UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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18 November 2012

DAY Prehistoric Cultures Week 12

Modern Humans

Homo sapiens sapiens and Lithics

Week 12 we look into the mirror and see ourselves, "Modern Humans," aka *Homo sapiens sapiens*.

And we take a break to have some prehistoric Aztec food . . . some Ancient Mesoamerican food on Thanksgiving Day U.S.A.—featuring an American turkey, one of the very few Native American foods that the Conquistadores and their folks back in Europe took an immediate liking for (most of the rest of the New World foods they didn't originally much care for). And, of course, the squash (first cultivated in prehistoric Mesoamerica 8,000 or more years ago), pumpkin (from close to the same time in Mesoamerica), tomatoes (originally a Nahuatl [Aztec] word *tomatl*), vanilla and chocolate (pre-Columbian cultivars), and maize (from west of Tehuacán, which you have seen several times in Prehistoric Cultures) are all originally prehistoric Mesoamerican foods. The cranberries came from prehistoric native North America.

This week we'll first have a closer look at **lithics**, stone tools and stone tool making. It was *Homo sapiens sapiens* who mastered the art of blade tool making, using, among other things, a technique called "pressure flaking." **Blades** are chips, by definition at least twice as long as they are wide. These include things like arrowheads, spear points, knives, scrapers, and those types of artifacts. You'll see two of the greatest twentieth-century lithic stone tool makers in action on Tuesday—François Bordes and Don Crabtree . . .

video:

Blades and Pressure Flaking

(21 min., 1968, VC 2841)

course viewing guide

Francois Bordes

Don Crabtree

Also on Tuesday you 'll see Alan Alda and friends demonstrate the *mechanics* of stone tool making. In "Hand Made Human," we'll look at the *tool maker* and the biomechanics of *tool making* rather than at the finished tools themselves . . .

video:

Alan Alda, "Hand Made Human,"

from *Scientific American Frontiers*, *"Life's Really Big Questions"*
(Segment 2, 15 min., 2000, VC 4261)

film HomePage
course viewing guide

Alan Alda talks with anthropologist Mary Marzke

"People have long wondered what separates humans from the rest of the animals. Is it a soul, tool use, language? Could it be baseball? Our hands are unique in their flexibility and grasping capabilities. A chimp's hands, good for swinging in trees, are virtually useless on the baseball diamond. In 'Handmade Humans' anthropologist Mary Marzke suggests that the traits that make people the world's best ball players might have spurred on the evolution of the human mind. It's the flexible joints of our index and pinky fingers that allow us to palm a ball and choke up on a bat. Those same joints allowed our ancestors to fashion stone tools and wield clubs. According to one hypothesis, tool-making offered early humans such a competitive advantage, natural selection favored the evolution of our dexterous and versatile hands. But making tools also requires a brain that can think ahead and consider cause and effect. The ability to look into the future- that's what truly separates us from the rest of the animals." -- PBS

After Thanksgiving we will literally have a look into the mirror . . .

video:

Homo Sapiens: A Look into a Distant Mirror
(53 min., 1999, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia GN286 .H666 2004 DVD)

course viewing guide

Cave art from Grotte Chauvet, France
Bear (left). Aurochs and rhinoceros (right)
Understanding Humans, 10th ed.
(Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2010), p. 305

"Where did *Homo sapiens* come from?"

"How did they interpret their world?"

"And what did they think and feel?"

"Were they anything like us?"

"And just what are '**fossil words**'?"

The ethnographic analogy with "The Bushmen" (the !Kung San) that you see in *A Look into a Distant Mirror* will be continued and explored further next week in the film ***The Hunters***.

As you view the videos over the remainder of the semester be sure to pay close attention to . . .

1. the *actual* ***content*** of the various finds
2. archaeological ***field*** methods and techniques
3. *laboratory* **methods** and techniques
    - including reconstruction techniques, and . . .
4. archaeological **dating** techniques
5. **theoretical / interpretative** approaches
    - including logic of analysis

In the moodle *Forum* this week we have a look at Upper Paleolithic Technology and Art . . .

- Forum: Upper Paleolithic Technology and Art (Due by Friday, 30 November 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 . . .

f2012 DAY 1601

- Live chat for Project Collaboration
- General Student Discussion Area Forum

The above items will be found at the top of your moodle folder under "**Student Collaboration Space.**"

Your moodle Topics and Reading Assignments Listings for Week 12 will look something like the information below.

And as usual, best regards and wishes, and Happy Thanksgiving . . .

