

## **The Archaeology of Human Sacrifices**

ANT4930 – ANG6930 / 4G32 – 4G31

Tuesday: 9:35 – 11:30 am/ 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>/ Matherly 0009

Thursday: 9:35-10:25am, period: 3<sup>rd</sup>/Matherly 0011

**Location: Matherly Hall**

**Academic Term: Spring 2019**

### ***Instructor:***

Gabriel Prieto

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Office Hours: By appointment (send me an email).

Office location: B350, Turlington Hall

### ***Course Description***

Credit Hours: ANT4930: 3-3

ANG6930: 3-3

The sacrifice of men, women, and children is one of the most controversial acts in ancient societies. Practiced around the world, this act is imbued in intricate rituals that explain the essence of human nature. This course explores human sacrificial practices around the world and its social, political and economic implications, as well as the ideological role they played in a given time and society. From the Old World with an emphasis in the Middle East, Asia, and Europe to the Americas, archaeologists have reported evidence of these obscure practices from the very beginning of civilizations as institutionalized practices embedded in the foundations of their political and ideological agendas. We will critically explore the reasons for and impacts of these practices based on each case. How should we conceive this kind of behavior in ancient societies? Should we judge these practices based on our modern 21<sup>st</sup>-century worldview?

### ***Course Objectives***

To develop a broad understanding of human sacrifice and its identification and interpretation from an archaeological and anthropological perspective. To develop the ability to critically evaluate reports of human sacrifice in academic and popular literature.

To develop a regional survey around the world discussing the most relevant archaeological cases of human sacrifices and its temporal and social context.

### ***Required Textbooks***

(See assigned readings by week)

### **Important Dates:**

#### **Test and Writing Assignment Due Dates**

In-class quizz #1:	Thursday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>
Midterm exam:	Tuesday, February 27 <sup>th</sup>
Writing Assignment:	Due on Thursday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam:	Thursday, April 25 <sup>th</sup>
Final paper (only for graduate students):	Due on Friday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>

**Archaeology of Human Sacrifice, ANT 4930 – ANG6930  
Gabriel Prieto – Spring 2020**

## Course Schedule

**Weeks 1 and 2: General introduction: Interpreting human sacrifice. Why studying human sacrifice in the past? The identification of human sacrifice in the archaeological record. Historical vs. archaeological data.**

Readings:

Benson, Elizabeth

2001 Why Sacrifice? In *Ritual Sacrifice in Ancient Peru*, edited by Elizabeth Benson and Anita G. Cook, pp. 1-20. University of Texas Press.

Donnan, Christopher

1975 The Thematic Approach to Moche Iconography. *Journal of Latin American Lore* 1(2): 147-162

Moses, Sharon

2012 Sociopolitical Implications of Neolithic Foundations Deposits and the Possibility of Child Sacrifice: A Case Study at Çatalhöyük, Turkey. In *Sacred Killing. The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Anne Porter and Glenn M. Schwartz, pp. 79-96. Einsebrauns

Schwartz, Glenn

2017 The Archaeological Study of Sacrifice. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 46: 223-240.

Tatlock, Jason

2018 Debating the Legitimacy of Human Sacrifice in Modern Hinduism and Biblical Tradition. *Journal of Global South Studies* 35(1): 130-154.

Tiesler, Vera

2007 Funerary or Nonfunerary? New References in Identifying Ancient Maya Sacrificial and Postsacrificial Behaviors from Human Assemblages. In *New Perspectives on Human Sacrifice and Ritual Body Treatments in Ancient Maya Society*, edited by Vera Tiesler, and Andrea Cucina, pp. 14-44. Springer

Tung, Tiffany

2016 Practicing and Performing Sacrifice. In *Ritual Violence in the Ancient Andes. Reconstructing Sacrifice on the North Coast of Peru*, edited by Haagen D. Klaus and J. Marla Toyne, pp. 361-370. University of Texas Press.

Vail, Gabrielle and Christine Hernandez

2007 Human Sacrifice in Late Postclassic Maya Iconography and Texts. In *New Perspectives on Human Sacrifice and Ritual Body Treatments in Ancient Maya Society*, edited by Vera Tiesler, and Andrea Cucina, pp. 120-164. Springer

Verano, John

2001 The Physical Evidence of Human Sacrifice in Ancient Peru. In *Ritual Sacrifice in Ancient Peru*, edited by Elizabeth Benson and Anita G. Cook, pp. 165-184. University of Texas Press.

**Week 3: Regional survey of human sacrifice: The Ancient Andes Part 1: Early manifestations of human sacrifice. The Moche and their bloody ceremonies. Violence and ritual in Wari society.**

Readings:

Bourget, Steve

2016 Chapter 7. Human Sacrifice and Rulership. In *Sacrifice, Violence, and Ideology among the Moche. The Rise of Social Complexity in Ancient Peru*, pp. 329-405. University of Texas Press.

Cordy-Collins, Alana

2001 Decapitation in Cupisnique and Early Moche Societies. In *Ritual Sacrifice in Ancient Peru*, edited by Elizabeth Benson and Anita G. Cook, pp. 21-33. University of Texas Press.

