

Ancient Households and Communities (*upper division*)

Catharina E. Santasilia

Course Description

Students will examine communities worldwide, learning introductory theoretical concepts and terminology. The course will build on examples from Mesoamerica before branching out and focusing on communities across the globe from an archaeological perspective. The students will be introduced to archaeological records and examine what is possible to deduce from material remains, while considering what has not been preserved and how to construct analogies when interpreting the past. Communities are selected on the basis that they offer a deeper insight into the lives of the working-class, as attention will be given to the workers and the laborers in the given communities.

Reading Materials

Note: no required book, all material will be provided

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Ashmore, Wendy, and Richard Wilk. 1988. Household and Community in the Mesoamerican Past. In *Household and Community in the Mesoamerican Past*, eds. R. Wilk and W. Ashmore, pp. 1-20. University of New Mexico Press.

Week 2: Mesoamerican Communities

Yaeger, Jason, and Marcello A. Canuto. 2000. Introducing an Archaeology of Communities. In *The Archaeology of Communities: New World Perspective*, edited by Marcello A. Canuto and Jason Yaeger, pp. 1-15. Routledge, London/New York.

Week 3: Mesoamerican Households

Coe, Michael D. 1965. A Model of Ancient Community Structure in the Maya Lowlands. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Summer), pp. 97-114.

Week 4: Kinship

Gillespie, Susan D. 2000. Beyond Kinship: An Introduction. In *Beyond Kinship: Social and Material Reproduction in House Societies*, eds. R. A. Joyce and S. D. Gillespie. pp.1-21. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Week 5: Mesoamerican Villages: Households and Communities

Flannery, Kent V. (editor). 2009(1976). *The Early Mesoamerican Village*. Academic Press, New York. Chapters 2 and 3.

Week 6: Social Organization #1

Hendon, Julia A. 1996. Archaeological Approaches to the Organization of Domestic Labor: Household Practice and Domestic Relations. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 25: 45-61.

Gillespie, Susan D. 2000. Rethinking Ancient Maya Social Organization: Replacing "Lineage" with "House". *American Anthropologist* 102(3):467-484.

Week 7: Building Tombs – Laborers in Old Kingdom Egypt

Hawass, Zahi, and Mark Lehner. 1997. "Builders of The Pyramids." *Archaeology* 50, no. 1. 30-38.

Hawass, Zahi. "Tombs of the Pyramid Builders." *Archaeology*, vol. 50, no. 1, Archaeological Institute of America, 1997, pp. 39–43.
Brier, Bob. "How to Build a Pyramid." *Archaeology*, vol. 60, no. 3, Archaeological Institute of America, 2007, pp. 22–27.

Week 8: Building Tombs – Laborers in New Kingdom Egypt

Killen, Geoffrey. 2017. "Deir El-Medina – A Community of Entrepreneurs?" In *Ancient Egyptian Furniture Volume III*, 1-30. Oxford; Philadelphia: Oxbow Books.
McDowell, A. 1996. Daily Life in Ancient Egypt. *Scientific American*, 275(6), 100-105.

Week 9: Babylonia - Hammurabi's Collection of Laws.

Van de Mieroop, M. 2005. "Hammurabi, the Lawgiver," in *King Hammurabi of Babylon: a biography*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub. Chapter 8.
Van De Mieroop, Marc. "Hammurabi's Self-Presentation." *Orientalia*, vol. 80, no. 4, GB Press- Gregorian Biblical Press, 2011, pp. 305–38,

Week 10: Who built the Great Wall(s) of China

Lovell, J. 2006. *The Great Wall: China against the world, 1000 BC-AD 2000* (1st American ed.). New York: Grove Press. Chapters 1-2.
Waldron, Arthur. 1990. *The Great Wall of China: from history to myth*. Cambridge [England]; Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.

Week 11: Vikings: Explorations Abroad

Price, Neil 2014. "From Ginnungagap to the Ragnarök.: Archaeologies of the Viking Worlds." In *Viking Worlds: Things, Spaces and Movement*, edited by Eriksen Marianne Hem, Pedersen Unn, Rundberget Bernt, Axelsen Irmelin, and Berg Heidi Lund, 1-10. Oxford; Philadelphia: Oxbow Books.
Wahlgren, Erik. 2000. "Where was Vinland?" in *The Vikings and America*. London: Thames & Hudson. Chapter 9, pp. 153-167.

Week 12: Volcanos: When history is Frozen in Time: Pompeii and Cerén

Video on Pompeii.
Sheets, Payson. 2002. Introduction. In *Before the Volcano Erupted: The Ancient Cerén Village in Central America*, edited by P. Sheets, pp. 1-8. University of Texas Press, Austin.