Tim Roufs

Anth 1602 Prehistoric Cultures

Week 12 — Modern Humans

Homo sapiens sapiens

Lithics: Stone Tool Manufacturing

Homo sapiens sapiens: Anatomically Modern Human Beings

slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)

Dates and Times to Remember

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pctimes.html#homoerectus>

cf., handout: "Outline Chart of the Principal Paleolithic Industries"
cf., handout: "Fossil Man [*sic*.] in the Pleistocene"
Lithics: Stone Tool Manufacturing class WebPage

slides: moderns .pptx

X	**End of Prehistory** (writing begins) dates vary regionally	*Cf.*, Text 10th Ed., Ch. 15 "The First Civilizations," pp. 387-424
3,300 B.C.	"Ötzi" The Iceman	
***c.* 10,000 B.C. . . .** dates vary regionally	**Early "Civilizations"** (agriculture and village life begin...)	*Cf.*, Text 10th Ed., Ch. 14 "Food Production," pp. 345-386
		Cf., Text 10th Ed., Ch. 13 "Early Holocene Hunters and Gatherers," pp. 311-344
? - 18,000 [13,000?] ybp	"Hobbit"	
***c.* 35,000 - 60,000 B.C.**	***Homo sapiens sapiens*** [National Geographic "Genographic" migration] ("Early Moderns" = Cro-Magnons...)	**"Moderns"**
***c.* 100,000 ybp**	**Qafzeh, Israel, *Homo sapiens sapiens***	**"Anatomically Modern"**
c. 160,000 ybp	Herto, Ethiopia, *Homo sapiens idaltu* [BBC article]	
c. 200,000 ybp	**"Mitochondrial Eve"** [based on DNA analysis]	*Cf.*, Text 10th Ed., Ch. 12 "The Origin and Dispersal of Modern Humans," pp. 233-254
***c.* 195,000 ybp**	Omo I and II, ***Homo sapiens sapiens***, [BBC article]	

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Making and Using Lithic Tools slides efficient use of raw materials improve

Week(s) Tools: Osteodontokeratic and Lithic

11 / 12 Tools and Techniques: Basic Terms / Basic Types

(slides: tools_intro.pptx)

12 Making and Using Lithic Tools
(slides: tools_making-and-using.pptx)

Upper Paleolithic Tool Traditions
(slides: tools_Upper-Paleolithic.pptx)

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DAY 23 Tuesday, 20 November 2012 nlt 3:55
video:

Blades and Pressure Flaking

(21 min., 1968, VC 2841)

course viewing guide

Francois Bordes

Don Crabtree

~

looking at the *tool maker* and the biomechanics of toolmaking rather than at the finished tools themselves . . .

DAY 23 Tuesday, 20 November 2012 nlt 3:20
video:

Alan Alda, "Hand Made Human,"

from *Scientific American Frontiers*, *"Life's Really Big Questions"*
(Segment 2, 15 min., 2000, VC 4261)

film HomePage

course viewing guide

Alan Alda
talks with anthropologist
Mary Marzke

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DAY 24 Tuesday, 27 November 2012 nlt 3:52

(After Thanksgiving)

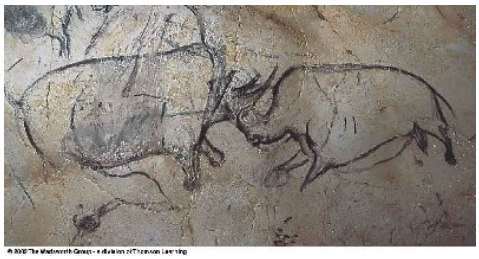
video:

Homo Sapiens: A Look into a Distant Mirror

(53 min., 1999, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia GN286 .H666 2004 DVD)

course viewing guide

. . . the ethnographic analogy with "The Bushmen" (!Kung San)
to be continued in ***The Hunters***



Cave art from Grotte Chauvet, France
Bear (left). Aurochs and rhinoceros (right)
Understanding Humans, 10th ed.
(Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2010), p. 305

REM:

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REM: More information on methods is contained in the text and in the methods slides:

Archaeological Methods and Dating Techniques

WebPage

Some Important Concepts (slides 11B)

Special Skills:

In the Field (slides 10A)

In the Lab (slides 10B)

In the Field and Lab (slides 10C)

Archaeological Dating Methods (slides 10D)

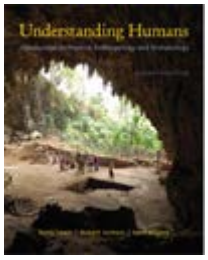
Other Methods of Analysis (slides 10E)

For Week 12 Activities see moodle

assignment:
readings *from Understanding Humans, 11th Edition*

Ch. 13, "Early Holocene Hunters and Gatherers," pp. 307-338

The materials from Ch. 13 will be reviewed in the Week 13 presentations



For Week 12 Activities see moodle