

DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CITIES

Physical, social, economic, and political structures

COURSE #:

22F-DEC

FORMAT:

Seminar

MODERATOR:

Larry Ambs
Kathy Campbell

DATE & TIME:

Wed – 9:30 – 11:30 AM
10 Weeks
Starting on 9/28/2022

LOCATION:

Zoom
Online Only

MAX NO. OF PARTICIPANTS:

16

AUDITORS ACCEPTED:

Yes

MAX NO. OF AUDITORS:

2

PURPOSE:

We will review the archeological evidence from some of the world's earliest cities and learn about how modern archeology uses such evidence to make inferences about the social structures and everyday lives of their residents.

DESCRIPTION:

Physically, cities are defined as conglomerations of people and buildings grouped together to serve as a political, cultural, or economic center. For 95% of human existence, people lived in villages of not more than a few hundred people, where it was possible to know everyone else personally or at least by reputation. But in order to live in larger communities, i.e., in cities, humans needed to build new types of physical infrastructure, establish new cultural norms, and devise new rules and systems of governance that would permit unrelated individuals and complete strangers to live together in reasonable harmony.

Modern archeological exploration of ancient cities such as Çatalhöyük, Cahokia, Mojenjo-daro, Teotihuacan, or Uruk involves much more than reconstructing the built environment, although that of course remains important. In this seminar we will look at the archeological evidence for the various solutions and attempted solutions to the new social and political problems faced by early cities.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant will select a city to report on. The moderators will supply a list of cities as well as initial research options. Participants may select another city with the approval of the moderators.

RESOURCES:

The moderators will suggest background reading and help participants identify resources for their specific cities.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Larry has moderated many seminars on topics ranging from political history to historical archaeology and the sciences. Kathy has moderated seminars on economics, democracy, language, and climate change.