

# INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

**Tues and Thurs 3:45-5:00  
SCHW 152**

## INSTRUCTOR

*Aztec human-skull mask, Tenochtitlan, Mexico City*

Dr. MIKAEL HALLER

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Office Hours: Tues 5-7:00  
Wed 12-5:00  
Thurs 12-2:00  
or by Appointment



## Course Summary

Archaeology and Physical Anthropology, with their long temporal framework, provide a unique opportunity to examine the development of human society; including how humans, and their ancestors, evolved both culturally and biologically over the past 5 million years. This course examines the nature of modern archaeological and physical anthropological research including topics of hominid evolution, primatology, origins of agriculture and civilization and First Nations archaeology. We will examine how archaeologists and physical anthropologists work in the field, how they construct their interpretations and how analogical reasoning is crucial to this process. Through practical exercises, students will have an opportunity to apply this knowledge using real research data.

## Course Text Olszewski, Deborah I.

2016 *Archaeology and Humanity's Story: A Brief Introduction to World Prehistory*.  
Oxford University Press, New York.

## Course Requirements

- |    |   |            |
|----|---|------------|
| 1) | <b>READING SUMMARIES</b> (1% each; 14 in total)<br>These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, due on the day assigned before class. Follow specific format. | <b>14%</b> |
| 2) | <b>Midterm Exam</b> (Feb. 16)<br>This will be a multiple-choice, short answer, and essay exam based on the first part of the course (Chps. 1-7).  | <b>30%</b> |
| 3) | <b>Final Exam</b> (April 12-25)<br>This will be a multiple-choice, short answer, and essay exam primarily based on the second part of the course (Chps. 8-14).                            | <b>30%</b> |

**Exams will be based on information from lectures, readings, discussions, and videos.**

- 4) **Assignment Grade** **18 %**  
 The Assignment grade will consist of 2 assignments  
     1) Garbage Assignment (9 %)  
     2) Bog Bodies (2 parts) (9 %)
- 5) **PARTICIPATION** **8 %**  
 Attendance will be taken and used in conjunction with your preparedness (did you read the text and articles) and your contributions to class discussions. Class disruptions (talking, tardiness, etc.) will be subtracted and can end up as a negatively score.

### Summaries

2 typed pages double-spaced for the class's readings (1-inch margins, 11 font). These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, due on the day assigned before class (no late submissions will be accepted). These are to be in your own words—do not plagiarize the in-text summaries.

Follow specific format. **Use headings.**

Title: (complete bibliographic information; single-spaced)

Summary: (include a detailed summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading; 2/3 text).

Relevance: (Describe how this reading relates to the course and our class discussions; 1/3 of text).

(Summaries are worth 1% each)

### Grading Policy

If a student misses an exam it will be possible to write a make-up exam in essay format, but the illness or emergency must be documented and approved by the Dean's Office (NT 218).

Handing in exercises late will result in losing 25% of the total for each day. Late Assignments should be handed in to the Anthropology Main Office (JBB 208) to be time stamped. Do not slide it under my door! If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining their own notes. I do not give out my class notes.

Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with in strict accordance to the St. F X's Academic regulations ([http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars\\_office/academic\\_integrity](http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/academic_integrity)).

### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

I encourage students that require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications to contact Learning Services ([http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible\\_learning/services](http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible_learning/services)). You must provide documentation of your disability within two weeks from the start of the course.

All StFX students have access to Microsoft Cloud services and should take advantage of this to ensure a backup of academic files. If you choose not to use this service, you are responsible for making your own backups to prevent losing data and not being able to submit required coursework

### Communication

All students have a StFX e-mail account, which must be checked regularly as notices and information pertaining to the course will be sent electronically. You can send electronic correspondence to my university e-mail address ([mhaller@stfx.ca](mailto:mhaller@stfx.ca)).

WEBSITE: Handouts and syllabus are available on my website: <http://people.stfx.ca/mhaller/>

MONTH	DAY	Class #	TOPIC	TEXT	HAND OUT	DUE (summaries)	DUE (in class)	
JAN	5	1	Introduction					
JAN	10	2	Acquiring and Interpreting Data	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 1				
JAN	12	3	Acquiring and Interpreting Data	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 1		Chapter #1		
JAN	17	4	Prehistory before Political Prehistory	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 2	Assignment #1	Chapter #2		
JAN	19	5	Becoming Human	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 3		Chapter #3		
JAN	24	6	Becoming Human	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 3				
JAN	26	7	Modern Humans	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 4		Chapter #4		
JAN	31	8	Modern Humans	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 4				
FEB	2	9	Hunting, Gathering, Foraging, Farming	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 5		Chapter #5		
FEB	7	10	North American Southwest	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 5/6			Assignment #1	
FEB	9	11	North American Southwest	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 6		Chapter #6		
FEB	14	12	Eastern North America	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 7		Chapter #7		
FEB	16		<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>					
FEB	21		<b>WINTER STUDY BREAK (NO CLASSES)</b>					
FEB	23							
FEB	28	13	Early Dynastic Mesopotamia	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 8	Assignment #2a	Chapter #8		
FEB	2	14	Early Dynastic Mesopotamia	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 8				
MARCH	7	15	Pharaonic State and Old Kingdom Egypt	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 9		Chapter #9		
MARCH	9	16	Pharaonic State and Old Kingdom Egypt	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 9				
MARCH	14	17	Shang China	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 10		Chapter #10		
MARCH	16	18	Indus Valley	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 11		Chapter #11		
MARCH	21	19	Mesoamerica and Classic Maya	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 12		Chapter #12		
MARCH	23	20	Mesoamerica and Classic Maya/Bog Bodies	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 12	Assignment #2b		Assignment #2a	
MARCH	28	21	Andean South America and Inka Empire	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 13		Chapter #13		
MARCH	30	22	Andean South America and Inka Empire	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 13				
APRIL	4	23	Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe in Africa	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 14		Chapter #14		
APRIL	6	24	Politically Complex Societies in Perspective	Olszewski 2014: Chapter 15		Chapter #15	Assignment #2b	
APRIL	12 to 25		<b>FINAL EXAM</b>					