Midterm - Review and Study Questions

The midterm exam will be given in class on October 26th. The exam will cover the readings through Oct. 24th on your syllabus/reading list. You will be asked to identify, define and associate a number of terms, concepts and items (see list below). The exam will include three parts, a section of identifications/multiple choice, the construction of a culture-stratigraphic table, and a short essay.

Identifications: (52%) consists of multiple choice and Jeopardy-style questions and several short (1 paragraph) identifications of various places, sites, objects, ideas, theories and concepts. These terms will be drawn from the "Key Terms" handouts accompanying the lectures (see list on reverse). For the 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 human prehistory.

Culture-stratigraphic Table: (15%) you will incorporate many of the following terms in a temporal outline, (see the attached work sheet).

Australopithecus	*Homo erectus*	
Homo neanderthalensis	*Homo sapiens (sapiens)* [behaviorally modern]	
Abu Hureyra	Jericho	Çayönü Tepesi
Çatal Hüyük	Eridu	
blade technology	microliths	ground stone tools
pottery	kite	"mother goddess" figurines
Lower Palaeolithic/Early Stone Age	Upper Palaeolithic/ Later Stone Age	
Mesolithic	Neolithic	
"broad spectrum revolution"	first appearance of civilization	
Natufian Culture	Prepottery Neolithic B	Ubaid Culture
Uruk period		

Essay question: (33%) Be prepared to write a brief essay which will be selected from one of the following topics.

1. What the technological and behavioral characteristics of the three major phases of the Palaeolithic Age? What cultural complexes and hominins are typically associated with each phase?

2. From an archaeological perspective, what are the difficulties in finding evidence for the presence of domesticated plants and animals? By what features might one recognize and distinguish between early domesticated plants and animals and their wild progenitors?

3. Plants and animals seem to have been first domesticated about 11,000 - 10,500 b.p. in the southern Levant and the Zagros areas respectively. In roughly twenty five hundred years, certainly by 8,000 b.p. settled mixed farming villages were present throughout the Fertile Crescent from southern Israel to southern Iran. What factors likely encouraged the rapid (in palaeoanthropological terms) geographic expansion and adoption of this new mode of subsistence?

Essay question: (cont.)

4. What are the factors (environmental, technological, and social) which may have specifically contributed to the rise of the early urban centers in the Mesopotamian lowlands?

Critical Vocabulary and Handout sheets

9/7	Introductory remarks	Vocab #1
9/12	History and goals of archaeology	Vocab #2
9/14-19	Becoming human	Vocab #3
	Synoptic overview of Pleistocene prehistory	
9/19-21	Becoming human - middle and later stages	Vocab #4
9/28, 10/3	Environmental framework for domestication, pre-Neolithic economic adaptations, domestication	Vocab #5
	The path to social complexity	
	The classification of social organization	
10/12 -17	Early village farming communities and their geographic expansion, emerging social stratification and organized community religion	Vocab #6
	Some notes on domestication - the process	
10/19-24	Urbanization and the formation of an early city state - Uruk in Sumer	Vocab #7

Part 2 - Culture-stratigraphic table:

Time (yrs BP)	"AGE" & hominids	Industry or "culture"	Site	Technology/ artifact type
Present				
5,000 (3,000 BC)				
6,000				
7,000 (5,000 BC)				
8,000				
9,000				
10,000				
11,000				
12,000 (10,000 BC)				
-				
15,000				
20,000				
-				
50,000				
-				
100,000				
-				
500,000				
1,000,000				
1,800,000				
3,000,000				