

ARCHAEOASTRONOMY



Archaeoastronomy (often referred to as the anthropology of archaeology) is emerging as a productive interdisciplinary subject, encompassing widely ranging subject fields such as archaeology, astronomy, anthropology, history and mythology.

The investigation of this subject will involve interpretation of the evidence of many of these subject areas. The initial and major part of the course will examine the interpretation of astronomical symbolism of sites. In addition participants will have the opportunity to examine many interesting examples of important sacred sites and monuments, and their topographical layout in relation to the astronomical sighting and historical importance.

Based on what is learnt during the course, combined with personal knowledge and interest of a particular archaeological site, there is one assignment to be written up, of approximately 2000 words, supplemented with photographs, maps and illustrations.

Announcements

Welcome to the Archaeoastronomy course, often referred to as anthropology of astronomy. Whatever your interests in archaeology or astronomy, you will find this an exciting, instructive and enjoyable course.

Please refer to the course information for the full overview of the course and the syllabus guide.

In addition, keep a regular watch on the discussion board lists (click on DISCUSSION BOARD icon) for updates on the course, media news and course assignment.

Course Introduction

Power Point overview

[Power point slide show](#) (58880 Bytes)



Welcome to the course

[welcome to arachaeoastronomy](#) (26112 Bytes)



Course introduction

[Course introduction](#) (33792 Bytes)

A brief summary of the course, how the course is organised and a few handy hints



Syllabus

[syllabus](#) (230

Introduction to course tutor



Course Documents

[Course Handouts](#)



[Course images](#)



[Course Questionnaire](#)

Course handouts

These may also be sectioned under weekly folders

Archaeoastronomy - what is it?

[What is archaeoastronomy](#) (22528 Bytes)



Cybersky instructions

[Cybersky instructions](#) (212992 Bytes)

Instructions for the download and use of the astronomical programme CYBERSKY.

The rough Guide...



MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY (Word file)

[Meso archaeology](#) (76800 Bytes)

South American sites - Mayan - Aztec and their astronomical concepts



MESOAMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY (pdf file)

[Meso archaeology](#) (121184 Bytes)



Keeping track of time

[Track of time in Egypt](#) (55808 Bytes)

Keeping track of time in ancient Egypt



Evolution of astronomy in Egypt

[Astronomy in Ancient Egypt](#) (1562112 Bytes)



Dendera temple and Hathor

[Dendera](#) (23552 Bytes)

Introduction to Dendera and Egyptian Goddess Hathor



Nabta stone circle

[Nabta stones](#) (2166091 Bytes)



Earthbound astronomy US

[Earthbound astronomy](#) (56832 Bytes)

Earthbound Astronomy in the Eastern US Woodlands

One of the earliest and most enduring questions in North American archaeology inquires about the mounds and earthworks that are found throughout the Eastern Woodlands. From Wisconsin to the Gulf of Mexico, and the Appalachian Mountains to the eastern Mississippi River basin

Course Images

Stonehenge - first aerial pic

[Stonehenge aerial](#) (141418 Bytes)



[King Arthur's stone images](#)



Giza Plateau

[Giza Plateau](#) (13173 Bytes)

view of the three main Pyramids from the Plateau - Khefre is in the middle and looks slightly bigger than the larger great pyramid of Khufu (on left) as it is on a raised plateau section.



GP Stones

[GP stones](#) (19856 Bytes)



GP Front

[GP front](#) (23195 Bytes)

A photograph showing the front section - with entrance - of the Great Pyramid



[Image of Nebra Bronze disc](#)

[Nebra disc](#) (39159 Bytes)



Egypt map

[Egypt map](#) (24133 Bytes)



Dendera Zodiac

[Dendera zodiac](#) (49165 Bytes)

Illustration of the Dendera Zodiac



Dendera temple

[Temple](#) (42564 Bytes)

Frontview of the main temple at Dendera



Dendera temple - birthing hall

[Dendera -birth hall](#) (52654 Bytes)



Assignment details

[Assignment](#) (25600 Bytes)

The project/assignment is basically a reflection of the culmination of combined skills and methods learnt during the course. The end result being a written and illustrated summary, selected from one of the main subjects of the course.

Many of the project sites are fully described on the web and there will be ample opportunity to look at these during the course.

The basic idea of the assignment is to write a summary report, approximately 2000 words in addition to graphics (pictures, tables, drawings and maps etc) to demonstrate that you have understood the basic concepts, methods and techniques.

The major points in your assignment should include the following.

- The history or overview of the site
- Topographical or geographical description of the site, including the addition of maps and charts would be essential.
- The concepts and purpose behind the construction of the site in question – why was it built etc.

Include any relevant past and current research on the location wherever possible.

The main aim is to demonstrate that you have grasped the ability to understand the concepts behind the construction of the site, and able to write a basic descriptive report.

You must include any relevant bibliography and references used, and the following standard method of referencing is applied to this course:

AUTHOR – surname and initials – DATE = TITLE OF BOOK OR JOURNAL
PLACE PUBLISHED, PUBLISHER.

Bibliography



[Reading material](#)



[Journals and magazines](#)



[Useful general reading list](#)

An intensive reading list of related archaeoastronomy, archaeology and astronomy material.

Communication



[Collaboration](#)



[Discussion Board](#)



[Group Pages](#)



[Messages](#)



[Roster](#)



[Send Email](#)

Virtual classroom link

Live café chats

Discussion forum

Regular course discussion area and assignment comments.

External Links

[Archaeoastronomy spotlights the dawn of human history](#)

2003's seasonal cusp moments shown in Universal Time / GMT



[Mesoamerican sites](#)

Sites of interest in South America - Mexico etc



[North American sites](#)



[UK sites](#)

Sites of interest in UK - Stonehenge, King Arthur's stone Gower, etc.



[Megalithic stone alignments](#)

Megalithic sites as ancient timekeepers, calendars and stellar alignments



[General information on archaeoastronomy](#)

A few links of general interest in archaeoastronomy and astronomy.



[Egypt sites](#)

Sites of interest throughout Egypt

[European sites](#)

Relevant sites of interest in Europe

Tools

Calendar

Tasks

Glossary

Drop box – for assignments