

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Duluth Campus

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12 December 2012

DAY Prehistoric Cultures Week 15  
(Week 15 is Thursday)

## "The First Civilizations" "The Collapse"

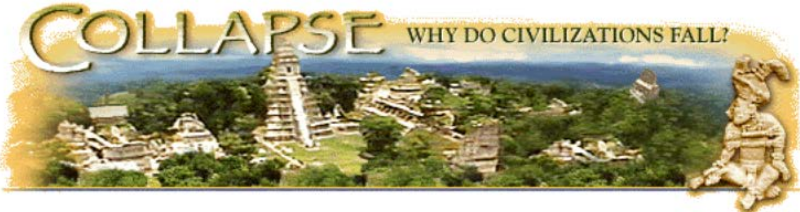
**This week we come to the end of prehistory . . . and Prehistoric Cultures.**

**And it ends with a bang, well actually, a collapse . . . in fact, *The Collapse*.**

DAY 29 Thursday, 15 December 2011 nlt 12:35  
CE Week 14 Monday, 12 December 2011 nlt 7:25

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

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



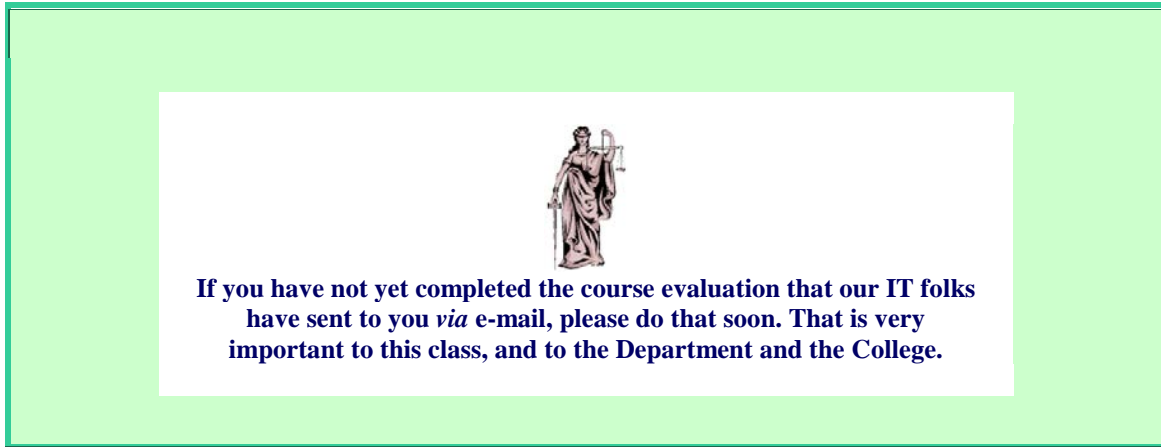
"The program reveals that ancient civilizations suffered from the consequences of overpopulation and over-exploitation of resources and shows that, through archaeology, we can apply the lessons of the past to the present."

"The decline and fall of civilizations captures our interest. Could we be next, going the way of the Sumerians, the Romans, the Maya? The collapse of Copan, brought on by overpopulation and overexploitation of resources, is explored, along with other ancient cultures that have faced the problems we confront today. . . ."

"Hundreds of years ago in what is now modern Honduras, Copán was a thriving center of Maya life. Tens of thousands of people made their home in the Copán Valley. Yet despite its importance, Copán went into decline. Across the vast territory of the ancient Maya, other important sites were sharing a similar fate. Classic Maya civilization was collapsing."

"Why did this great civilization fall? The history of humankind has been marked by patterns of growth and decline. Some declines have been gradual, occurring over centuries. Others have been rapid, occurring over the course of a few years. War, drought, natural disaster, disease, overpopulation, economic disruption: any of these can bring about the collapse of a civilization. Internal causes (such as political struggles or overfarming) can combine with external causes (such as war or natural disaster) to bring about a collapse. What does this mean for modern civilizations? What can we learn from the past?"

Cultures rise and fall. They always have. And they probably always will. Pulitzer Prizewinning James Michener says about seventy-five “civilizations” so far have followed the pattern, with very few of the civilizations remaining at their peak more than two to four hundred years. In *The Collapse* we’ll have a look at some of the reasons for that . . . and maybe even learn from the past.



