Standard Course Syllabus

**ARCH 272W-3 ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE OLD WORLD**

Calendar Description: A survey of the major centres of Old World cultural development from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age. Basic concepts used in reconstructing prehistoric cultures, and the artifactual and contextual evidence for the development of culture. Prerequisite: ARCH 100 or 201. Breadth-Social Sciences.

Example Course Outline Description[[1]](#footnote-1): Course will increase student awareness of the origin and development of ancient Old World cultures and the contributions made by ancient peoples to the human experience. It presents an overview of the major Old World cultures and civilizations from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze/Iron Age. For each time period, a discussion of global-scale cultural and environmental developments will be presented, followed by a more detailed comparative examination of cultural developments in two or three regions. This course is a lower division requirement that will provide students with the necessary background to enroll in upper division regional courses in Old World Archaeology.

The following topics must be covered: [optional areas in parentheses]:

* Introduction to Old World Regions
	+ Palaeoenvironmental History of the Old World: Late Pleistocene-Holocene
	+ Major Cultural Areas
* History of Archaeology in the Old World
* Palaeolithic Period
	+ Africa
	+ Europe
	+ Near East
	+ [Asia]
* Mesolithic/Epi-Palaeolithic Period
	+ Europe
	+ Near East
	+ [Japan]
	+ Oceania: Peopling of Australia
* Neolithic Period
	+ Theories on the Origins of Old World Agriculture
	+ Near East: Levant, Zagros, [Anatolia]
	+ Europe
	+ China/Japan
	+ [Indus Valley]
	+ [Southeast Asia]
* Emergence of Social Complexity and the Origin and Decline of Early States
	+ Theories on the Development of Old World Early States
	+ Mesopotamia: Sumer, Akkad
	+ Egypt
	+ Europe: Megaliths, [Minoans, Mycenaeans]
	+ Indus Valley: Harappan Civilisation
	+ China: Shang Civilisation
	+ [Pre-Colonial African Kingdoms]
	+ [Southeast Asia: Khmer Civilisation]

Possible Textbooks: (in order of preference):

1) Fagan, Brian M. 2009. *People of the Earth*. 13th Edition. Pearson. 9780205735679.

2) Wenke, R.J & D.I. Olszewski. 2007. *Patterns in Prehistory*. 5th Edition. Oxford. 9780195169287.

3) Scarre, C. & B.M. Fagan. 2008. *Ancient Civilizations*. 3rd Edition. Pearson. 9780131928787.

1. Course coverage and materials are at the discretion of the instructor, but major changes in ARCH 201 course content should be approved by Archaeology Department Chair well in advance of the first day of classes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)