

## **ARCH 1616 Between Sahara and Sea: North Africa from Human Origins to Islam**

*Tuesday and Thursdays 1:00-2:20 pm*

*Location: Rhode Island Hall, Room 008*

### **Instructor: Brett Kaufman**

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### **Overview**

From the early stages of human evolution to the present, this course explores the deep past of North Africa.

Rejecting the colonialist perspectives typical of the study of the region, we will study its indigenous peoples and their long-term relationships with the Mediterranean, the Near East, the Sahara and Tropical Africa. Students are encouraged to bring their own interests (art, music, literature, technology) to their experience of the class.

### **Objectives**

There are two main objectives in this course:

- 1) Students will learn the cultural, historical, and biological trajectories of North African populations. Awareness must be fostered that much previous research into the region has been heavily focused on the European and Mediterranean contributions to North African cultures, at the expense of acknowledging the Sahara and Tropical Africa. Beyond learning about the particular cultures, students will learn how to recognize bias in any subject matter they come across in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences.
- 2) Students will develop and refine their skills in technical writing. It is likely that most students in the class will not pursue a career in archaeology or related fields. However, it is certain that at some point every student will have to write a grant proposal, a job application, a fundraising manifesto, a scientific study, etc. Three technical reports will comprise the largest share of the final grade. Each report will be of standard length, between 2-3 pages double spaced, 1" margins and twelve point Times New Roman font. For these reports, a) students will request or be assigned a topic area, b) be assigned a relevant publication, c) will choose one other relevant publication themselves, and d) will compose a report that critiques, compares, and addresses the two publications concentrating on the following questions: i) what is the hypothesis of each author?; ii) what data is used to support the arguments?; iii) how is each paper structured?; iv) how convincing is each author?

### **Prerequisites**

None.

### **Course Requirements**

The course is designed to be interactive, with students encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussion. Students are expected to be courteous and diplomatic with their classmates during discussions. Polemical statements are neither welcome nor are they conducive to productive discourse. In addition to the technical reports described above, students will be graded based on their attendance and participation in class and a two day conference in November (14-16) on campus on the "State of the Field" of North African archaeology, a midterm, a 15-20 minute presentation on a topic of their choosing relevant to African archaeology, and a final research paper also of their choosing (10-15 pages double-spaced, 1" margins, twelve point Times New Roman font). Students are encouraged to develop research papers and presentations that accord with their own interests, be they music, art, science, etc. The presentation can be based on their papers. Graduate students who are interested in further reading are encouraged to discuss their interests with me.

### **Grade percentages**

- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Midterm examination: 15% (**October 16**)
- Technical reports (3 in total): 30% (**Due September 16, September 23, November 4**)
- Research paper: 20% (**Due last day of class, December 4**)
- Presentation: 15% (**November 20, December 2, December 4**)

## Course calendar

Readings for each lecture should be completed before we begin class. The readings are listed below in the order by which they should be read. There may be emergency circumstances that compel a student to miss class or turn in a late assignment. In order to receive full credit for missed lectures or assignments, students must contact me with their request *before* the class starts. The majority of the readings will be provided on the wiki page, except for the following books which students should purchase:

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Abun-Nasr, Jamil M. 1987. *A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period*. Cambridge University Press. (available in book store)  
Lancel, Serge. 1995. *Carthage: A History*. Blackwell Publishers. (students should purchase online)  
Phillipson, David W. 2005. *African Archaeology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press. (available in book store)

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### Week 1

Thursday, September 4

*Introduction*

## PART I – “Archaeology and Epistemology (how we know what we know)”

### Week 2

Tuesday, September 9

*Archaeology: Theory and Method*

[Themes explored: How is data gathered?, history of archaeology, major trends, regional archaeology, methods and specialties, environmental factors]

Required readings:

- Hodder, Ian. 1986. “The Formation of the Archaeological Record,” in *The Present Past* (Chapter 3), pp. 47-67.
- Peregrine, Peter N. 2001. “Survey Methods and Strategies,” in *Archaeological Research: A Brief Introduction* (Chapter 4), pp. 44-65
- Johnson, Matthew. 1999. “The ‘New Archaeology,’” in *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction* (Chapter 2), pp. 12-33.
- Binford, Lewis R. 1962. “Archaeology as Anthropology,” in *American Antiquity* 28.2, pp. 217-225
- Johnson, Matthew. 1999. “Postprocessual and Interpretive Archaeologies,” in *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction* (Chapter 7), pp. 98-115.

