

**SYLLABUS & CLASS SCHEDULE**  
**ANTHRO 307**  
**World Archaeology: Foundations of Civilization**  
**May 28 – June 22**

**Instructor:** Jean Hudson (jhudson@uwm.edu )

**Office hours:** email to arrange virtual office hours or to meet on campus (Sabin 353)

**Course Description**

In this course you will be introduced to some of the amazing diversity of human cultures of the past. We will use the evidence of archaeology to explore four major cultural experiments that humans have made in the last 15,000 years. These are sedentism, domestication of plants and animals, urban life, and political systems of inequality. We will compare the trajectories of these experiments among people with distinct cultural pasts, with an emphasis on the Americas and Eurasia.

**Learning Goals**

- knowledge of past human cultures & increased awareness of human cultural diversity
- skills in critical & creative thinking
- skills in written communication

**Credit Hours**

This is a 3-credit course taught in an intensive 4-week format. Individual learning styles vary, but you should expect to spend approximately 30 hours a week on this completely online class. This includes reading (9 hrs), viewing lectures and films (6 hrs), creating summary notes and comparative timelines and maps (6 hrs), reviewing notes and taking quizzes (3 hrs), and writing comparative essays and posts (6 hrs).

**L&S Requirements**

This class satisfies both the International requirement and L&S upper level Social Science Breadth.

**Required Readings and Where to Find Them**

There is one required text which can be obtained in whatever format suits you (ebook, paperback, used):

**Images of the Past** by Price and Feinman (preferably the 9th or 8th edition)

There will be a couple 8<sup>th</sup> edition or older paperback copies on 2hr reserve in the library. The UWM bookstore plans to carry an Ebook rental of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition and paperback versions of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Be sure to have a copy of **Images of the Past** reliably accessible to you before the first day of class.

All additional readings will be supplied as pdf via our Canvas site.



## CLASS STRUCTURE

**Modular Structure.** This course is structured in **weekly blocks** that open on Monday morning (Tuesday morning the first week) and close Sunday night (Saturday night the last week due to the end of the 4- week summer session). **Each weekly block has 3 modules**, one to introduce the theme for that week, one to review evidence from Eurasia, and one to review evidence from the Americas. You are welcome to schedule the week's work as best suits you BUT the **weekly Sunday deadlines are fixed**. Be realistic about the Sunday deadline and what it will take to get all the required work done well by that time, given your other obligations.

The **“ideal” way to do this intensive 4-week class** would be to start reading the first day of the week, view the associated lecture for that module, fill in the timeline and map data for the sites covered in that module, take the quiz for the module while the information was fresh in your mind, and repeat that pattern for the other two modules during the rest of the week. Then you would review and submit the map and timeline by Saturday and, if there is a discussion prompt that week, use them when you respond to the prompt for the essay/post, which will ask you to compare the two regions. That would allow you to spread the work out and give you time to think about comparisons and feel well-prepared when you write your essay/post. This approach would likely minimize deadline stress and probably make the class more enjoyable.

Obviously, you can compress any part of this “ideal schedule” to match your real life and all its other responsibilities, taking advantage of when you have more time free during the week. Just keep in mind that you don't want to risk missing the final Sunday deadlines.

**Whatever schedule you choose, plan ahead and give yourself a buffer for the unexpected.**

### **Grading**

**50% Quizzes** (focused on readings & lectures & specific archaeological sites, data, and interpretations)

**30% Comparative Essays/Posts** (focused on synthesis & sharing data or ideas)

**20% Maps & Timelines**

Grading scale: A (93-100%), A- (90-92%), B+ (87-89%), B (83-86%), B- (80-82%), C+ (77-79%), C (73-76%),  
C- (70-72%), D+ (67-69%), D (63-66%), D- (60-62%), F (less than 60%)

**Quizzes.** There are 12 online quizzes in all, one per module and three per week. Each quiz is worth 10 points and consists of multiple-choice questions focused on the lecture material and readings for that module. There are **no make-ups** for the quizzes, so watch the **Sunday deadlines for quizzes**. Canvas will drop your lowest quiz. Any ungraded assessments or surveys count as bonus points.

**Maps & Timelines.** Each week there are map and timeline activities. These are designed to help you keep track of the locations and dates of key archaeological sites as you learn about them. You can fill them in as you read and submit them at the end of the week. Focus on the sites you have the most information for, like the ones that have their own article in the Images text, or that I provide details for in lecture. There is a blank site table on canvas if you want to use that. You are welcome to have these things with you when you take the quizzes and draft your essay/posts. There are **no make-ups**, so again, watch the **deadlines for Maps & Timelines, usually on Saturday.**

**Comparative Essay/Post.** For weeks 2, 3, and 4 you will respond to a prompt via an essay or other type of post in Canvas. You will use specific archaeological examples from that week to support your arguments. This synthesis will demonstrate your understanding of how archaeological evidence is used to understand past societies, how societies can solve similar problems in different or parallel ways, and how local ecology and past traditions can impact the choices and trajectories in different cultures. Expect the discussion to involve two posts, one of your own short essay, and a second in response to the essays of others. **Posts are due by Sunday**; again, there are no make-ups. They are assessed with the following rubric:

CRITERIA	Points possible
followed directions, addressed the prompt	2
made explicit links between material remains and interpretations of human behavior	2
used multiple lines of archaeological evidence to address questions about societal change	2
noted and evaluated debates or alternative explanations for patterning in data	2
is clearly written in terms of spelling, grammar, and logical flow of ideas and sentences	2
TOTAL	10

**If You Have Questions**, feel free to email me at [jhudson@uwm.edu](mailto:jhudson@uwm.edu) . I will try to reply within 24 hours. If I think the answer could help others, I may reply via an Announcement on Canvas.

**Canvas Announcements.** Watch our Canvas Announcements – I will post reminders, answers to questions, and any updates.

**University policies may be found at:**

<https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

**The weekly schedule** is provided on the following pages.



**ANTHRO 307 – SUMMER 2024 - SCHEDULE OF MODULES**

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>WEEK 1</b>						
	MODULE 1		MODULE 2	MODULE 3		
	Intro (archaeological vocabulary & pre-conceptions check)	pre-10kya HGF (lives of hunter- gatherer- fishers)	pre-10kya Eurasia	pre-10kya Americas	Map & Timeline due	Quizzes due
<b>WEEK 2</b>						
MODULE 4	MODULE 5		MODULE 6			
Themes: Domestication of Plants and Animals; Sedentism & Village Life	Eurasia	Eurasia	Americas	Americas	Map & Timeline due  Quizzes due	Comparative Essay / Post due
<b>WEEK 3</b>						
MODULE 7	MODULE 8		MODULE 9			
Themes: Emerging Urbanization; Role of Specialization and Ritual Life	Eurasia	Eurasia	Americas	Americas	Map & Timeline due  Quizzes due	Comparative Essay / Post due
<b>WEEK 4</b>						
MODULE 10	MODULE 11		MODULE 12			
Themes: Political Complexity; Patterns of Rise & Fall; Explanatory Models	Eurasia	Eurasia	Americas	Americas	Map & Timeline due  Quizzes due	Comparative Essay / Post due Re-do of checks from start of class

There is no final exam. Instead, the regular Week 4 quizzes and comparative essay/post are due. Class officially ends on Saturday of Week 4; the essay/post can be submitted on Sunday, June 27.