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College Hall 447

Office hours: Wednesday, 2:00-3:30; Thursday 2:00-3:30

AROL 214
The Human Story II: The New Stone Age or Neolithic
Spring Semester 2010

1. General Instructional Objective/Goal:

By attending this course students will get a solid knowledge about the cultural evolution of mankind from the end of the Palaeolithic Period (ca. 10.000 BC) to ca. 4000 BC. This period is a crucial one for human history, as it witnesses the appearance of the first permanent settlements, and the transition from mobile hunter-gatherers to sedentary farmers in the Near East. One of the greatest changes can be seen in the economy: instead of relying on hunting and gathering, humans started farming and animal husbandry. However, this new way of life did not only have advantages, as the denser population agglomeration in settlements led to various sanitary, social and environmental problems. How humans overcame these problems will be one of the foci of the course

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Learn how to read and interpret scientific texts
- Identify and list the main archaeological sources available for the study of early human societies
- Assess the value and contribution of each type of source for the study of early human societies
- Explain and discuss the main theories relating to the origins of sedentism, agriculture and animal husbandry

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2. Suggested Readings

- Akkermans, P. M. M. G./Schwartz, G. M.
2003 The Archaeology of Syria. From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (ca. 16,000 – 300 BC) (Cambridge).
- Banning, E. B.
1998 The Neolithic Period: Triumphs of Architecture, Agriculture, and Art. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 61: 188-237.
- Levy, T. E. (ed.)
1995 The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land (London/Washington).
- Lewin, R.
1999 Human Evolution: An Illustrated Introduction (Blackwell).

Scans of all relevant chapters will be placed on Moodle.

3. Grading Criteria

Grades in the course will be calculated based on:

- regular attendance and active participation during the class (10%)
- the midterm examination (40%)
- the final examination (50%).

A visit to the ‘Musée de Préhistoire Libanaise’ (Université de Saint Joseph) is obligatory for all students (date to be announced in class).

4. Course Policy

Students are expected to be on time for class. Latecomers will be counted as absent. Class attendance is required and repeated absence may lead to dropping a student from the course. Make-up exams will only be given to students with a valid excuse. For definitions of cheating and plagiarism as well as the consequences for such see the AUB “Student Code of Conduct” in the Student Handbook.

5. Course Syllabus

| | Topic of the session | Reading assignments |
|---------|---|--|
| Week 1 | Mo 15.02.10: Introduction: Aims of the course We 17.02.10: The theoretical framework: from mobile hunter-gatherers to sedentary farmers Fr 19.02.10: The changing environment | Lewin 1999, 215-220. |
| Week 2 | Mo 22.02.10: Methods: excavations We 24.02.10: Methods: archaeobotany | |
| Week 3 | Mo 01.03.10: Methods: archaeozoology We 03.03.10: The transition from Palaeolithic to Neolithic in the Near East Fr 05.03.10: The Natufian | Akkermans/Schwartz 2003, 14-41. Valla 1995, 169-187 |
| Week 4 | Mo 08.03.10: The Natufian economy We 10.03.10: The beginning of the Neolithic in the Southern Levant Fr 12.03.10: Earliest Jericho (Palestine) | Banning 1998, 188-237. |
| Week 5 | Mo 15.03.10: Ain Ghazal (Jordan) We 17.03.10: Nahal Hemar: a cultic site near the Dead Sea Fr 19.03.10: The beginning of the Neolithic in the Northern Levant | Akkermans/Schwartz 2003, 42-98. |
| Week 6 | Mo 22.03.10: Gazelle hunters in the desert We 24.03.10: Göbekli Tepe (Turkey) Fr 26.03.10: Çayönü (Turkey) | |
| Week 7 | Mo 29.03.10: The economy of the PPN We 31.03.10 Cult and ritual | |
| Week 8 | We 07.04.10: Trade and metalworking Fr 09.04.10: The society of the PPN | |
| Week 9 | Mo 12.04.10: no class We 14.04.10: Midterm examination Fr 16.04.10: no class | |
| Week 10 | Mo 19.04.10: Pottery: a new material We 21.04.10: Early Pottery production Fr 23.04.10: the Pottery Neolithic in the Southern Levant: Introduction | Gopher 1995, 205-225 |
| Week 11 | Mo 26.04.10: the Yarmoukian Culture We 28.04.10: The Wadi Rabah culture Fr 30.04.10: Jericho (Palestine) | |
| Week 12 | Mo 03.05.10: Jericho (continued) We 05.05.10: Wadi Ziqlab (Jordan) Fr. 07.05.10: The Pottery Neolithic in the Northern Levant | Akkermans/Schwartz 2003, 99-153 |
| Week 13 | Mo 10.05.10: Sabi Abyad (Syria) We 12.05.10: The Halaf Culture Fr. 14.05.10: Çatal Höyük (Turkey) | |
| Week 14 | Mo 17.05.10: Çatal Höyük (continued) We 19.05.10: Late Neolithic economy Fr 21.05.10: Late Neolithic society | |
| Week 15 | Mo 24.05.10: The spread of the Neolithic way of life: Africa We 26.05.10: The spread of the Neolithic way of life: Europe Fr. 28.05.10: Revision | |