Thursday, September 11

*Modern European Colonization of North Africa*

[Themes explored: Post-colonial studies, epistemology and bias, politics, cultural heritage, use of ethnography]

- Trigger, Bruce G. 2006. “Evolutionary Archaeology,” in *A History of Archaeological Thought*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Chapter 5), pp. 166-210.
- Said, Edward W. 1978. “Introduction,” in *Orientalism* (Chapter 1), pp. 1-28.
- Abu-Lughod, Ibrahim. 1963. “Introduction: The Setting of Westernization” and “Arab Awareness of the West: Modern Beginnings,” in *The Arab Rediscovery of Europe: A Study in Cultural Encounters* (Introduction and Chapter 1), pp. 18-42.
- Fromentin, Eugène. 1999 [1852]. *Between Sea and Sahara: An Algerian Journal*, pp. 1-26.

## PART II – “Biological and Cultural Evolution”

### Week 3

Tuesday, September 16

*Human Evolution in Africa*

[Themes explored: History of evolutionary thought, cognition, genetics, linguistics]

- Boyd, Robert, and Silk, Joan B. 2012. “Adaptation by Natural Selection” and “Primate Diversity and Ecology,” in *How Humans Evolved*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (Chapters 1 and 5), pp. 2-21, 102-133.

- Phillipson, David W. 2005. "Introduction: Elucidating the African Past" and "The Emergence of Humankind in Africa," in *African Archaeology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Chapters 1 and 2), pp. 1-51.
- Hrdy, Sarah Blaffer. 1999. "Family Planning Primate-Style," and "Three Men and a Baby," in *Mother Nature: Maternal Instincts and How They Shape the Human Species* (Chapters 8 and 9), pp. 175-234.

Thursday, September 18

### *Hominid Evolution in the Sahara and North Africa*

[Themes explored: Plio-Pleistocene, Oldowan, Acheulean, Sangoan stone tool sequences]

- Phillipson, David W. 2005. "The Consolidation of Basic Human Culture," and "Regional Diversification and Specialisation," in *African Archaeology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Chapters 3 and 4), pp. 52-59, 75-90, 91-96, 131-146.
- Hublin, Jean-Jacques. 2001. "Northwestern African Middle Pleistocene Hominids and their Bearing on the Emergence of *Homo sapiens*," in *Human Roots: Africa and Asia in the Middle Pleistocene*, ed. Lawrence Barham and Kate Robson-Brown (Chapter 8), pp. 99-121.

Week 4

Tuesday, September 23

### *The Emergence of Complex Society*

[Themes explored: Formation of hierarchies, cross-cultural comparisons, the Neolithic Revolution]

- Carneiro, Robert L. 1970. "A Theory of the Origin of the State," in *Science* 169.3947, pp. 733-738.
- Shennan, Stephan. 2002. "Culture as an Evolutionary System," in *Genes, Memes and Human History: Darwinian Archaeology and Cultural Evolution* (Chapter 3), pp. 35-65.
- Stanish, Charles. 2003. "The Evolution of Political Economies," in *Ancient Titicaca: The Evolution of Complex Society in Southern Peru and Northern Bolivia* (Chapter 2), pp. 18-29.
- Lightfoot, Kent G., Martinez, Antoinette, Schiff, Ann M. "Daily Practice and Material Culture in Pluralistic Social Settings: An Archaeological Study of Culture Change and Persistence from Fort Ross, California," in *American Antiquity* 63.2, pp. 199-222.

Thursday, September 25

### *Holocene Sahara and the Neolithic – Technical Review #1 due*

[Themes explored: Transition from foraging to herding and domestication, spread of agriculture, rock art, earliest pottery]

- Phillipson, David W. 2005. "The Beginnings of Permanent Settlement" and "Early Farmers," in *African Archaeology* (Chapters 5 and 6), pp. 147-156, 159-164, 165-213.
- Barich, Barbara. 1998. "Social Variability among Holocene Saharan Groups: How to Recognize Gender," in *Gender in African Prehistory*, ed. Susan Kent (Chapter 6), pp. 105-114.

