

Essay # 1: Civilization

Most anthropologists and archaeologists would be reluctant to call the Neolithic society at Çatal Hüyük a civilization, yet many non-anthropologists use that term for it. In a roughly five page essay, discuss this issue. Specifically:

- Referring in detail to one or more of the definitions of civilization from the reading “Some definitions of 'civilization' and 'complex society'” (but not the “Short List” definition), explain why an anthropologist would or would not consider this society to be a civilization. Indicate which definition(s) you are using.
- Why, specifically, might others disagree about whether or not there was a civilization at Çatal Hüyük?
- This is presumably not just semantic nitpicking. Why might it be a useful exercise to define civilization and consider whether the term applies to a given society such as this one?
- In what ways might using the term and concept of civilization be inappropriate or misleading?
- Given that civilization is such an ambiguous, loaded term, why do (some) anthropologists and others keep using it?

I am not expecting particular “right” answers to these questions. Instead, I want you to exercise the concepts, the archaeological evidence, and some critical thinking. Please try to be as specific, complete, clear, and concise as possible. Decide on definite positions or answers, then convince me that they are correct by laying out arguments and specific evidence that support them.

When you discuss whether or not the society of Çatal Hüyük was a “civilization”, use specific archaeological data, and explain exactly how it does or does not fit each part of the definition. Sometimes the evidence may be insufficient to make a judgement about some part of a definition. Try to work around these problems. It is acceptable to acknowledge that some facts just cannot be determined, as long as you explain what they are and why you cannot resolve the problem with the information at hand. Explaining the problem shows that you have good reasons for setting a given point aside, while ignoring it would suggest that you overlooked the issue or that you are avoiding facts that are against you.

Use concrete data as evidence, rather than authors' opinions. For example, the strongest way to argue that the people of Çatal Hüyük used mathematics would be to explain how specific evidence indicates use of a particular mathematical concept (if it does). Simply writing that “according to Sabelotodo (2006), people at Çatal Hüyük used arithmetic” is better than nothing, but far less convincing. Making the claim without mentioning a source would be weaker yet.

Sources:

I do not expect you to do additional research for this essay, although you are welcome to do so if you wish. Using evidence from the readings, class notes, and slides is sufficient. Online sources are OK if they are reliable, academic sources like the article databases available through the library website or websites of most domains that end in “.edu”.

Format and citations:

Computer print your essay in 12 point type, double spaced or space-and-a-half. Five pages should be sufficient. Your writing should be grammatically correct, properly spelled, and in

appropriately academic style. Try to be both thorough and concise. Please do not waste your limited space by quoting or summarizing definitions except as needed to refer to them.

All information and ideas, including the definitions, must be properly cited in the text. Include a bibliography with the full references. Follow the citation and bibliography style guide attached to this assignment sheet. The bibliography does not count towards the length of the paper.

Turning it in:

Turn in the essay BOTH on paper, AND as a file attached to an email message to me. I will return the paper copy with comments and a grade written on it. The paper copy is due in class on the day indicated on the class web site. The computer file OF THE IDENTICAL PAPER is due by midnight of that day. I must have BOTH versions to give you credit. Name the file in this format:

341-08s-Essay1-LastnameFirstname

Replace “LastnameFirstname” with your name, last name first, capitalizing the first letter of each name. Your word processor may add a 3-letter file extension like “.doc” or “.wks”.

Drafts:

You are welcome to discuss your assignment with me or give me a draft to review before the assignment is due. My comments and suggestions may help you write a better essay and get a better grade. If you email a draft, please name the file as above, but add “-draft”, like

341-08s-Essay1-SmithJohn-draft.doc

Grading:

This essay is worth 150 points, out of 1000 for the course.

Citation and Bibliography format

The citations and bibliography or “References Cited” section in this paper must be in the format used in the premier American journal of archaeology, *American Antiquity*, published by the Society for American Archaeology. Formats very similar to this one are used in many anthropological and archaeological publications. The full details of this format, with examples, are given in

<http://www.saa.org/publications/styleGuide/styleGuide.pdf>

You can click to the full style guide from the “SAA Style Guide” link on the class web page.

The condensed guide below should cover what you need to know for this paper, including instructions on how to cite the class materials.

Citations in the text

All direct quotations must be enclosed in quotation marks and have the bibliographic source indicated. Everything inside the quotation marks must be exactly what the author wrote. You may edit parts out, indicating where something is missing with ellipses enclosed in brackets. For example:

“Males [...] seem to have a minor role in the beliefs of the time” (Fairservis 1975:155).

Even when you use your own words to explain the information (as you should most of the time), you must still give the source. All factual information that is not common knowledge and has not been discovered by you personally, whether quoted or rephrased, must have the bibliographic source indicated. Common knowledge does *not* include most of the archaeological data and theories in this course, nor does it include much of what you find in reference books. Material from class materials like the posted notes, slides, and readings by me must be cited correctly, too.

