

Archaeological Anthropology Paper

Anth B101 Fall 2022

Please read these guidelines carefully

Due: a printed, stapled hardcopy due to Prof. Barrier between December 6-8 either in class or in his drop-box (Dalton 306). Must be submitted by 5pm on December 8 at the latest.

Format: 12-point Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri font; 1-inch margins on all four sides; do not hit return multiple times between paragraphs, keep everything double-spaced.

Length: **3 to 3.5 double spaced pages of text**; the very top line should have your name followed by your selected region of the world (e.g., Charlie Darwin – Galapagos Islands), with your introductory paragraph starting just below your name. Your bibliography/references cited (required) can be on a fourth page.

--Essay Prompt--

This semester you have learned about human biocultural evolution, from the origins and behaviors of our earliest hominin ancestors millions of years ago, to accounts of some of the major cultural-evolutionary transitions that have occurred throughout the last several millennia and few centuries. One result of worldwide cultural evolution is that each of us today live in an industrialized agricultural society. Archaeologists working all over the world have been able to produce information concerning the earliest domestication of plants and animals, how farming began, and how farming spread beyond the handful of places where it was first practiced.

For this paper you will read a handful of readings and answer the questions below in a well-crafted essay.

(1) Everyone must read:

Price, T. Douglas, and Ofer Bar-Yosef

2011 The Origins of Agriculture: New Data, New Ideas: An Introduction to Supplement 4. *Current Anthropology* 52(S4):S163-S174.

****Scarre, Chris**

2021 The World Transformed: From Hunter-Gatherers to Early Farmers. In *The Human Past: Essentials*, edited by Chris Scarre and Tammy Stone, pp. 95-109. Thames & Hudson, London.

****Diamond, Jared**

2002 Evolution, Consequences and Future of Plant and Animal Domestication. *Nature* 418:700-707.

****These two readings were assigned in class for Nov 14.**

(2) Then, you will select one additional article from the list below to discuss domestication and early farming in one world region (China, New Guinea, or Eastern North America).

Zhao, Zhijun

2011 New Archaeobotanic Data for the Study of the Origins of Agriculture in China. *Current Anthropology* 52(S4):S295-S306.

Denham, Tim

2011 Early Agriculture and Plant Domestication in New Guinea and Island Southeast Asia. *Current Anthropology* 52(S4):S349-S395.

Smith, Bruce D.

2011 The Cultural Context of Plant Domestication in Eastern North America. *Current Anthropology* 52(S4):S471-S484.

Write an essay about domestication and early farming, with a special focus on your chosen world region. Make sure that you discuss the following things:

What is domestication? What is agriculture? In your chosen world region, what are the species that were domesticated and farmed? How does the author explain the domestication process and early farming in your chosen region? What types of information (material culture, climate data, etc.) does your author use? What methods do they discuss? Does your author propose (or draw upon) a theory for explaining the transition to farming in your region?

You do not need to answer these questions in this order, but instead craft an essay in a narrative form. Be sure to discuss the data presented by your author.

Make sure that you properly cite, in your text, every source that you use (see suggested citation guidelines) and include a bibliography/references cited section at the end.