sourcebook 5-A: List of Characters (reference)

Sourcebook 5-B: The Bantu Expansion

Friday, 10/16 –Foragers: Our Oldest and Most Successful form of Social Organization

Turnbull: Chapters 4-7

Sourcebook 5-A: List of Characters (reference)

Week 4

Monday, 10/19 – Foraging as a subsistence economy: The BaMbuti of the Ituri

Rainforest

Turnbull: Chapters 8-11

Sourcebook 5-A: List of Characters (reference)

Wednesday, 10/21 – Keeping the Peace Among the BaMbuti

Turnbull: Chapters 12-15

Sourcebook 5-A: List of Characters (reference)

Friday, 10/23 – Midterm #1

UNIT II: Big Men and Chiefly Societies

Week 5

Monday, 10/26 – The Limitations to Foraging and the Development of Agriculture and Sedentism in the Neolithic

Sourcebook 3-A: The Neolithic (Essay 1): The “Agricultural Revolution”

Sourcebook 3-B: The Neolithic (Essay 2): Beyond Wheat

Wednesday, 10/28 – The Consequences of Sedentism: More People, More Conflict,
More Health Problems, Different Solutions
Sourcebook 3-C: The Neolithic (Essay 3): Living the Revolution

Friday, 10/30 – The Hopi Solution
Sourcebook 6-A: Hopi Social Order
Atlas: Southwestern USA (reference)

Week 6

Monday, 11/2 – The Kawelka of Papua New Guinea
Film: Onka's Big Moka
Atlas: Papua New Guinea
Sourcebook 1-G: Theory: Conflicting Loyalties and Cross Cutting Ties
Web Source II-3: Ancient Metallurgy

Wednesday, 11/4 – The Revolution of Text: Writing with a Purpose
Sourcebook 4-A: How Writing Works

Friday, 11/6 – The Viking Way
Sourcebook 7-A: The Vikings
Atlas: Northern Europe (reference)

UNIT III: Archaic States and Early Civilizations

Week 7

Monday, 11/9 – Midterm #2

Wednesday, 11/11 – Veteran's Day, No class
Start reading the Iliad

Friday, 11/13 –Homer's World: Complex Chiefdoms of Greece
Sourcebook 8-A: Regions in Greece (reference)
Sourcebook 8-B: Background to the Iliad & the Trojan War (reference)
The Iliad of Homer: Books 1-9
Atlas: Eastern Mediterranean (reference)

Week 8

Monday, 11/16 – Love, Honor, and Conflict in the Greek World
The Iliad of Homer: Books 10-24

Wednesday, 11/18 – The Rise of States and Empires: Mesopotamia and China
Sourcebook 3-D: After the Neolithic: The Metal Ages
Sourcebook 3-E: Epidemic Disease

Friday, 11/20 – Sacred Milk and Divine Kings: The Nyoro of Uganda
Sourcebook 9-A: Mystification in an African Kingdom
Atlas: Eastern Africa (reference)
Sourcebook 1-F: Theory: Sumptuation

Week 9

Monday, 11/23 – The Aztecs: Swamps, Feathers, and Brief Imperial Rule
Sourcebook 10-A: The Aztecs: A Tributary Empire
Sourcebook 1-E: Theory: The Question “Why?” (optional)
Atlas: Mexico (reference)

Wednesday, 11/25 – The Rise and Fall of the Aztec Empire
Film: The Aztecs: The Hidden Empire
Sourcebook 10-B: An Aztec Folio
Atlas: Mexico (reference)

Friday, 11/27 – Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class

Week 10

Monday, 11/30– Egypt: The Eternal River and an Ever-Lasting Empire
Sourcebook 11-A: Egyptian Origins
Atlas: Northern Africa (reference)

Wednesday, 12/2: The Power of the Egyptian Pharaoh
Sourcebook 11-B: The Palette of Narmer
Atlas: Northern Africa (reference)

Friday, 12/4 –Where Do We Go from Here?
No new assigned reading

Final Exam: Friday December 11, 8:00-11:00 am