## **PART III – "North Africa in Global Context"**

Week 5

Tuesday, September 30

### *Tropical Africa*

[Themes explored: Problems in African archaeology, early farmers, technology]

- MacEachern, Scott. 2007. "Where in Africa does Africa Start?: Identity, Genetics, and African Studies from the Sahara to Darfur," in *Journal of Social Archaeology* 7.3, pp. 393-412
- Holl, Augustin F.C. 1998. "The Dawn of African Pastoralisms: An Introductory Note," in *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 17, pp. 81-96.
- LaViolette, Adria, and Fleisher, Jeffrey. 2005. "The Archaeology of Sub-Saharan Urbanism: Cities and their Countrysides," in *African Archaeology*, ed. Ann Brower Stahl (Chapter 13), pp. 327-352.

Thursday, October 2

### *Berbers*

[Themes explored: Indigenous peoples, legacy of colonization]

- Brett, Michael, and Fentress, Elizabeth. 1997. "Berbers in Antiquity," in *The Berbers* (Chapter 1), pp. 10-49.
- Goodman, Jane E. 2002. "Writing Empire, Underwriting Nation: Discursive Histories of Kabyle Berber Oral Texts," in *American Ethnologist* 29.1, pp. 86-122.

## Week 6

Tuesday, October 7

### *Bronze Age Egypt*

[Themes explored: Predynastic, Old Kingdom through New Kingdom, interactions with Canaanites, Nubians, Libyans]

► Kuhrt, Amelie. 1995. "Egypt from Dynasty I to Dynasty XVII" and "Imperial Egypt: The New Kingdom," in *The Ancient Near East, c. 3000-330 BC* Volume I (Chapters 3 and 4), pp. 118-224.

► Ritner, Robert. 2009. "Egypt and the Vanishing Libyan: Institutional Response to a Nomadic People," in *Nomads, Tribes, and the State in the Ancient Near East: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives*, ed. Jeffrey Szuchman (Chapter 3), pp. 43-56.

Thursday, October 9 – Technical Review #2 due

### *Bronze Age Levant*

[Themes explored: Prehistory, Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, formation of states in Mesopotamia and the Levant]

► Akkermans, Peter M.M.G., and Schwartz, Glenn. 2003. "The 'Second Urban Revolution' and its Aftermath," in *The Archaeology of Syria: From Complex Hunter Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (ca. 16,000-300 BC)* (Chapter 8), pp. 233-287.

► Esse, Douglas L. 1989. "Secondary State Formation and Collapse in Early Bronze Age Palestine," in *L'urbanisation de la Palestine à l'âge du Bronze ancien*, ed. Pierre de Miroschedji, pp. 81-96.

## Week 7

Tuesday, October 14

### *Bronze Age Mediterranean*

[Themes explored: Aegean prehistory, Bronze Age, Archaic and Classical Greek colonization]

► Biers, William R. 1996. "The Minoans" and "The Mycenaeans," in *The Archaeology of Greece* (Chapters 2 and 3), pp. 23-61, 62-96.

► Warmington, B.H. 1969. "Early Contacts with the Greeks," in *Carthage: A History* (Chapter 2), pp. 36-54.

Thursday, October 16 – Midterm

## Week 8

Tuesday, October 21

### *Phoenicians*

[Themes explored: Assyria, Israel, Iron Age colonial expansion of Phoenicians from the Levant to Africa, Sardinia, Iberia]

► Katzenstein, H.J. "The Period of Hiram I," in *The History of Tyre* (Chapter 5), pp. 77-115.

► Aubet, Maria Eugenia. 2001. "The Phoenician Colonies in the Central Mediterranean," in *The Phoenicians and the West: Politics, Colonies, and Trade* (Chapter 8), pp. 213-256.

► Frankenstein, Susa. 1979. "The Phoenicians in the Far West: A Function of Neo-Assyrian Imperialism," in *Power and Propaganda: A Symposium on Ancient Empires*, pp. 263-291.

Thursday, October 23

### *Carthage: From Phoenician Colony to Imperial Capital*

[Themes explored: Foundation myths, early state planning]

► Lancel, Serge. 1995. "The Founding of Carthage," "The Establishment of the City," and "The Beginnings of Empire," in *Carthage: A History* (Chapters 1, 2, and 3), pp. 1-109.

