

# INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### WHAT'S IN THIS SYLLABUS

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#### ANTH 120 – 010: Introduction to Archaeology

UTK/3 Credit Hours

NO Prerequisites

How did humans spread and conquer every corner of the world? What are the origins of human societies? How did human societies transform into highly complex ones? What is civilization? How was writing invented? Why did people decide to live in cities?

This course examines the consequences of decisions made by our ancestors, the successes and failures of past civilizations, so that we may better understand our own behavior. Development of world civilizations is explored using historic, archaeological and other perspectives that inform us about the past.

In this course, we will examine the cultural history of humankind, from the beginning of tool-use (Paleolithic period) in the Old World to the rise of complex societies in both the Old and New Worlds. The course is an exploration of past social worlds through their material remains. Using archaeology as a guide, the course will briefly review human cultural chronology from the earliest Paleolithic ages and examine not only the artifacts of ancient civilizations but also important social, economic, and even ideological questions such as the origins of food production, social inequality, and urbanization.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Class meeting times:

**Tue,Thu 12:55 pm - 2:10 pm**

Class meeting location:

**Strong Hall 406**

### COURSE RESOURCES: TEXTBOOK

Scarre, Chris, and Tammy Stone, eds. 2021. *The Human Past Essentials*. New York: Thames & Hudson (ISBN: 978-0-500-843864).

\*Additional required readings will be posted on the course website.

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Karim Alizadeh

Email: [kalizade@utk.edu](mailto:kalizade@utk.edu)

Office: Strong Hall 407

Office hours:

Friday 10 am -12 pm and by appointment

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Course Objectives –By the end of the course the student will be able to do the following:

1. Know how archaeologists frame and try to answer critical research questions.
2. Understand foundational methods by which archaeologists interpret data to understand cultural and natural processes now and in the past.
3. Be able to interpret the world from an “archaeological perspective”.
4. Comprehend the reasons behind cultural change through time.
5. Understand how empirical evidence is collected, analyzed, and interpreted
6. Better appreciate the importance of studying the past and the ethics of preserving and studying archaeological remains.
7. Discover the human past, from the origin of our species to the development of diverse cultural manifestations throughout the world, from great archaeological digs.
8. Understand the archaeological approach toward the study of human variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions.
9. Appreciate the cultural diversity in the past, how our contemporary world is a result of a long history of separate developments and global interdependencies, and how representations of the past are profoundly influential in the present.

## **CLASS POLICIES**

### *Class*

Each class will include lecture as well as discussion based, in part, on assigned readings. All students are required login to the course page on Canvas frequently (daily) to see any announcements or updates for our class. The course page will be used to make announcements or notify you of any changes or updates. Please be sure to check your UTK email account for class email messages, or update the email address in your profile. We will communicate ONLY through UTK email.

### *Attendance*

- At the UTK, students are expected to attend all of their scheduled classes.
- Students are responsible for material, announcements, and learning activities covered in class.
- Some quiz and exam questions may refer to material covered only in class.
- There is a direct relationship between attendance and your grade. Simply put, if you miss class, your grade is negatively impacted. See the UTK attendance policy at [https://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=3078#cals\\_atten\\_poli](https://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=3078#cals_atten_poli).

### *UTK Email and Course Communications*

Announcements, assignments, and grades will be communicated via Canvas. If you have questions or encounter difficulties, I can be reached through email at [kalizade@utk.edu](mailto:kalizade@utk.edu). I will try to respond to all emails within 48 hours of receipt. Should you have any difficulty with the course material or should a personal issue come up, please reach out to me via email or during office hours.

### *Privacy*

Under FERPA ([https://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=3078#cals\\_atten\\_poli](https://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=3078#cals_atten_poli)), as a student, your educational records are considered confidential. If you have any concerns about privacy,

please contact the instructor immediately. Also please note that all course communications will fall under the Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity policies referenced below.