Nagaoka, Tomohito, Kazuhiro Uzawa, Yuji Seki and Daniel Morales Chocano

2017 Pacopampa: Early evidence of violence at a ceremonial site in the northern Peruvian highlands. *PLoS ONE* 12(9): e0185421. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0185421>

Tung, Tiffany and Kelly J. Knudson

2010 Childhood Lost: Abductions, Sacrifice and Trophy Heads of Children in the Wari Empire of the Ancient Andes. *Latin American Antiquity* 21(1): 44-66.

Verano, John

2013 Many Faces of Death. Warfare, human sacrifice and mortuary practices of the elite in late pre-Hispanic northern Peru. In *The Routledge Handbook of the Bioarchaeology of Human Conflict*, edited by Christopher Knusel and Martin Smith, pp. 355-370. Routledge.

#### **Week 4: The Ancient Andes, Part 2: 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Century Human Sacrifice Practices before the Inca Society.**

Readings:

Klaus, Haagen and Izumi Shimada

2016 Bodies and Blood: Middle Sican Human Sacrifice in the Lambayeque Valley Complex (AD 900-1100). In *Ritual Violence in the Ancient Andes. Reconstructing Sacrifice on the North Coast of Peru*, edited by Haagen D. Klaus and J. Marla Toyne, pp. 120-149. University of Texas Press.

Klaus, Haagen, Bethany L. Turner, Fausto Saldaña, Samuel Castillo and Carlos Wester

2016 Human Sacrifice at the Chotuna-Chornancap Archaeological Complex: Traditions and Transformations of Ritual Violence under Chimu and Inka Rule. In *Ritual Violence in the Ancient Andes. Reconstructing Sacrifice on the North Coast of Peru*, edited by Haagen D. Klaus and J. Marla Toyne, pp. 178-210. University of Texas Press.

Prieto, Gabriel, John W. Verano, Nicolas Goepfert, Douglas Kennett, Jeffrey Quilter, Steven LeBlanc, Lars Fehren-Schmitz, Jannine Forst, Mellisa Lund, Brittany Dement, Elise Dufour, Olivier Tombret, Melina Calmon, Davette Gadison and Khrystyne Tschinkel

2019 A mass sacrifice of children and camelids at the Huanchaquito-Las Llamas site, Moche Valley, Peru. *PLOS ONE* 14(3):e0211691

#### **Week 5: The Ancient Andes: The Incas and the Capacocha ceremonies.**

Readings:

Valerie A. Andrushko, Michele R. Buzon, Arminda M. Gibaja, Gordon F. McEwan,

Antonio Simonetti, and Robert A. Creaser

2011 Investigating a child sacrifice event from the Inca heartland. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 38: 323-333

Ceruti, Maria Constanza

2004 Human bodies as objects of dedication at Inca mountain shrines (north-western Argentina). *World Archaeology* 36(1): 103–122.

2015 Frozen Mummies from Andean Mountaintop Shrines: Bioarchaeology and Ethnohistory of Inca Human Sacrifice. *BioMed Research International* 2015, ID 439428, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2015/439428>.

## **Week 6: Mesoamerica: Human sacrifice in ancient Maya society. Sacrificial practices in Central Mexico: Teotihuacan.**

### Readings:

Scherer, Andrew K.

2017 Ritual Practice: Sacrifice and Mortuary Rites. In *Bioarchaeology and the Skeletons of the Pre-Columbian Maya*. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 25:133-184

Sugiyama, Saburo and Leonardo Lopez-Lujan

2007 Dedicatory Burial/Offering Complexes at The Moon Pyramid, Teotihuacan. A Preliminary Report of 1998-2004 explorations. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 18: 127-146.

Joralemon, David

1974 Ritual Blood-Sacrifice among the Ancient Maya: Part I. Paper presented at the Primera Mesa Redonda de Palenque, Dec. 14-21, 1973, Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico.

De Anda, Guillermo

2007 Sacrifice and Ritual Body Mutilation in Postclassical Maya Society: Taphonomy of the Human Remains from Chichén Itzá's Cenote Sagrado 190. In *New Perspectives on Human Sacrifice and Ritual Body Treatments in Ancient Maya Society*, edited by Vera Tiesler, and Andrea Cucina, pp. 190-208. Springer

## **Week 7: Late Human Sacrificial practices in Mexico: Aztecs and Mixtecs. Film! Apocalypto**

### Readings:

Carrasco, David

1995 Give Me Some Skin: The Charisma of the Aztec Warrior. *History of Religions* 35(1): 1-26.

Graulich, Michael

2000 Aztec Human Sacrifice as Expiation. *History of Religions* 39(4): 352-371.

Wade, Lizzie

2018 Feeding the Gods. *Science* 360(6395): 1288-1292

## **Week 8: Discussion of Hollywood Approach vs. archaeological data. Midterm.**

Feb. 25: Debate about Apocalypto movie

Feb 27: Midterm

No readings this week

## **Week 9: Human sacrifices in North America**

### Readings:

Claassen, Cheryl

2013 Infanticide and sacrifices among Archaic babies of the central United States. *World Archaeology* 45(2): 298-313.

Marlar, Richard, Banks L. Leonard, Brian R. Billman, Patricia M. Lambertk and Jennifer E. Marlar

2000 Biochemical evidence of cannibalism at a prehistoric Puebloan site in southwestern Colorado. *Nature* 407: 74-78.

Thompson, Andrew R., Kristin Hedman, and Philip A. Slater

2015 New Dental and Isotope Evidence of Biological Distance and Place of Origin for Mass Burial Groups at Cahokia's Mound 72. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 158:341-357.

