

MA CAA Module HPCA7009 — Term 2 2019

Skyscapes, Cosmology and Archaeology

Introduction to the Module



Fabio Silva

What is this module about?

What is this module about?

In this module you will:

- learn about a variety of ways in which societies can embed their beliefs into their material culture (e.g. pottery, art, buildings);

What is this module about?

In this module you will:

- learn about a variety of ways in which societies can embed their beliefs into their material culture (e.g. pottery, art, buildings);
- learn how that material culture is found in the archaeological record (i.e. the archaeological process and interpretation)

What is this module about?

In this module you will:

- learn about a variety of ways in which societies can embed their beliefs into their material culture (e.g. pottery, art, buildings);
- learn how that material culture is found in the archaeological record (i.e. the archaeological process and interpretation)
- learn how to approach that archaeological record in order to partially reconstruct the beliefs of the society in question, especially through the study of structural alignments

What is this module about?

In this module you will:

- learn about a variety of ways in which societies can embed their beliefs into their material culture (e.g. pottery, art, buildings);

COSMOLOGY

- learn how that material culture is found in the archaeological record (i.e. the archaeological process and interpretation)

ARCHAEOLOGY

- learn how to approach that archaeological record in order to partially reconstruct the beliefs of the society in question, especially through the study of structural alignments

SKYSCAPE



What to expect?

What to expect?

Stonehenge on Winter Solstice sunset



What to expect?



Newgrange on Winter Solstice sunrise

What to expect?

