ANTH/ARCP250 Foragers to Farmers: Hunting and Gathering and the Development of Agriculture (Spring 2015)

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Course Description

Our species, *Homo sapiens*, originated during the Pleistocene ("Ice Age") epoch, approximately 150,000 years ago. The end of the last glacial period about 12,000 years ago marked the end of the Pleistocene and the beginning of the Holocene. Until that time humans subsisted by hunting, gathering, and fishing. Between 12,000 and 4,000 years ago, agriculture was developed in as many as thirteen regions of the world, including western Asia, central China, the New Guinea highlands, Mesoamerica, the central Andes, and the Eastern Woodlands of North America. In this course we will examine what it means to be a hunter-gatherer, why people developed or adopted agriculture, and what early farming communities were like.

Required Readings (available at Broad Street Books or online, e.g., Amazon.com):


Additional listed required readings are available on Moodle (full citations at end of syllabus).

Examinations and Assignments

There will be three essays assigned and due during the course, plus a fourth essay due during finals week.

Disability Resources

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.
Course Outline

Jan. 22  Introduction

27  Hunter-Gatherers and Anthropology
    Readings:  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chaps. 1 & 10

29  Anthropological and Archaeological Theory
    Readings:  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chap. 2
              Ashmore and Sharer, “Contemporary approaches to archaeology”

Feb. 3  Hunter-Gatherer Subsistence
    Readings:  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chap. 3

5  Hunter-Gatherer Mobility; **First essay assigned**
    Readings:  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chap. 4

10  Hunter-Gatherer Technology
    Readings:  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chap. 5

12  Video: “The Hunters”; **First essay due**

17  Hunter-Gatherer Sharing, Exchange and Land Tenure
    Readings:  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chap. 6

19  Hunter-Gatherer Demography
    Readings  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chap. 7

24  Men, Women and Foraging
    Readings:  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chap. 8

26  Non-Egalitarian Hunter-Gatherers; **Second essay assigned**
    Readings:  *The Lifeways of Hunter-Gatherers*, Chap. 9

Mar. 3  Rethinking Hunter-Gatherers
    Readings:  Ingold, “Hunting and Gathering as Ways of Perceiving the Environment”
              Taçon, “Identifying Ancient Sacred Landscapes in Australia: From Physical to Social”

5  Video: “Ongka's Big Moka”; **Second essay due**

**Spring Break**
### The Origins of Agriculture

**Mar. 24**  
The Origins of Agriculture  
Readings: *First Farmers*, Chap. 2  
Harris, “Agriculture, Cultivation and Domestication: Exploring the Conceptual Framework of Early Food Production”

**Mar. 26**  
Southwest Asia  
Readings: *First Farmers*, Chap. 3

**Mar. 31**  
Spread of Farming to Europe and Asia; What Happened in Africa?  
Readings: *First Farmers*, Chaps. 4 & 5

### East and Southeast Asia and Oceania

**Apr. 2**  
East and Southeast Asia and Oceania  
Readings: *First Farmers*, Chaps. 6 & 7

**Apr. 7**  
The Americas  
Readings: *First Farmers*, Chap. 8

**Apr. 9**  
Language and Expansion; Third essay assigned  
Readings: *First Farmers*, Chaps. 10 & 12

**Apr. 14**  
No Class  
Read *The Leopard’s Tale*, Chaps. 1-3 in preparation for next week.

**Apr. 16**  
No Class

**Apr. 21**  
Video: “Stonehenge Decoded”; Third essay due

**Apr. 23**  
The Town and the House  
Readings: *The Leopard’s Tale*, Chaps. 4 & 5

**Apr. 28**  
“History,” Revelation, Exchange and Production  
Readings: *The Leopard’s Tale*, Chaps. 6 & 7

**Apr. 30**  
Agency and Identity  
Readings: *The Leopard’s Tale*, Chaps. 8 & 9

### The Americas

**May 5**  
Individuals, Entanglements and the Origins of Agriculture; Fourth essay assigned  
Readings: *The Leopard’s Tale*, Chaps. 10 & 11; Epilogue

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**The final essay will be due by 5 pm, Tuesday, May 12th.**
Bibliography for readings on Moodle:


