Final Examination - Review and Study Questions

The final exam will be given on Friday afternoon, December 22th, 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

[conflict exam: Monday 18th, 9:00-12 or 1:30-4:30.]

The exam will include four parts, identifications/multiple choice/jeopardy, culture-stratigraphic table, short answers, and essays.

A. Identifications, etc.: (35%) consists of identifications of various places, sites, objects, ideas, theories and concepts. These terms will be drawn from the “Key Terms” handouts (and the “critical handouts”- see below for list) accompanying the lectures and from the additional terms below. For the written identifications, at a minimum, you should identify or define the term and include information as to its age and geographic location, where appropriate. Also indicate its significance in (or to) the study of New and/or Old World prehistory. (Who, what, where, when and why important.)

- sedentism
- civilization
- class stratification
- urbanism
- fallow cycle
- ridged or raised fields
- intensive agriculture
- extensive agriculture
- intercropping

B. Culture-stratigraphic table: (10%) you will incorporate a selection of the terms below in a temporal outline, see the attached work sheet.

Paleoindian period
Guilá Naquitz
Olmecs
Maya
ridged fields
Mesolithic
Neolithic
Akkadian empire
first urbanism - Old World

Archaic period
Formative Period
La Venta
Tikal
Popol Vuh

Classic Maya Period
Bonampak
San Lorenzo
stelae

Çatal Hüyük
Ubaid Culture
Ur - 3rd Dynasty

Abu Hureyra

C. Short answer questions: (20%) two will be drawn from the list below. (Suggested length is 1 to 2 paragraphs)

1. What were the functions of writing in early Mesopotamian and Mesoamerican civilizations and how did they differ.

2. What are Flannery’s concepts of seasonality and scheduling? What is a procurement system and how does it relate to seasonality and scheduling?

3. What non-climatic internally generated environmental and social factors may have been at play in the decline of Classic Maya?
C. Short answer questions: cont.

4. What is the interrelationship, if any, between trade and religion in the emergence of early complex society in lowland Mesoamerica, use the Maya as an example.

5. How may soil fertility and type of agriculture (intensive and extensive) relate to wealth accumulation in the emergence of early lowland Mesopotamian and Mesoamerican stratified societies.

D. Essay: (35%) Be prepared to present a detailed essay which will be selected from one of the two following questions. (No choice.)

1. Modeling the origins of domestication and food production in Mesoamerica is still in its infancy, largely due to limited research on the issue. Most of our evidence comes from the dry highland zones where the principal crops, maize, beans and squashes seem to have had their wild progenitors. Based on your readings and lectures develop a model that you feel describes the processes in Mesoamerica. [For reflection and direction - in the case of domestication in the Near East a number of factors are believed to have been important, including the region’s unique geographic conditions, changes in settlement patterns and concomitant changes in social structure, long term population growth, uneven distribution of local and regional resources, the influences of individual cultural traditions and marked and rapid climatic and environmental changes. How important may these individual factors have been in the Mesoamerican case?]

2. Early complex stratified society developed independently in both the Mesopotamian (Sumer) and the Mesoamerican (Olmec and Mayan) lowland areas. The early civilizations in these two areas display marked similarities in some respects and marked differences in other respects. Obviously many different factors interacted in complex ways to produce the highly distinctive civilizations found in these two areas. Compare and contrast the influence of each the following factors on the development of the Uruk/early Sumerian and Olmec/Mayan civilizations:
   a) environment and resources
   b) subsistence practices (pastoralism, horticulture, agriculture and trade)
   c) settlement patterns
   d) technology

Relevant Vocabulary and Handout sheets

) 11/7 Populating the New World, Mesoamerica - environmental background, etc.

) 11/9-14 Agricultural origins: the transition from hunting and gathering to plant domestication and sedentary village life.
   Tehuacán Valley cultural sequence

) 11/14, 16, 21 Mesoamerica: emergence of early lowland civilization
   The Olmecs - brief notes

) 1128 - 30 Mesoamerica: Maya civilization

) nd Examining societal collapse in early civilizations - (paper topic)
   Background notes
   Societal Collapse - Additional notes - Maya
   Societal Collapse - Additional notes - Near East
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