To identify a source, include the last name of the author, year of publication, and page number directly in your text between parentheses, as in (Emery 1991:42). If the source is an extract such as many of our online readings, the page number should be that of the original publication as shown on the pages themselves, not the page count within the pdf file. If a book has been republished, the year is the latest one listed in the source. Multiple pages are shown as (Hyslop 1984:116-137). Sources with two authors are shown as (Johnson and Earle 1987:10). Sources with three or more authors are shown with just the first author named, as in (Sanders et al. 1979:121). The full details of all sources referenced in the text appear in a list of references at the end of the paper. Citations in the text normally belong at the end of the sentence or phrase that came from that source. For example:

Enormous quantities of crude beveled-rim bowl fragments were found at Uruk sites (Wenke 1990:338). These bowls, though “surely one of the ugliest ceramic types ever made” (Wenke 1990:338), appear to be the first mass-produced, standardized, disposable containers ever made (Adams 1960:9).

If the information in several sentences comes from a single source, include the reference only once, at the end of the information. For example:

The Mature Indus civilization extended over almost 500,000 square miles. Harappa and Mohenjo-daro are the two largest well-known sites, possibly political capitals, while a number

of similar but smaller sites seem to be subsidiary centers. Several of the major sites share a similar city plan, with a raised “citadel” and a lower residential area (Allchin and Allchin 1982:167-171).

If information from several sources is mixed into one sentence or paragraph, citing each one after every bit of information could distract from the flow of the writing. In this case, it is acceptable to lump the references together at the end of the sentence or paragraph, separated by semicolons. For example:

A large Early or Middle Shang site at the modern city of Zhengzhou was surrounded by a massive rammed-earth wall that is estimated to have required 200,000 man-years to build. The wall may have been more to restrict access to the elite residential and ceremonial zone than for actual defense (Barnes 1993:126; Chang 1986:331-339; Whitehouse and Wilkins 1986:70).

Exercise judgment when lumping references in this way. Piling all the references at the end of every paragraph is rarely appropriate. This method is never acceptable for direct quotations, which should always have the reference immediately after the quoted material.

It sometimes helps the flow of your writing to refer directly to an author by name. In this case, only the date and page number go in parentheses. For example, “According to Prescott (1961:254), the Inka Atahualpa's translator worked against him.”

If you cite multiple sources by the same author from the same year, indicate which is which by adding a lower-case letter after the year. For example:

Shang China was a civilization, according to the “Wasteful Definition” (Owen 2008a:4), yet even the Shang capital was not dense in the way western cities are (Owen 2008b:4-5).

Only cite sources you have actually read. Do not list citations from other works if you have not read them yourself. If you want to cite a fact or quotation that is given in another work and you cannot find the original reference, do so honestly by writing something like “Smith estimated that the site had 2000 inhabitants (cited in Jones 1992:143).” In this case, Jones (1992:143) is your source, and appears in your list of references cited at the end of the paper.

Unless you look up the original sources of the definitions of civilization, you cannot cite the original authors, because you have not read only my interpretation of their work, not their actual words. It is still good form to give the original author credit, though. For example, you might refer to the “long list” definition as “Redman’s “long list” definition (Owen 2008a:1)”.

Material from the Internet must also be cited correctly. In the text, give the author, year, and page number (if appropriate), just as for any other reference. You may have to search on other pages to find the author’s name; there is often a separate “credits” page, or a page about the author. The author may be an institution, like Encyclopedia Britannica, if no person is specified. The date is preferably one specified on the page itself. If no date is given, use the year in which you looked at the page.

List of references

After the text of the paper, include an alphabetized list of references titled “References Cited”. Every citation in the text must have an entry in the list. Every reference in the list must be cited at least once in the text. Do not include sources you looked at for general background but did not actually refer to in the text. Write out first names of authors, rather than using initials. Book and

journal titles are italicized, but chapter and article titles are not, so that each published reference has a single italicized title. A typical book reference looks like:

Wenke, Robert J.

1990 *Patterns in Prehistory, Humankind's First Three Million Years*. Third edition. Oxford University Press, New York.

A typical journal article reference has the volume (often the year number) of the journal, with the issue number in parentheses, followed by a colon and the pages of the article. For example:

Adams, Robert M.

1960 The Origin of Cities. *Scientific American* 203(3):153-168.

The example above is an article in volume 203 of *Scientific American*, issue 3 (probably March), pages 153-168, published in 1960.

If there are multiple authors, only the first one is written last-name first. The rest are in normal order, in the order given in the publication. For example:

Whittaker, John, and Michael Stafford

1999 Replicas, Fakes, and Art: The Twentieth-Century Stone Age and Its Effects on Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 64(2):203-214.

Web pages should also be included in the list of references. The general format is:

Author's Last Name, First Name

Year Title. Electronic document, <internet address>, accessed <full date>.

Khan, Omar

1997 The Ancient Indus Civilization. Electronic document, <http://www.harappa.com/har/har1.html>, accessed February 27, 2008.

Posted class notes, slides, and readings by me should be referenced as internet resources, since they are available only from the class website. For example:

Owen, Bruce

2008a Some definitions of "civilization" and "complex society". Electronic document, <http://bruceowen.com/emciv/pw/341-08s-Definitions-CivAndComplexSociety.pdf>, accessed February 28, 2008.

2008b The emergence of civilization in Mesopotamia: 'Ubaid and Uruk. Electronic document, <http://bruceowen.com/emciv/341-08s-09-UbaidUruk.pdf>, accessed February 27, 2008.

Note how multiple items by the same author are lumped together below the author's name, which is only listed once. The lower-case letters are arbitrary and assigned by you to whatever items you use by the author with the same date in this particular paper. Another paper might use "Owen 2008b" to refer to a different item. The list of references for each paper indicates which items are meant.