

THE ANCIENT CITY
Anthropology 3510
Fall 2019

Week 5 Readings: Some Discussion Questions

1. What accounts for the view that Ancient Egypt was a "civilization without cities"?
2. Giza is where the greatest of the pyramids are located. What was the form of settlement at Giza? What's conspicuously missing from these settlements? What didn't the settlements around Giza do that they did in other places?
3. Akhenaten's city (Akhetaten) at Tell el-Amarna is really interesting. What's distinctive about its creation? What are the most striking features of (a) its Layout and (b) the Lifeways supported by this this layout? How "typical" is Akhetaten of Egyptian urbanism?
4. What are the most important similarities and differences between the Ancient Egyptian city and the cities we've studied elsewhere?
5. How have "Western Historiography" (Kusimba) or the "Colonial Imagination" (McIntoshes) influenced scholarly thinking about ancient African cities?
6. What are the relevant comparisons (similarities and differences in built form and lifeways) between East African (Kusimba) and West African (McIntoshes) cities.
7. What's the role of the environment or "Functional-Ecological" theory (McIntoshes) in explaining the origin, location, form, and sustainability (Kusimba) of African cities in general?
8. What is the nature of "power and authority" in African cities (especially as discussed by the McIntoshes) and how is this power/authority physically expressed by settlement pattern and form?
9. What is the point of the comparisons drawn by the McIntoshes between African cities and ancient Chinese cities?
10. Why is Songo Mnara important? How are walls and open spaces used within the city? Why is this knowledge significant?