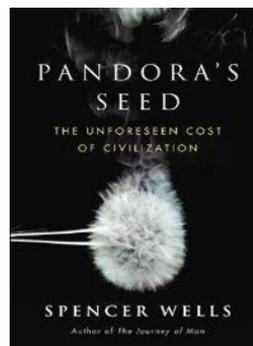


CE Prehistoric Cultures Week 14 – 12 December 2011

## Food Production: A Biocultural Revolution The Neolithic

**This week** (12 December 2011) **we begin to have a look at ancient civilizations and the revolution that made that all possible—Food Production** (sometimes also known as “The Neolithic Revolution”).

About 10,000 years ago humans began *producing* food, and things haven’t been the same since. Spencer Wells—you remember him from the National Geographic Genographic Project—recently wrote an excellent and important book about it . . .



“In *The Journey of Man*, renowned geneticist and anthropologist Spencer Wells traced human evolution back to our earliest ancestors, creating a remarkable and readable map of our distant past. Now, in his thrilling new book, he examines our cultural inheritance in order to find the turning point that led us to the path we are on today, one he believes we must veer from in order to survive.”

“*Pandora’s Seed* takes us on a powerful and provocative globe-trotting tour of human history, back to a seminal event roughly ten thousand years ago, when our species made a radical shift in its way of life: We became farmers rather than hunter-gatherers, setting in motion a momentous chain of events that could not have been foreseen at the time.”

“Although this decision to control our own food supply is what propelled us into the modern world, Wells demonstrates—using the latest genetic and anthropological data—that such a dramatic shift in lifestyle had a downside that we’re only now beginning to recognize. Growing grain crops ultimately made humans more sedentary and unhealthy and made the planet more crowded. The expanding population and the need to apportion limited resources such as water created hierarchies and inequalities. The desire to control—and no longer cooperate with—nature altered the concept of religion, making deities fewer and more influential, foreshadowing today’s fanaticisms. The proximity of humans and animals bred diseases that metastasized over time. Freedom of movement and choice were replaced by a pressure to work that is the forebear of the anxiety and depression millions feel today. Wells offers a hopeful prescription for altering a life to which we were always ill suited, recommending that we change our priorities and self-destructive appetites before it’s too late.”

“A riveting and accessible scientific detective story, *Pandora’s Seed* is an eye-opening book for anyone fascinated by the past and concerned about the future.” – Book Description (Random House, 2010)

*Pandora's Seed* is a good evaluation of the consequences of the agricultural revolution and the resulting subsequent rise of civilizations.

In class we'll have our own in-class evaluation. Our IT folks have also sent you one on-line. Please complete both of them carefully and thoughtfully as they are very important to this class, and to the Department and College.



And, for the most part, it was agriculture that made civilization—living in cities—possible.

The word *civilization* comes from the Latin *civitas*, referring to people who constituted a city-state—the citizenry of a town or city. *Civilisation* in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was contrasted with wild—*sauvage* in French—setting up the well-known comparison “civilized” and “savage” which really meant living in the wild—that is, hunting/gathering/foraging—vs. living in the city.

And, as I mentioned, that changed almost everything—at least for the city folks.

We'll have a look at the “Agricultural Revolution,” known as “The Neolithic Revolution” in the Near East, and we'll have a look at a couple of the early city-state civilizations, with the video “Wisdom of the Stones: Life in the Neolithic Age” (Part 1 of *Secrets of the Stone Age Series*).