## Week 9

Tuesday, October 28

### *Carthage: Imperial Expansion in North Africa and Europe*

[Themes explored: Punic identity, "crisis of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC", imperial fluorescence, collapse]

- Lancel, Serge. 1995. "The Means of Power: From Thalassocracy to State" and "The Development of the City," in *Carthage: A History* (Chapters 4 and 5), pp. 110-192.
- Neville, Ann. 2007. "The Sixth Century: Crisis or Transition?," in *Mountains of Silver & Rivers of Gold: The Phoenicians in Iberia* (Chapter 6), pp. 159-170.
- Warmington, B.H. 1969. "The First War with Rome" and "Hannibal," in *Carthage: A History* (Chapters 7 and 8), pp. 154-222.

Thursday, October 30

### *African Iron Age*

[Themes explored: Spread of iron, Bantu-speaking peoples]

- Phillipson, David W. 2005. "Iron-using Peoples before AD 1000," in *African Archaeology* (Chapter 7), pp. 214-273.
- Schmidt, Peter. 1998. "Reading Gender in the Ancient Iron Technology of Africa," in *Gender in African Prehistory*, ed. Susan Kent, (Chapter 8), pp. 139-162.

Week 10

Tuesday, November 4 – Technical Review #3 due

### *Rome*

[Themes explored: Rise of the city-state, mythology, technology, art, Greek legacy, modern legacy]

- Wells, Colin. 1992. "The New Order," "The Sources," and "The Work of Augustus," in *The Roman Empire* (Chapters 1, 2, and 3), pp. 11-78.

Thursday, November 6

### *Roman North Africa*

[Themes explored: Provincial administration, Neo-Punic peoples, Berbers, Christianity, Vandals, collapse]

- Raven, Susan. 1993. "New Masters for Africa," in *Rome in Africa*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Chapter 4), pp. 49-63.
- Brett, Michael, and Fentress, Elizabeth. 1997. "The Empire and the Other: Romans and Berbers," in *The Berbers* (Chapter 2), pp. 50-80.
- Birley, Anthony R. 1988. "The Emporia," "Lepcis Magna: From Free State to Colonia," and "Life in Roman Tripolitania," in *Septimius Severus: The African Emperor* (Chapters 1, 2, and 3), pp. 1-36.
- Raven, Susan. 1993. "The New Religion," and "A Church Divided," in *Rome in Africa*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Chapters 10, and 11), pp. 144-166, 167-185.

Week 11

Tuesday, November 11

### *Islam in the Arabian Peninsula*

[Themes explored: 7<sup>th</sup> century AD history, formation of tribal confederation]

- Kennedy, Hugh. 1986. "The Matrix of the Muslim World: the Near East in the Early Seventh Century," and "The Birth of the Islamic State," in *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates: The Islamic Near East from the Sixth to the Eleventh Century* (Chapters 1 and 2), pp. 1-49.

Thursday, November 13

### *Islamic North Africa*

[Themes explored: Byzantine North Africa and Justinian, Islamic expansion out of the peninsula, Islamic polities of the Maghreb, Ibn Khaldun]

- Abun-Nasr, Jamil M. 1987. "Introduction," "The Call of the Minaret in the 'West': the Establishment of Islam in the Maghrib and Spain," and "The Maghrib under Berber Dynasties," in *A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period* (Chapters 1, 2, and 3), pp. 1-143.

Week 12

Tuesday, November 18

### *Saharan and Maghrebi States in the last 1000 years*

Themes explored: Ottomans, Moors, Spanish, Kanem-Bornu

- Abun-Nasr, Jamil M. 1987. "Ottoman Rule in the Central and Eastern Maghrib," in *A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period* (Chapter 4), pp. 144-205.
- Holl, Augustine F.C. 2004. "The Formation of the Kanem-Bornu Empire," in *Holocene Saharans: An Anthropological Perspective* (Chapter 7), pp. 185-218.
- Abun-Nasr, Jamil M. 1987. "Tunisia: from Anti-Colonialism to Nationalism, 1919-34," and "Tunisia: the Neo-Dustour and Independence, in *A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period* (excerpt from Chapter 7), pp. 354-368.

Thursday, November 20

*Presentations*

Week 13

Tuesday, November 25

*Documentary film*

Thursday, November 27: No class, Thanksgiving

Week 14

Tuesday, December 2

*Presentations*

Thursday, December 4 – Research paper due

*Presentations*

Week 15: No class, Reading Period (Sunday, December 7 – Thursday, December 11)

Week 16: No class, Finals (Friday, December 12- Saturday, December 20)