Check the activities and assignments of the week on your **moodle** HomePage. This week the *Forum* focuses on your favorite things . . . and about what your not-so-favorite things might be . . . and a little old stuff (King “Tut”) . . . and a bit of what you think the future might bring . . .

- [Forum: Human Species to Split? \(Due by Friday, 14 December 2012\)](#)
- [Forum: My Favorite Prehistoric Cultures . . . And My Least Favorite \(Due Friday, 21 December 2012\) ~](#)

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 . . .

DAY

DAY [General Student Discussion Area](#)

DAY [Live chat for Project Collaboration](#)

Your **moodle** Topics and Reading Assignments Listings for Week 15 will look something like the information below.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

## DAY Prehistoric Cultures Final Exam

The Live Chat for the DAY [Prehistoric Cultures Final Exam](#) will be Tuesday, 18 December 2012, 8:00-9:00 p.m. Sign in on **f**noodle.

The f2012 DAY [Final Prehistoric Cultures Exam](#) will be at 2:00-3:55 a.m. on Wednesday, 19 December 2012, in Cina 214

Prehistoric Cultures *Forum* final semester Moodle evaluations are due by Thursday, 20 December 2012, 11:55 p.m. CDT

## Week 15 — "The First Civilizations"



DAY Week 15 Memo  
DAY End of the Term Memo

Food Production: A Biocultural Revolution  
slides: (.pdf) ([.pptx](#))

**The First Civilizations**  
slides: (.pdf) ([.pptx](#))

**New World Civilizations**  
slides: (.pdf) ([.pptx](#))

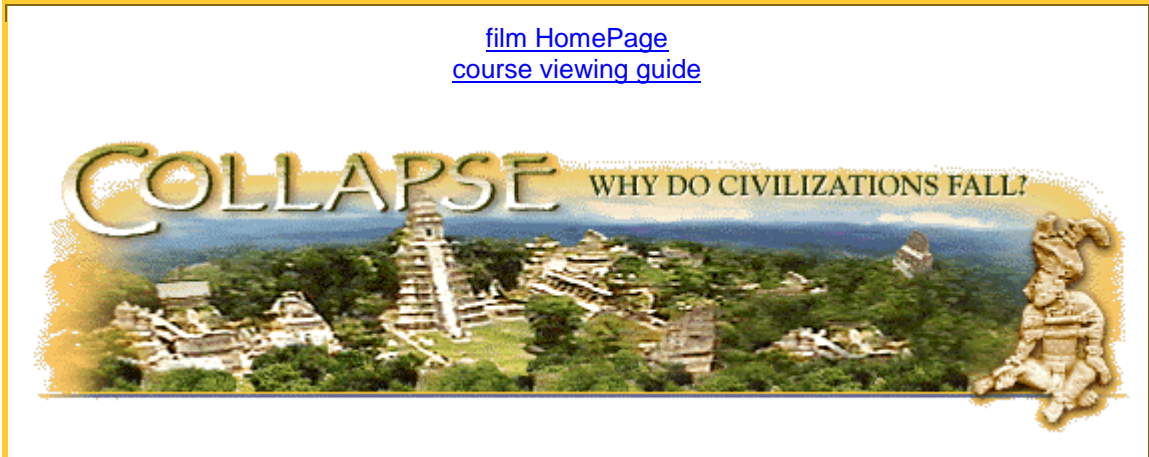
DAY 29 Thursday, 13 December 2012 nlt 3:35

video:

**\*"The Collapse"**  
from the *Out of the Past* series

(60 min., 1993, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia CC165 .O97 1993b DVD Disc 4)  
\* time permitting

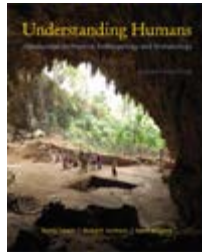
[film HomePage](#)  
[course viewing guide](#)



For Week 15 Activities see [moodle](#)

readings from [Understanding Humans, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition](#)

**Ch. 16, "Biocultural Evolution and the Anthropocene," pp. 407-414**



assignment:  
**Review for [Final Exam](#)**



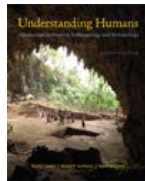
**Final Exam information  
is available at**

**<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pcexamsTR.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](#)**

assignment:  
▫ REM *Forum* semester evaluation posting

For Week 15 Activities see [fnoodle](#)