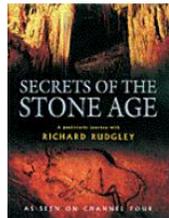
video:

**“Wisdom of the Stones: Life in the Neolithic Age”**

part 1 of *Secrets of the Stone Age Series*  
(51 min., 2000, VC 3906, pt. 1)

[film HomePage](#)

[course viewing guide](#)



[Mother Goddess](#)

[Hagar Qim, Malta](#)

[Malta HomePage](#)

“In this program, anthropologist Richard Rudgley strives to roll back the limits of history to include the remarkable achievements of the Neolithic Age. Engineering skills, as demonstrated by the temple of Hagar Qim and the Hal Safflieni Hypogeum, in Malta; indications of well-developed religious systems; evidence of acupuncture techniques; examples of bookkeeping via clay tokens; and proof of an intricate social structure through the digs at Çatal Höyük and Asikli Höyük, in Turkey, reveal the depth and the genius of the Neolithic peoples. Architect Richard England, writing specialist Denise Schmandt Besserat, and others support Rudgley’s thesis with expert analysis.”

Of course the most famous Neolithic person is "Ötzi" "The Iceman"

[http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/video/Ice\\_Man.html#title](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/video/Ice_Man.html#title). The most recent film on Ötzi—*Iceman Murder Mystery* (NOVA October, 2011)—emphasized his life as a person living in the transitional times going from hunting/gathering/foraging to early agriculture, based on the most recent analysis of the contents of his stomach . . .

"He's been dead for more than 5,000 years and poked, prodded, and probed by scientists for the last 20. Yet Ötzi the Iceman, the famous mummified corpse pulled from a glacier in the Italian Alps, continues to keep many secrets. Now, through an autopsy like none other, scientists will attempt to unravel mysteries about this ancient mummy, revealing not only the details of Ötzi's death but also an entire way of life. How did people live during Ötzi's time, the Copper Age? What did they eat? What diseases did they cope with? Join NOVA as we defrost the ultimate time capsule—the 5,000-year-old man."

If you want, you can watch the video  
*Iceman Murder Mystery*

[online](#)

(NOVA October, 2011)

[Iceman Murder Mystery HomePage](#)

There are various films out on Ötzi, but in class we'll see the original as it does a better job than the others at explaining the initial discovery and investigation of the discovery . . .

video:

***The Iceman***

(56 min., 1992, VC 1981)

film HomePage

[course viewing guide](#)



[Ötzi—The Iceman](#) -- [South Tyrol Museum](#)

**Bronze Age: 2,200 B.C.**

**Copper: 3,300 B.C.**

**Neolithic: 8,000 - 3,000 B.C.**

("Wisdom of the Stones")

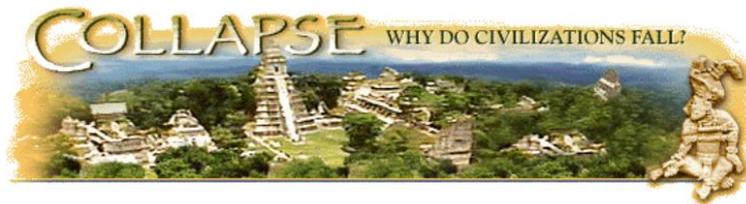
"[*The Iceman*] examines a 5300-year-old corpse discovered in the Alps. Perfectly preserved by five millennia of ice, the corpse allows a rare glimpse into the daily life of Stone Age man: his diet, his clothing, and way of life. Follows scientists and archaeologists as they analyze his hair, clothing, and stomach to uncover clues as to how our ancestors lived and died."

Time permitting we'll also have a look at the collapse of civilizations. We for sure will not have time for the rise of civilizations, but prehistoric cultures tells us a lot about the collapse, from a comparative point of view (remember Week 1, Main Characteristics of Anthropology?) . . .

DAY 29 Thursday, 15 December 2011 nlt 12:35  
CE Week 14 Monday, 12 December 2011 nlt tba

video:  
**\*\*"The Collapse"**  
from the *Out of the Past* series  
(60 min., 1993, VC 2135)  
\* time permitting

[film HomePage](#)  
[course viewing guide](#)



"The program reveals that ancient civilizations suffered from the consequences of overpopulation and over-exploitation of resources and shows that, through archaeology, we can apply the lessons of the past to the present."

