

**ANTH 310D**  
**WORLD PREHISTORY**

[Instructor](#)  
[Description](#)  
[Texts](#)  
[Evaluation](#)  
[Goals](#)  
[Schedule](#)

Fall 2008  
TR 1200-1350 CH 101  
  
4 credits

**INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Robin L. Smith [smithr@wou.edu](mailto:smithr@wou.edu)  
Phone: 838-8357  
Office: HSS 209  
Office Hours: MW 1300-1350 & TR 1400-1500 and by  
appointment  
[www.wou.edu/~smithr](http://www.wou.edu/~smithr)

Note: If you have a disability that might require assistance or accommodations for any aspect of this course, please come and discuss this with me. You may also contact the Office of Disability Services, at 838-8250 V/TTY, for information about accessibility and accommodations.

**DESCRIPTION**

We're off on a trek across the challenging terrain of cultural evolution, worldwide, with an emphasis on our species, on the post-Pleistocene era, and on non-Western cultures. We examine the archaeological evidence for the domestication of plants and animals, the invention of writing and art, the evolution of technology, the peoplings of new worlds, the origins of cities, and what all this means for us today. What have we done to our world, and why? How is it that we've chosen so many radically different strategies for survival? Why do some of the world's peoples seem to have such a huge advantage over others? Can we learn anything useful from the past?

Neither a comprehensive inventory nor a lock-step chronological survey, this course seeks out questions and issues of continuing interest to humanity. Having developed culture, can we, and do we, actually use it to avoid mistakes and improve on successes? We can't do either if we don't know what happened in the past. I hope this course will whet your appetite to learn more about our ancestors' struggles, failures, and triumphs. They, of course, came from a long line of survivors and had the good sense to produce us. Will we leave a store of wisdom and sufficient resources for the survival of future generations?

You may expect lectures, films, discussions, and interested guidance in your research. I expect you to participate enthusiastically in exploring the ideas we encounter. Individual research is focussed on wresting answers to today's questions from the trials and tribulations of past cultures. You will get to know the people of some past

time and place as well as is possible through archaeology and consider what message they have for us today.

Although the only pre-requisite for this course is at least sophomore standing, you will find ANTH 215D Archaeology is very helpful preparation. You are expected to be familiar with library research at the college level and the conventions of documenting sources in a formal research paper; WR 135 is excellent preparation.

**TEXT**



Redman, Charles L.

1999 Human Impact on Ancient Environments. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Additional Readings on [WOU Online](#).

**EVALUATION**

Attendance is essential. Each class begins with in-class writing/quizzes designed to reward your preparation for class discussion. Quizzes and your resulting class participation cannot be "made up." Participation requires that you undertake a close reading of the assignments and bring written reading notes to class; look over your notes before each class. In addition, you will conduct individual, guided research for an 8-12 page paper on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor. Progress reports on this research account for a substantial portion of the grade. No late papers. Exams are term identification and essay-style questions.

200	.....	Participation (20 meetings)	Grading scale: A = 93-100, A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89;
100	.....	Midterm	B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- =
100	.....	Paper Process	70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; < 60 =
100	.....	Paper	F.
100	.....	Final	
600	.....	TOTAL	

You are responsible for a grade if your name remains on the Registrar's role past the last drop date, at the end of week 6. The "Incomplete" grade is reserved for the rare case in which the student is making satisfactory progress in the course but circumstances beyond the student's control cause a significant but discrete portion of the course to remain unfinished at the end of dead week.

Please reserve email for short questions or clarification. Discussion of grades, problems with the course, or requests for special arrangements should be undertaken in person.

I place a high value on academic honesty and expect my students to do the same. Please ensure you understand the definition of academic dishonesty in the [Code of Student Responsibility](#). I refer apparent cases of academic dishonesty to the Coordinator of Campus Judicial Affairs for adjudication. If you have any questions or concerns about how you have quoted, paraphrased or cited sources, seek my assistance **before** you submit your work.

**GOALS**

Completion of this course will enhance your understanding of issues such as these:

- In what ways has the natural world changed since the emergence of our species?
- How have we and our ancestors altered the natural world? How has it changed us?
- What are the major milestones in the evolution of human culture?
- What circumstances and events have shaped the present day distribution of cultures around the world?
- How can we account for the differences between cultures in their strategies for ensuring survival and attaining satisfaction in life?
- What are the important similarities?
- What has archaeology contributed to our understanding of human nature?

