ANTH 490A: Seminar in Anthropology: Archaeology
Class No. 14690   T 1600-1845   SH203

Prerequisites: Completion of Anth. 375 and one upper-division archaeology course.

The course will focus on the role of violence, conflict, and warfare in the evolution of human society. The class will begin with short readings from Sun-Tzu, Machiavelli, and Von Clausewitz, which will place warfare in its broader social context. We will then study war from anthropological and archaeological perspectives with readings from Carneiro, Ferguson, Knauf, Webster, and Gilman. Because warfare is difficult to understand and interpret in the archaeological record, we will look at ethnographic case studies and compare them to archaeological evidence. Comparisons will include: !Kung and Paleolithic, Eskimo and Mesolithic, New Guinea and Neolithic, as well as other examples such as the Yanomamo. We will also examine warfare and violence in more complex civilizations such as those of Greece and Rome, as well as the Inca, Aztec and Viking empires. We will end with a consideration of the role of conflict and violence in the present with a look at modern warfare, television and the Red Cross.