### *Exams, Grades and Extra Credit*

There will be two exams in this course; mid-term exam and a final exam at the end of the semester. Midterm and final exams will focus on major topics covered in readings and class lecture/discussion. Students are expected to plan ahead and keep on top of readings and lectures. For exam schedule conflicts such as three or more exams on the same day, students should contact their professors for possible alternate exam times.

I do not make it a practice to give extra credit, however, I will occasionally offer extra credit opportunities. **Please do not ask** if there is any extra credit that you can do to raise your grade. You shouldn't have to do anything "extra" to do well in this class.

### *Grading Information*

Grades will be based on two exams (midterm and final), four assignments, and participations. The grades will be cumulative and calculated as follows:

1. Assignment 1 = 10%
2. Assignment 2 = 10%
3. Assignment 3 = 10%
4. Assignment 4 = 10%
5. Participation (activities) = 10%
6. Mid-term Exam = 20%
7. Final Exam = 30%

### *Grading Scale*

Your grade will be determined using the standard campus grading scale shown below:

A	93-100 %	B+	86-89 %	C+	76-79 %	D	60-69 %
A-	90-92 %	B	83-85 %	C	73-75 %	F	<60 %
		B-	80-82 %	C-	70-72 %		

### *Assignments and Assessments*

Each student is required to complete all learning activities by the due date deadline, as indicated in on syllabus and Canvas. **No learning activities or assignments are accepted late.** All assignments are submitted electronically to Canvas. No assignments are accepted via email, printed or any other methods.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

*Student Disability Services*— <http://sds.utk.edu>

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment for all students. If you anticipate or experience a barrier in this course due to a chronic health condition, a learning, hearing, neurological, mental health, vision, physical, or other kind of disability, or a temporary injury, you are encouraged to contact [Student Disability Services](#) (SDS) at 865-974-6087 or [sds@utk.edu](mailto:sds@utk.edu). An SDS Coordinator will meet with you to develop a plan to ensure you have equitable access to this

course. If you are already registered with SDS, please contact your instructor to discuss implementing accommodations included in your course access letter.

### *Student Code of Conduct*

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a lawful manner and in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the Code. This document is meant to serve as an [overview of the Student Code of Conduct](#); please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#), email [studentconduct@utk.edu](mailto:studentconduct@utk.edu), or call Student Conduct & Community Standards (865-974-3171) for more information.

### *Academic Integrity*

All course assignments, learning activities, and assessments, are to be authored and completed individually, by the student themselves. Failure to be able to correctly cite, explain and defend your submissions is an indication that it is not your work. While assisting another student in learning is part of the academic process, completing the assigned work as a team or group effort (with the exception of group projects as assigned by the instructor) is not allowed and will be considered Academic Dishonesty. No Academic Dishonesty will be tolerated and such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from the UTK. For further information see the Academic Dishonesty, and the consequences include penalties established by UTK's Academic Integrity policy (<https://studentconduct.utk.edu/academic-dishonesty-2/>).

### *Emergency Management and Public Safety*

To enhance public safety, the UT Alert system is designed to enhance and improve communication to the campus community in the event of an emergency or campus closure. The goal is to use several methods to deliver messages to the community as a whole and spread the word, not to individually reach each member. Log into your UT Alert account [online](#) to confirm your phone number to ensure you receive text messages. Visit <https://prepare.utk.edu/> for additional emergency information.

### *Sexual Misconduct*

The Office for Title IX and Institutional Equity oversees UTK's Sexual Misconduct Policy. Policies can often be complex. Regardless of whether your circumstances meet the definitions outlined in UTK's policies, you can still connect with the victim advocate for a private conversation, resources, and support. You can also reach out to the Office for Title IX with questions or to file a report with the university. For more information about sexual misconduct, visit the following link: <https://titleix.utk.edu/title-ix-policy/>.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

One Stop makes your experience with enrollment, academic records, financial aid, and making payments as smooth as possible. Visit the following link: <https://onestop.utk.edu/>.

