

School of Arts & Sciences Prospectus Spring 2025: ANTH 0050

Instructor: Dr. Deborah I. Olszewski

Course Description and Level

Introductory course; no prerequisites. This course explores the history and archaeology of the last 12,000 years from the development of agriculture to the industrial revolution. Why did people across the world abandon foraging for farming? How and why did cities and states develop? Why do societies succeed or fail? How have humans transformed themselves and the natural world, including the landscape? We will explore the interpretations that archaeologists use to consider these questions and analyze evidence for social and economic change using six case studies from the Middle East, the Americas, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Europe.

Class Structure for Spring 2025

- In-Person Sessions
 - Class periods include lectures, in-class group work, discussions, and a group presentation. There are no examinations.
 - Attendance is mandatory. Class absences should be sent through Penn's Course Action Notice system.
- Out-of-class Activities
 - Textbook readings.
 - Articles readings for each case study.
 - Peer reviews of case study group documents and peer review of a group presentation.
 - Design of and content for an in-class group presentation on a great transformation.
 - Low-stakes online quizzes, with 5 questions each, on the textbook materials.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

- Class attendance = 7%
- Graded low stakes quizzes (6) = 3%
- Case study group assignments (6) = 36%
- Case study peer reviews (4 per student) = 40%
- Group presentation (1) = 8%
- Peer review (1) of a group presentation = 6%

Essential Course Policies

- **Required Textbook:** *Archaeology and Humanity's Story*, second edition. 2020, by D.I. Olszewski (Oxford University Press, ISBN 13: 978-0-19-093012-7. Other readings available as pdfs on course Canvas site.
- **Final Grades:** The final grade in this course will be based on the sum of all the scores. Grades are calculated on a straight percentage basis. Grading will be based on the following cut-offs:

98 – 100% = A+	88 – 89.9% = B+	78 – 79.9% = C+	68 – 69.9% = D+
93 – 97.9% = A	83 – 87.9% = B	73 – 77.9% = C	60 – 67.9% = D
90 – 92.9% = A-	80 – 82.9% = B-	70 – 72.9% = C-	<60% = F

Grades are not rounded up. There are no extra credit assignments.