San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Department of Anthropology
ANTH 160: Reconstructing Lost Civilizations, Section 80 (40893), Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Alicia Hedges
Office Location:	Online via Zoom: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/3093291806
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Office Hours:	Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am – 12:30pm
Class Days/Time:	Online / Asynchronous
Prerequisites:	Students must have completed 100W successfully
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	This course satisfies Area R of SJSU Studies, Earth and Environment. It is University policy that courses to meet Area R, S, and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments or distinct academic units. This policy has been suspended beginning Fall 2012 until further notice and students are permitted to take two or three R, S, or V courses from the same department. However, we encourage you to continue taking R, S, and V courses from different departments in order to broaden your education

Course Description

Explores scientific archaeology and the reconstruction of civilizations. Topics include framing hypotheses, site selection, excavation, analysis of artifacts and ecofacts, and reconstructing social systems.

The field of archaeology and the study of prehistory are as rich and diverse as they are compelling. This upper division course will explore the panorama of human development beginning with Neanderthal interactions with pre-modern humans, through civilization in the early Neolithic. We will explore the gradual development of social groups and invention of agriculture, as well as the emergence of complex states. The archaeology of ancient civilizations, some familiar, others obscure, will be examined. Many of the latest discoveries, theories, and controversies surrounding human origins, the peopling of the world, and the development of various civilizations will be discussed. This course is as much about the practice of archaeology, its practitioners, and the political ramifications of research as it is about findings in the field. Archaeology is a lively scientific pursuit and current developments within the field will be highlighted. Although current theoretical frameworks and methodologies are integrated into the course, the chief focus is trained on establishing a broad understanding of human social and cultural development and the context for archaeological interpretation. The Reconstructing Lost Civilizations, ANTH 160 course is interdisciplinary in scope and will investigate how archaeologists use various scientific techniques to learn about the past and content will be complemented by critical analysis.

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

This course adopts a completely online instruction format. You must have internet connectivity, and access to a computer, to participate in the classroom activities and/or submit assignments. All assignments must be uploaded to Canvas in .doc or .docx format to be graded due to the limitations of the grading software in Canvas. Please save or export documents created in other formats (such as Google.docs) to Word before submitting the assignment. Please be aware that the Canvas App does not include the full functionality of Canvas as seen on a computer screen and you will not be able to fully participate in the class if using the app only. See University Policy F13-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf for more details.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation;
2. Distinguish science from pseudoscience; and
3. Apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

1. Knowledge of the evolution of archaeological thought, and the role of key individuals in development of archaeology as a science.
2. Broad understanding of human evolutionary history since the emergence of our species and the critical issues and problems of evidence.
3. Understanding of the important role archaeology plays in modern nationalism, identity, and political ideology.
4. Critical examination of pseudoscience, frauds, scientific racism, and extraordinary claims made concerning past civilizations and human evolution.
5. Scientific methods and philosophy contrasted to non-scientific approaches to the past.
6. Working knowledge regarding several ancient civilizations that historically have been the focus of archaeology and their interaction with environment.
7. Critical understanding of the major theories and intellectual frameworks concerning human adaptations, invention of agriculture, and the rise of complex states.
8. Knowledge of scientific methods as applied in archaeology and the techniques used in modern archaeological contexts to generate new knowledge.
9. Students will develop critical thinking skills in assessing archaeological evidence.
10. Students will learn research skills applicable across academic disciplines.
11. Students will gain practice forming specific testable hypotheses, recognizing research questions, and evaluating cases of research.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

McCorriston, Joy and Julie Field.
2019 *World Prehistory and the Anthropocene: An Introduction to Human History*, First Edition. Thames & Hudson, New York. ISBN: 978-0500843185

Feder, Kenneth L.
2020 *Frauds*, *Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology,* Tenth Edition. Oxford University Press, New York. ISBN: 978-0190096410

Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts will be available in PDF format on the course Canvas page.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, MA, MSLS
Librarian for Anthropology Department
King Library
Phone: (408) 808-2118
Email: Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

(1) **InQuizitive Assignments** (10 points each) are based on the assigned textbook reading for a given week. InQuizitive is a program that comes with the purchase of your textbook. There is a total of 14 InQuizitive assignments and they are worth a total of 100 points. These assignments are due on Fridays by 11:59pm and are accessed via link through Canvas to the InQuizitive website. If you rented or purchased a used book, you can purchase access through the publisher's website. **[140 points]**

(2) **Discussion Boards** (10 points each) are designed for students to discuss the primary topics of pseudoscientific cases found in our secondary text *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries*. Each week readings from this text are due there will be an accompanying discussion. For the full 10 points, students will respond to the discussion prompt and respond to 2 other students. **[70 points]**

(3) **Exams** (50 points each) Conceptual understanding and application of knowledge is the principal objective of the course and will be targeted by assessment. Exams are multiple choice and short answer oriented. Objective questions are included to assess core content. There will be one midterm exam and one final exam that will be administered on the course Canvas website at a designated time. **[100 points]**