## **Week 10: The Old World: The Near East.**

### Readings:

Baadsgaard, Aubrey, Janet Monge and Richard L. Zettler

2012 Bludgeoned, Burned, and Beautified: Reevaluating Mortuary Practices in the Royal Cemetery of Ur. In *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Anne Porter and Glenn Schwartz, pp. 57-77. Eisenbrauns.

Porter, Anne

2012 Mortal Mirrors: Creating Kin through Human Sacrifice in third Millennium Syro-Mesopotamia. In *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Anne Porter and Glenn Schwartz, pp. 191-216. Eisenbrauns.

## **Week 11: Asia: China and Japan.**

### Readings:

Campbell, Roderick

2012 On Sacrifice: An Archaeology of Shang Sacrifice. In *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Anne Porter and Glenn Schwartz, pp. 305-324. Eisenbrauns.

Harimoto, Kengo

2007 Human Sacrifice in Japan. In: *The Strange World of Human Sacrifice*. Studies in the History and Anthropology of Religion, edited by Jan N. Bremmer, pp. 229-236. Leuven.

## **Week 12: Greece and Rome.**

### Readings:

Rundin, John

2004 Pozo Moro, Child Sacrifice and the Greek Legendary Tradition. *Journal of Biblical Literature* 123(3): 425-447.

## **Week 13: New techniques and approaches to investigate human sacrifice in ancient times**

### Readings:

Price, Douglas, James H. Burton, Lori E. Wright, Christine D. White and Fred Longstaffe

2007 Victims of Sacrifice: Isotopic Evidence for Place of Origin. In *New Perspectives on Human Sacrifice and Ritual Body Treatments in Ancient Maya Society*, edited by Vera Tiesler, and Andrea Cucina, pp. 263-292. Springer

Toyne, Marla

2016 Life Before Death: A Paleopathological Examination of Human Sacrifice at the Templo de la Piedra Sagrada, Tucume, Peru. In *Ritual Violence in the Ancient Andes. Reconstructing Sacrifice on the North Coast of Peru*, edited by Haagen D. Klaus and J. Marla Toyne, pp. 215-243. University of Texas Press.

Ambrose, Stanley, Jane Buikstra and Harold W. Krueger

2003 Status and gender differences in diet at Mound 72, Cahokia, revealed by isotopic analysis of bone. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 22: 217-226.

## **Week 14: Human sacrifices and its potential to expand our knowledge of the ancient past**

TBD. Activities to be defined in class by the instructor. Work groups.

**Week 15: Debating human sacrifices, what did we learn? Reading week.**

April 21<sup>st</sup>: Last Class. Debate on human sacrifices, what did we learn from all the case studies?

April 23<sup>th</sup>: Reading days start

**Week 16: Final exam / Papers due.**

April 28<sup>th</sup>: Final exam.

May 1<sup>st</sup>: Papers are due for graduate students.

***Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy***

**Class Attendance:** Regular class attendance is essential to this course. Attendance will be taken into account (attendance list per each class) in calculating your final grade in the class, and excessive absences will be reported, as required, to the Dean's Office. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog:

(<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Code of Academic and Student Conduct:** This course will adhere to the University of Florida Code of Academic Conduct on all exams and written work submitted by students.

Please note that is prohibited the use of smart phones, tablets, and other devices on exams.

**Laptop and Tablet Policy:** allowed ONLY for taking notes during the class.

**Missed homework, missed quizzes, and missed exams:** please contact directly and immediately with the instructor of the course. Otherwise, the assignment points will not be considered in your final grade.

***Evaluation of Grades***

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Percentage of Final Grade</b>
Writing Assignment (1)	100	15%
Quizz (1)	100	15%
Midterm Exam	100	30%
Final Exam/Final Paper	100	40%
		100%

## ***Grading Policy***

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
90.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
87.0 - 89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 - 86.9	B+	3.33
81.0 - 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 - 80.9	B-	2.67
75.0 - 79.9	C+	2.33
72.0 - 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 - 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 - 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 - 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.9	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## ***Students Requiring Accommodations***

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting

<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their

accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

## ***University Honesty Policy***

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors

that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### ***Software Use***

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### ***Student Privacy***

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

### ***Campus Resources:***

#### ***Health and Wellness***

##### **U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

##### **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

#### ***Academic Resources***

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.



**Student Complaints Campus:** [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf).

**On-Line Students Complaints:** <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.