In the **moodle** *Forum* this week we'll also have a look at Ötzi, and prehistoric dentistry . . .

- [Forum: What's Really New with Ötzi The Iceman? \(Due by Friday, 16 December 2011\)](#)
- [Forum: Prehistoric Dentistry \(Due by Friday, 16 December 2011\)](#)

As usual, if you have any questions, please let me know: <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>. Or, better yet, post them on you **moodle** Discussion and Project forum boards. Share your ideas. Discuss them on-line with the others in class

. . .

CE

CE class wiki: [General Student Discussion Area Forum](#)  
CE project live chat: [Live chat for Project Collaboration](#)

Your **moodle** Topics and Reading Assignments Listings for Week 14 will look something like the information below.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

[Anth 1602 Prehistoric Cultures](#)

**Week 14 — Food Production: A Biocultural Revolution**  
The Neolithic



CE Week 14 Memo

DAY and CE Prehistoric Cultures [Extra Credit](#) papers are due Friday, 9 December 2011

Food Production and the Rise of [Ancient Civilizations](#): The Neolithic

Food Production: A Biocultural Revolution

slides: (.pdf) ([pptx](#))

The First Civilizations

slides: (.pdf) ([pptx](#))

New World Civilizations

slides: (.pdf) ([pptx](#))

CE Week 14 Monday, 12 December 2011 nlt tba

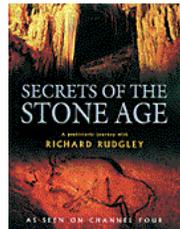
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film [HomePage](#)

[course viewing guide](#)



[Mother Goddess](#)  
[Hagar Qim, Malta](#)  
[Malta HomePage](#)

**Bronze Age: 2,200 B.C.**

**Copper Age: 3,300 B.C.**

**Neolithic: 8,000 - 3,000 B.C.**  
[\("Wisdom of the Stones"\)](#)

course evaluation  
(CE Week 14 Monday, 12 December 2011)



**Anth 1602 - 090**

**Course Call # = 29250**

**Semester = 3 Fall**

**Year = 11**

CE Week 14 Monday, 12 December 2011 nlt tba

video:

***The Iceman***

(56 min., 1992, VC 1981)

film HomePage  
[course viewing guide](#)

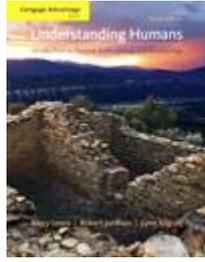


[Ötzi—The Iceman](#) -- [South Tyrol Museum](#)

For Week 14 Activities see [moodle](#)

readings from [Understanding Humans, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition](#)

**Ch. 15, "The First Civilizations," pp. 387-424**



assignment:  
[Review for Final Exam](#)



Final Exam information  
is available at  
<<http://www.d.umn.edu/cia/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pce examsTR.html#final>>

Click on the various items for details

Review the materials  
in your text



in your class notes  
and on the  
[DAY video viewing guides](#)  
OR  
[CE video viewing guides](#)

### Useful Information:

[UMD Study Strategies](#)

[Test Taking Strategies](#)

[Learning Styles](#)

[Listening Skills](#)

[Taking Notes from Lectures](#)

[Special Facilities / Arrangements](#)

[Basic Information about the text](#)

[Writing Essays for Exams](#)



(Purdue University Online Writing Lab)

[Sample Exam Questions: Final](#)

[extra help with exams](#)



### CE Final Exam

The f2011 CE [Prehistoric Cultures Final Exam](#) will be **Monday, 19 December 2011, 06:00 - 07:55 p.m. in Cina 214** (*n.b.* not 5:00)

The **Live Chat for the CE Prehistoric Cultures Final Exam** will be Sunday, 18 December 2011, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Sign in on .

Other Q & A

[60 questions, 300 points]

[exam answer sheet](#)

**DAY** and **CE** Prehistoric Cultures [Extra Credit](#) papers are due Friday, 9 December 2011