(3) **Term Paper:** The main themes of the course are ancient civilization, pseudoscience, and environmental interaction. The term paper will allow students to explore these critical concepts in the context of scientific archaeological knowledge about the past. Papers will follow a specified format and use relevant research source material. The minimum is 3000 words. Writing is an important aspect of this course. It is assumed that students have completed 100W or equivalent writing competencies and are assessed accordingly on written work. The term paper will be constructed over the course of the semester through a research proposal, reference list, and peer review. Any instance of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in an automatic F. **[100 points]**

(4) A **Group Project** will bring students together in teams to investigate a popular pseudoscientific theory from a list of choices provided by the instructor. This investigation will introduce the theory and explain how it became part of popular pseudoscientific discourse. Students will use scientific reasoning to debunk this theory and explain how the theory is not reputable. Projects will be presented either through a creative video, an audio clip with associated visual representations, a narrated slide presentation, or another medium approved by the instructor. **[40 points]**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final exam is a culminating examination on the major themes of the course. University policy S17-1 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) *states that* "Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

Grading Information

InQuizitive	**140 pts.**	**GELOs 1 & 3, CLOs 1-11**
Discussion Boards	**70 pts**	**GELOs 2-3, CLOs 3-6, 9-11**
Exams (2)	**100 pts.**	**GELOs 1-3, CLOs 1-11**
Term Paper	**100 pts.**	**GELOs 1-3, CLOs 1-11**
Group Project	**40 pts.**	**GELOs 1-3 & CLOs 1-11**
Total	**450 pts.**	

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Letter grades will be assigned based on score percentages, as follows:

Grade	*Points*	*Percentage*
A plus	*960 to 1000*	*96 to 100%*
A	*930 to 959*	*93 to 95%*
A minus	*900 to 929*	*90 to 92%*
B plus	*860 to 899*	*86 to 89 %*
B	*830 to 859*	*83 to 85%*
B minus	*800 to 829*	*80 to 82%*
C plus	*760 to 799*	*76 to 79%*
C	*730 to 759*	*73 to 75%*
C minus	*700 to 729*	*70 to 72%*
D plus	*660 to 699*	*66 to 69%*
D	*630 to 659*	*63 to 65%*
D minus	*600 to 629*	*60 to 62%*

Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.

To earn an A: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate mastery of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful and critical analysis, effort at conceptual synthesis, and originality. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit exemplary writing appropriate to the discipline. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments must be of consistently high quality in terms of content and execution. Examinations will score in the range of 90% and above. Final project complete, original, or innovative.

To earn a B: All assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general comprehension of conceptual as well as critical content. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful analysis and effort should be made at conceptual synthesis. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Papers will be carefully proofed for grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit very few writing problems. Assignments must be of good quality in terms of content and conform to standards appropriate to the discipline. Exams may score in the 80% and above range. Final project completed and original or innovative.

To earn a C: At least 80% of assignments must be completed, on time, and demonstrate general understanding of critical content. Knowledge of basic conceptual material should be demonstrated. Seminar responsibilities achieved. Assignments will exhibit thoughtful effort with few errors in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score in the 75% and above range. Final project completed at average level of competence.

To earn a D: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete more than 70% of assignments. Only basic knowledge of conceptual material demonstrated. Critical analysis not exhibited, suggesting minimal effort by student. Assignments lack careful or thoughtful effort and several errors in content. Failure to achieve seminar responsibilities or barely acceptable effort. Minimal engagement in class projects. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors and exhibit general writing problems. Citation standards ignored. Exams may score below 75% range. Final project completed.

F < 60%: Failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner or to complete and submit more than 50% of assignments. Basic knowledge of conceptual material and critical analysis not demonstrated. Assignments exhibiting a lack of careful or thoughtful effort and major errors evident in content. Papers will likely contain grammatical and typographical errors along with general writing problems, especially in word usage. Citation standards incorrect. Exams may score below the 60% range. Final project possibly incomplete or late. Or, failure to take the final exam.

Classroom Protocol

Your education is your responsibility! You are required to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Due to the structure of this course, access to a computer and internet connection is required to participate.
- Students must turn in their assignments on time, **late work is not permitted without a valid, documented excuse.**
- Assignments must be turned in on Canvas or in person. Emailed assignments will not be accepted unless stated otherwise.
- You are expected to do the assigned readings, review the lecture and other materials, and be prepared to discuss the material with your classmates.
- Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University and the University's Academic Integrity Policy (Academic Senate Policy S07-2), require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all alleged violations of the Academic Integrity Policy to Student Conduct and Ethical Development. **Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** Cheating or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in **the failure of that assignment and administrative sanctions by the University**. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified and will require a TurnItIn score of *24% or less*. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that San José State's Academic Integrity Policy requires approval of instructors.
- Disruptive and/or inappropriate behavior will not be permitted and may result in disciplinary action.
- Some sensitive topics will be discussed in class. You are expected to be respectful of others during class discussions.
- Emails should conform to a professional format. Extensive questions need to be addressed during office hours. Think about your questions carefully, and make sure to look over the syllabus/assignment thoroughly. Additionally, you will need to include the class and section in your email.
- With that said, I enjoy having fun with my classes and stimulating discussion in an open and comfortable environment. This works best when students are prepared, courteous, and respectful! 😊

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 *(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)*, relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

ANTH 160 / Reconstructing Lost Civilizations, Fall 2021, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice, any changes will be announced in class or by Canvas email.

