

Anthropology 2C03
Archaeology of Environmental Crisis and Response

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Office hours: Thursday 1:30-2:30, or by appointment

Email: cannona@mcmaster.ca

Classes: Tuesday 3:30-5:20, Thursday 3:30-4:20, Rm. BSB 156

This course examines the responses of past societies to changing environmental circumstances and crises, and the way those responses vary depending on culture, social organization, subsistence economy and settlement pattern. It will also consider the role and impact of human activity in environmental degradation and the cultural and social capacity to mitigate the effects of environmental crises. Evaluating the evidential basis for alternative interpretations and debates will be a theme throughout the course.

Classes: During the first week of classes, and any subsequent university-wide move to online teaching, classes will be scheduled synchronous lectures, question and answer sessions, and discussion of readings and assignments. The platform will be Zoom, with links for access located on Avenue to Learn. Zoom-held classes will be recorded, and links posted on Avenue to Learn. Any changes to the course delivery format will be announced on Avenue to Learn.

Required text:

Middleton, Guy D.

2017 *Understanding Collapse: Ancient History and Modern Myths*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grading:

Critical Documentary Reviews (2 @ 25% each)	- 50%
Weekly Reading Questions	- 10%
Mid-term exam	- 20%
Final exam	- 20%

Critical documentary reviews: Throughout the course we will view and discuss four video documentaries that present examples of environmental crises that some scholars cite as the cause of major cultural disruption and collapse. Each of you will select two of the four documentaries (one from the first set of two, and one from the second set) for a critical written review that will look at alternative ways of viewing the evidence and will critically evaluate the way it was presented and interpreted in the documentary. You will be required to consult original academic papers in preparing your review. Each review will be an organized and well-written discussion and evaluation of the documentary and its presentation of the case study in comparison to the presentation in the text and in original scholarly papers on the topic. Papers will be 6-8 pages (double-spaced) in length (10 pages maximum). An outline and schedule for this assignment will be posted and discussed in class.

Reading questions: Weekly readings are chapters from the required text, which cover a wide range of case studies from around the world. For each chapter, you must present a full and clear question relating to some specific aspect of the chapter presentation and case study. The questions must be submitted online through Avenue to Learn and are due by 12:00 pm Monday of the week for which the reading is assigned, except for Chapter 9, which will be due at the same time on Wednesday, March 9.

Mid-term exam: The mid-term will focus on the first five case studies as presented in the text and discussed in class lectures. Short-answer questions will test general knowledge and understanding of the circumstances, evidence and outcomes of the case studies. Short paragraph-

answer questions will ask for a comparative analysis and evaluation of alternative explanations for developments described for specific case studies.

Final exam: The final exam will follow the same format as the mid-term but will focus on the second set of five case studies covered in the readings from the textbook and related lectures.

Penalties will apply for all late and missed assignments unless an MSAF is filed.

SCHEDULED TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Jan. 11-13 – Introduction: the place of environmental crises in archaeological histories and explanations.

Jan. 18-20 – Environmental Crises and Culture: Hunter-Gatherers, Agriculturalists and Civilizations.

Jan. 25-27 – Understanding collapse.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 1.

Feb. 1-3 – Egypt - Old Kingdom.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 2.

Feb. 8-10 – Akkad, Mesopotamia; Indus Valley.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 3 and Ch.4.

Feb. 15-17 – Minoan Crete.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 5.

Feb. 22-24 – **Mid-term recess.**

March 1-3 – Mycenaean Greece.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 6.

Tues. March 8 – **Mid-term Exam**: Old Kingdom Egypt, Akkadian Empire, Indus Valley, Minoan Crete, Mycenaean Greece.

March 8-10 – Teotihuacan, Mexico.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 9.

March 15-17 – Classic Maya.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 10.

March 22-24 – Andes.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 11.

March 29-31 – Easter Island.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 13.

April 5-7 – Angkor and the Khmer.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 12.

April 12 – Review.
READING: Middleton 2017: Ch. 14.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.

improper collaboration in group work.

copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.