### *Writing Resources*

Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center is a center to assist students with any writing project, at any stage of your writing process. The center's well-trained peer consultants can help you to brainstorm ideas, organize content, integrate research, polish a draft, and correctly document sources. If you're interested in resources, visit the following links: <https://writingcenter.utk.edu/> or make in-person or online appointments at <https://utk.mywconline.com/>

*Liaison Librarian*

Each department has a designated librarian to support your research needs. Greg March is our liaison librarian for Anthropology. His email is [gmarch@utk.edu](mailto:gmarch@utk.edu) and he is available via email for consultations. Here is a link to learn more about our librarian: <https://libguides.utk.edu/anthropology>

**CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS**

The instructor reserves the right to change the contents of this syllabus. Students will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Canvas announcement, or through UTK email.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE**

DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
Week 1 (Aug. 25)	Introduction to course and syllabus review	
Week 2 (Aug. 29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeology as a Discipline</li> <li>Major themes and the relevance of Archaeology</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 1
Week 3 (Sep. 5)	Earliest Hominins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LABOR DAY (Monday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>Human Origins and Evolution</li> <li><i>Australopithecines</i> and <i>Homo habilis</i></li> <li>Their life, diet, and ecology</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 2
Week 4 (Sep. 12)	Hominin Dispersals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Homo erectus</i></li> <li><i>Homo heidelbergensis</i></li> <li><i>Homo neanderthalensis</i> and others</li> <li>ASSIGNMENT 1</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 3
Week 5 (Sep. 19)	Modern Humans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Origins and evolution</li> <li>Their admixtures</li> <li>Dispersals to Eurasia and the Oceania</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 4
Week 6 (Sep. 26)	Global Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change and paleoenvironment</li> <li>Transition from HG to Farming</li> <li>Domestication of plants and animals</li> <li>Farming and its consequences</li> <li>ASSIGNMENT 2</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 5

Week 7 (Oct. 3)	Southwest Asia: From HG to Farming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last hunter-gatherers/first farmers</li> <li>• Domestication of plants and animals</li> <li>• The expansion of farming</li> <li>• <b>FALL BREAK (Oct. 6-7)</b></li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 6 Mayshar et al. 2022
Week 8 (Oct. 10)	Southwest Asia: From Villages to Cities and States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MID-TERM EXAM</b></li> <li>• The rise of social complexity</li> <li>• The first cities and states</li> <li>• The first territorial states and empires</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 7
Week 9 (Oct. 17)	South Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition to farming</li> <li>• Early cities and states</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 8
Week 10 (Oct. 24)	East Asia: From HG to Farming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition to farming</li> <li>• Domestication of plants and animals</li> <li>• The rise of social complexity</li> <li>• <b>ASSIGNMENT 3</b></li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 9
Week 11 (Oct. 31)	East Asia: From Villages to Cities and States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first states</li> <li>• The first empires</li> <li>• The rise of states beyond China</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 10
Week 12 (Nov. 7)	The Oceania and Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition to farming: New Guinea</li> <li>• The Austronesian dispersal and the Pacific Islands</li> <li>• Europe's last HGs and early farmers</li> <li>• Europe and the rise of complexity and states</li> <li>• <b>ASSIGNMENT 4</b></li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 11-12
Week 13 (Nov. 14)	Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition from HG to farming</li> <li>• Early states and cities in Egypt</li> <li>• Early states and cities in Nubia</li> <li>• The Sahel and sub-Saharan: Early states and cities</li> </ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 13

Week 14 (Nov.21)	<p>The Americas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peopling of the Americas</li><li>• From HG to farming</li><li>• North America: Farming to the rise of chiefdoms</li></ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 14-15
Week 15 (Nov.28)	<p>Mesoamerica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From HG to farming</li><li>• The first cities and states</li><li>• The Aztec Empire and the Spanish conquest</li><li>• <b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (Nov. 24-25)</b></li></ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 16
Week 16 (Dec. 5)	<p>South America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From HG to farming</li><li>• The first cities and states</li><li>• The Inca Empire and the Spanish conquest</li><li>• Enduring Themes and Global Issues</li></ul>	Scarre & Stone 2021: Ch. 17-18
<b>FINAL EXAM (TBD)</b>		