Course Schedule

*McCorriston and Field. World Prehistory and the Anthropocene (WP&A)
*Kenneth Feder: Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries (Feder)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/19 – 08/20	Introduction to class, syllabus, and course expectations via Zoom, course group assignment **Assignment due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) SJSU Plagiarism Tutorial (2) Introduction to the Class
2	08/23 – 08/27	Module 1*: Archaeology and the Anthropocene* • What is the Anthropocene? • Epistemology **Read:** Chapter 1 (WP&A); Chapters 1-2 (Feder) **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 1 (2) Discussion 1
3	08/30 – 09/03	Module 2: *Discovering Diversity* • Modern Human Origins • The Piltdown Hoax **Read:** Chapter 2 (WP&A); Chapter 4 (Feder) **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 2 (2) Discussion 2
4	09/07 – 09/10 **09/06: Labor Day**	Module 3: *Technology Makes the Human* • Stone, Metal, and Organic Material Culture • Term Paper Proposal and Reference List Overview **Read:** Chapter 3 (WP&A) **Assignment due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 3
5	09/13 – 09/17	Module 4: *Peopling of the World* • Humans Dispersals to Australia, the Americas, and the Pacific • Who "Really" Discovered America? **Read:** Chapter 4 (WP&A); Chapters 5-6 (Feder) **Assignment due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 4 (2) Term Paper Proposal and Reference List (3) Discussion 3

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	09/20 – 09/24	Module 5: *Digging In* • Climate Change in the American Southwest • The Myth of the Moundbuilders **Read:** Chapter 5 (WP&A); Chapter 7 (Feder) **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 5 (2) Discussion 4
7	09/27 – 10/01	Module 6: *Extinctions in the Past* • Clovis & Megafauna • A Changing Environment **Read:** Chapter 6 (WP&A) **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 6
8	10/04 – 10/08	Module 7: *Understanding Human Decisions* • Evolutionary and Social Theory • Zooarchaeology in the American Great Plains **Read:** Chapter 7 (WP&A) **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 7
9	10/11 – 10/15	**MIDTERM: DUE MONDAY BY 11:59PM.** Module 8: *Producing Food* • Domestication • Southwest and East Asia Farming **Read:** Chapter 8 (WP&A) **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 8
10	10/18 – 10/22	Module 9: *Individuals and Identity* • Agency in History • The Answer is Always Aliens! **Read:** Chapter 9 (WP&A); Chapter 9 (Feder) **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 9 (2) Term Paper First Draft (3) Discussion 5
11	10/25 – 10/29	Module 10: *Feeding Cities* • Urbanism and Agriculture • Maize and the Maya **Read:** Chapter 10 (WP&A) **Assignments due Monday by 11:59pm:** (1) Term Paper Peer Review **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 10

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	11/01 – 11/05	Module 11: *Building Monuments, Building Society* • Collective Labor and Social Identity • Göbekli Tepe, Stonehenge, Ancient Egypt, O My! **Read:** Chapter 11 (WP&A); Chapter 10 (Feder) **Assignment due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 11 (2) Discussion 6
13	11/08 – 11/12 **11/11: Veteran's Day**	Module 12: *Conspicuous Consumption* • Feasts, Burials, and Sacrifice • Sutton Who? Sutton Hoo! **Read:** Chapter 12 (WP&A) **Assignment due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 12
14	11/15 – 11/19	Module 13: *Writing* • A History of Access to Information • The Story of Atlantis **Read:** Chapter 13 (WP&A); Chapter 8 (Feder) **Assignments due Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 13 (2) Discussion 7 (3) Term Paper
15	11/22 – 11/23 **11/24 – 11/26: Thanksgiving Holiday**	Module 14: *Extracting the Modern World* • Fishing, Mining, and Slavery **Read:** Chapter 14 (WP&A) **Assignments due Tuesday by 11:59pm:** (1) InQuizitive Chapter 14
16	11/29 – 12/03	Finish working on group project **Assignments due by Friday by 11:59pm:** (1) Group Project Due
17	12/06 (Last Day of Instruction)	Optional: Last-chance Zoom meeting for questions, concerns, etc. https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/3093291806
Final Exam	12/08	**Final Exam to be completed before 11:59pm.** Please refer to the Final Exam schedule here: https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/final-exam-schedule/fall-2021.php