**SCHEDULE FOR ANTH 310D FALL 2008**

<b>Week/Dates</b>	<b>TOPICS / Readings</b>	<b>Events/ Deadlines</b>
<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>PERSPECTIVES IN TIME AND SPACE</b>	
Sept 30	Introductions & plans; read <a href="#">Research Paper Guide</a>	Figure out how <a href="#">WOU online</a> works and post your profile & picture
Oct 2	<b>Redman</b> Preface & Ch 1 Lessons from a Prehistoric "Eden" <b>Diamond</b> The Last Americans <b>Swift &amp; Miller</b> <i>Man as a False Generic</i>	<b>quiz</b> <b>volunteer discussants for</b> Diamond: Joy Charron & Heather Fields Swift & Miller: Evamarie Johnson & Albert Sierra
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>BECOMING HUMAN</b>	

Oct 7	<b>Redman</b> Ch 2 Attitudes Toward the Environment <b>Clemens</b> Was the World Made for Man? <b>Semaw</b> The World's Oldest Stone Artefacts...	<b>quiz</b> <b>discussants</b> Clemens: Semaw:
Oct 9	<b>Bar-Yosef</b> The Upper Paleolithic Revolution <b>Diamond</b> Up to the Starting Line	<b>discussants</b> Bar-Yosef: Diamond:
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>FORAGING A LIVING</b>	
Oct 14	<b>Redman</b> 3 Concepts that Organize Our Thoughts	<b>quiz</b> film: America's Stone Age Explorers
Oct 16	<b>Bradley &amp; Stanford</b> The North Atlantic Ice-edge Corridor <b>Haynes</b> The Catastrophic Extinction	<b>discussants</b> Bradley & Stanford: Haynes:
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>FINS, FEATHERS, AND FOUR LEGS</b>	
Oct 21	<b>Redman</b> 4 Animal Exploitation: The Prehistoric Loss of Habitat and Biodiversity <b>Diamond</b> The Lethal Gift of Livestock	<b>quiz</b> <b>discussants</b> Diamond:
Oct 23	<b>Alvard &amp; Kuznar</b> Deferred Harvests <b>Marshall &amp; Hildebrand</b> Cattle Before Crops	<b>discussants</b> Alvard & Kuznar: Marshall & Hildebrand:
<b>WEEK 5</b>		
Oct 28	<b>Midterm</b>	<b>All readings, discussion &amp; lectures from first 4 weeks</b>
	<b>THE QUESTION OF SOCIAL COMPLEXITY</b>	
Oct 30	<b>Redman</b> Ch 5 The Impact of Agrarian Systems <b>Rountree</b> Appropriation of Prehistory <b>Diamond</b> To Farm or Not to Farm	<b>quiz</b> <b>discussants</b> Rountree: Diamond:
<b>WEEK 6</b>	<b>CIVILIZATIONS APPEAR AROUND THE WORLD</b>	
Nov 4	<b>Redman</b> Ch6 The Growth of World Urbanism	<b>quiz</b> <b>Research Topic due Today (see paper guide)</b>

Nov 6	Mesopotamia —	
<b>WEEK 7</b>		
Nov 11	Indus River Valley —	<b>Thesis, Outline &amp; Sources Due Today</b> (see paper guide)
Nov 13	China —	
<b>WEEK 8</b>		
Nov 18	Mesoamerica —	
Nov 20	<b>Redman</b> Ch 7 The Forces that Grew with Society  <b>Diamond</b> From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy	<b>quiz</b> <b>Rough Draft Due Today (see paper guide)</b> <b>discussants</b> Diamond:
<b>WEEK 9</b>		
Nov 25	<b>Bauer &amp; Covey</b> Processes of State Formation in Inca Peru <b>Diamond</b> Collision at Cajamarca	<b>discussants</b> Bauer & Covey: Diamond:
Nov 27	Thanksgiving	<i>No meeting. Work on your paper and read!</i>
<b>WEEK 10</b>		
<b>LESSONS FOR OUR FUTURE</b>		
Dec 2	<b>Redman</b> Ch 8 The Past as Prologue <b>Western</b> Human-modified Ecosystems	<b>quiz</b> <b>discussants</b> Western:

Dec 4	Film: TBA Review for final	<b>Final Papers Due Today</b>
<b>FINALS WEEK</b>		
Dec 11	Thursday 1000-1150 <b>Final Exam</b>	<i>All readings, discussion &amp; lectures since midterm</i>

[HOME](#)

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