YOU MUST READ THE SYLLABUS CAREFULLY. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL DUE DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS

YOU MUST REGULARLY CHECK YOUR UNIVERSITY EMAIL FOR NOTES AND UPDATES VIA BLACKBOARD

Course Description

This course considers the role of mobile groups such as traders, pastoralists, migrants and refugees, in forging interconnections between regions of the Levant, and as a dynamic in events unfolding over the period 3400-1200 BCE. This does not mean that sedentary communities are ignored – on the contrary, it is within those communities that much of the evidence for mobile groups is to be found.

Assessment

All papers must be submitted in hard copy as well as emailed. All papers must be single-sided, double-spaced and 12 pt font.

30% Pottery analysis. You will determine a method for analyzing pottery according to the questions you want answers to. You will apply the method and report on the results. Ca. 3000 words. You may choose the materials from weeks 2 or 5. Report is due Friday of Week 7 (Feb 17th)

15% Three analyses of readings @ 5% each. Your choice. 3 pages.

35% Research paper. Topic to be agreed with instructor. Ca. 5000 words. Due Week 9 (Mar 7)

20%. Final symposium: in the final class time you will present your findings on the significance of the mobility on the Bronze Age. Presentations should be no more than 20 minutes.

Classroom Policies

STUDENTS MAY NOT OPEN THEIR COMPUTERS IN CLASS UNLESS EXPRESSLY PERMITTED BY INSTRUCTOR. No phones or any other digital media are permitted. Class may not be recorded unless by prior arrangement with instructor. Computers may be used to take notes only. Wikipedia is not considered an acceptable source under any situation (so don’t bother consulting it in class). If students persist in inappropriate use of electronic media, they will be
asked to leave the class. Behavior that distracts other students will not be permitted. Students are expected to discuss all topics openly and civilly.

**MARCH 13th IS LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS**

Failure to complete all components of the assessment may result in a failing grade.

Failure to properly reference any written work or to acknowledge source material is considered plagiarism and will result in a failing grade.

**Readings**

Some readings are given as a source of information, but some will apply the techniques or theories we are discussing to a particular subject. Approached critically these sources are also ways of learning how archaeologists do things and why. For this reason you will be expected to do three things with the readings: extract information, analyze the structure and implications of the piece, and break down the argument. Most readings are available online at JSTOR, academia.edu or researchgate.net. Please consult google scholar. Otherwise they will be posted in Blackboard. Please pay attention to the directions in the weekly schedule.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism consists of passing off someone else’s work as your own. This may be done in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to: wholesale copying of another person’s writing; getting someone else to write your work for you; quoting someone’s words directly within your own writing but failing to place the quote in quotation marks and/or failing to provide a reference; failing to provide a reference for someone else’s words that you paraphrase; failing to acknowledge information or ideas that have come from someone else. Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be reported. It will be then treated according to school policies and may result in expulsion. Please see the appropriate web page for the school’s plagiarism policy.

**Attendance**

It is very difficult to pass this class unless you attend class regularly. There are three reasons for this: one, I will be modeling for you in class the kind of work you are supposed to do for assignments and exams; two, readings do not replace class content; and three, class discussions, because they are the practice of analysis, are as important as any other part of the course. Exam questions are taken directly from class materials and discussions.

Week One (Tues Jan 10): What is complexity? And why does it matter?

The Levant at the beginning of the Bronze Age - Lebanon, Southern Syria, CisJordan, TransJordan, Negev, Sinai.
Week Two (Tues Jan 17): Interregional contacts in the late fourth millennium

In the south the period is called EB I, in the north the Late Chalcolithic/Uruk expansion. In Egypt it is Naqada II. This is the period that witnesses the dawn of complex society – but where did this first happen, and how did it spread?


AND EITHER


OR


Week Three (Tues Jan 24): Nomads and Red Black Burnished Ware,

Throughout the Early Bronze Age the movement of various commodities across large areas is evident. But how did they move, and what impact on complexity did these commodities, or the interaction they represent, have? We begin with the grape…


Week Four (Tues Jan 31): Egypt and copper.

…and follow up with the ingot.


Week Five (Tues Feb 7): Collapse and complexity

It has long been maintained that urban life across the Levant and Mesopotamia came to an end, one way or another, with the final days of the third millennium. While much effort has been devoted to determining the cause, how much effort has been devoted to determining the validity of collapse in the first place?


Week Six (Tues Feb 14): Nomads and the Intermediate Bronze Age – time for a new paradigm?

A lack of evidence for settlements in this period, especially in Transjordan is usually equated with the presence (or rather, absence) of nomads.


Week Seven (Tues Feb 21): READING WEEK

Week Eight (Tues Feb 28): The Middle Bronze and resurgence of settled life, North and South.

What constitutes continuity and what constitutes change? Is the Middle Bronze more or less complex than the previous period, or is it really just a matter of rearrangement?


Week Nine (Tues Mar 7): The fundamental problem remains.

Most situations in which the movement of people is recognized, are based on the identification of distribution patterns in material culture, especially pottery. This both a theoretical problem and an analytical one.


Week Ten (Tues Mar 14): Intersecting empires - the Levant in the Late Bronze

The expansionary ambitions of the multiple empires that arise in this period – the Hittites, Mittannians, Assyrians, and Egyptians to name only a few key players bring a different kind of regional interconnection at this time. The mobile groups in this period are armies, couriers and diplomats.


Selected Amarna letters

Week Eleven (Tues Mar 21): Trade – Mycenaean and Cypriote pottery, Canaanite copper.

The Levantine coast and Aegean are linked through trade. To what extent do these connections parallel political relationships?


Week Twelve (Tues Mar 28): Migration and the Late Bronze collapse - the Sea Peoples

The Sea peoples are blamed for a lot of things, but who are they? Where if they come from? And why?


Week Thirteen (Tues Apr 4): Symposium: your assessment of the role of mobility in the Bronze Age Levant.