Puebloan art



Ice Age art



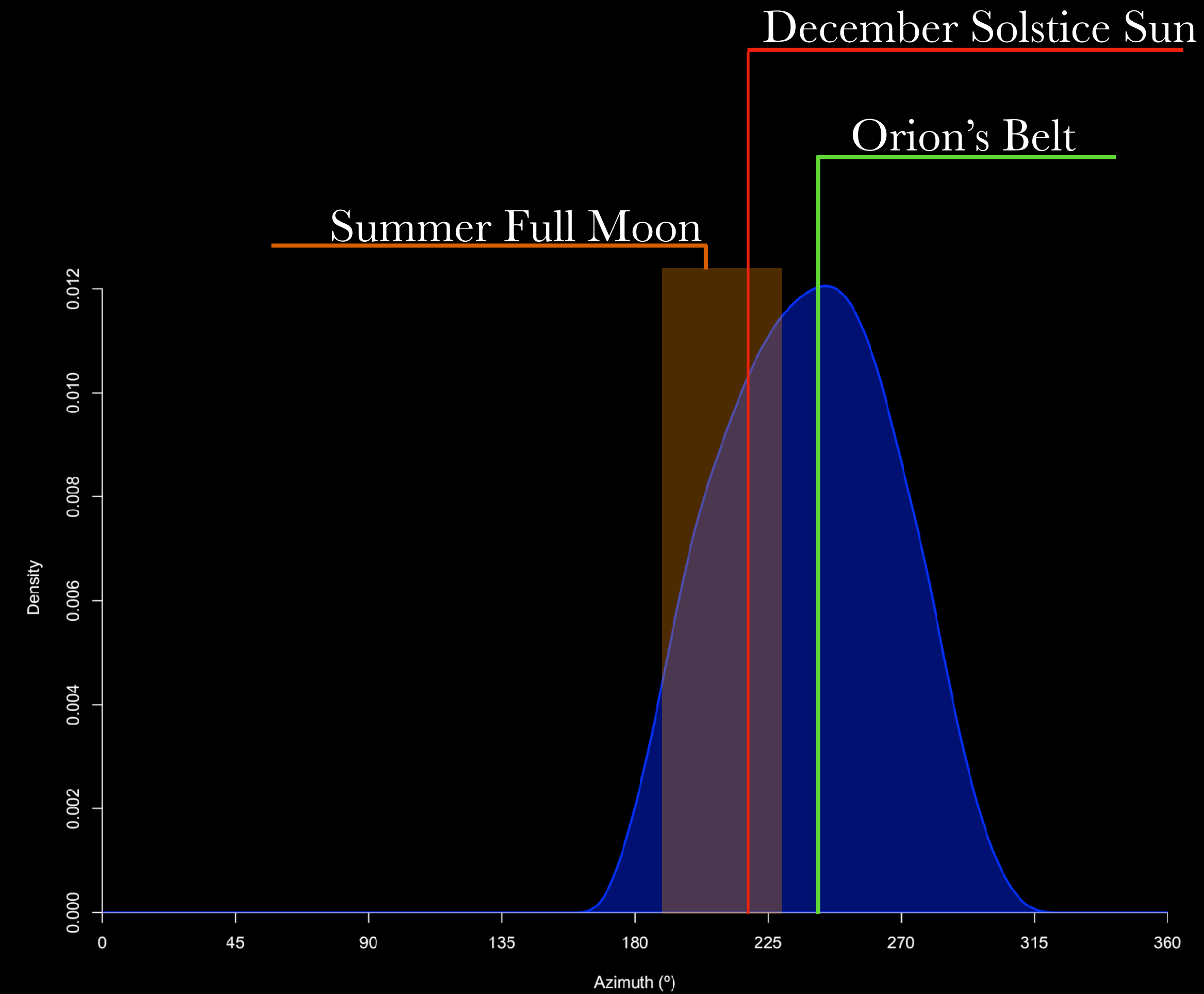
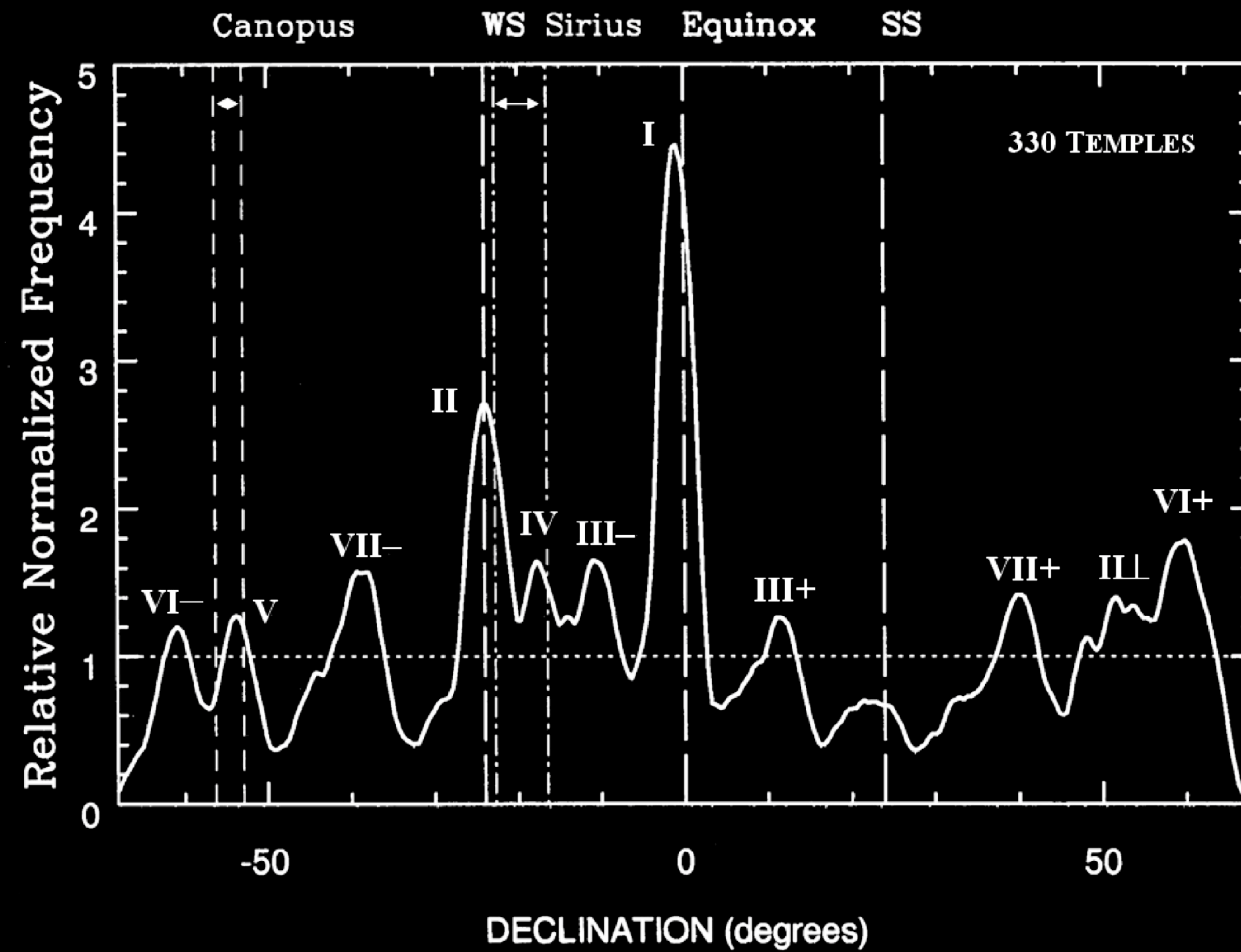
What to expect?



Manhattanhenge

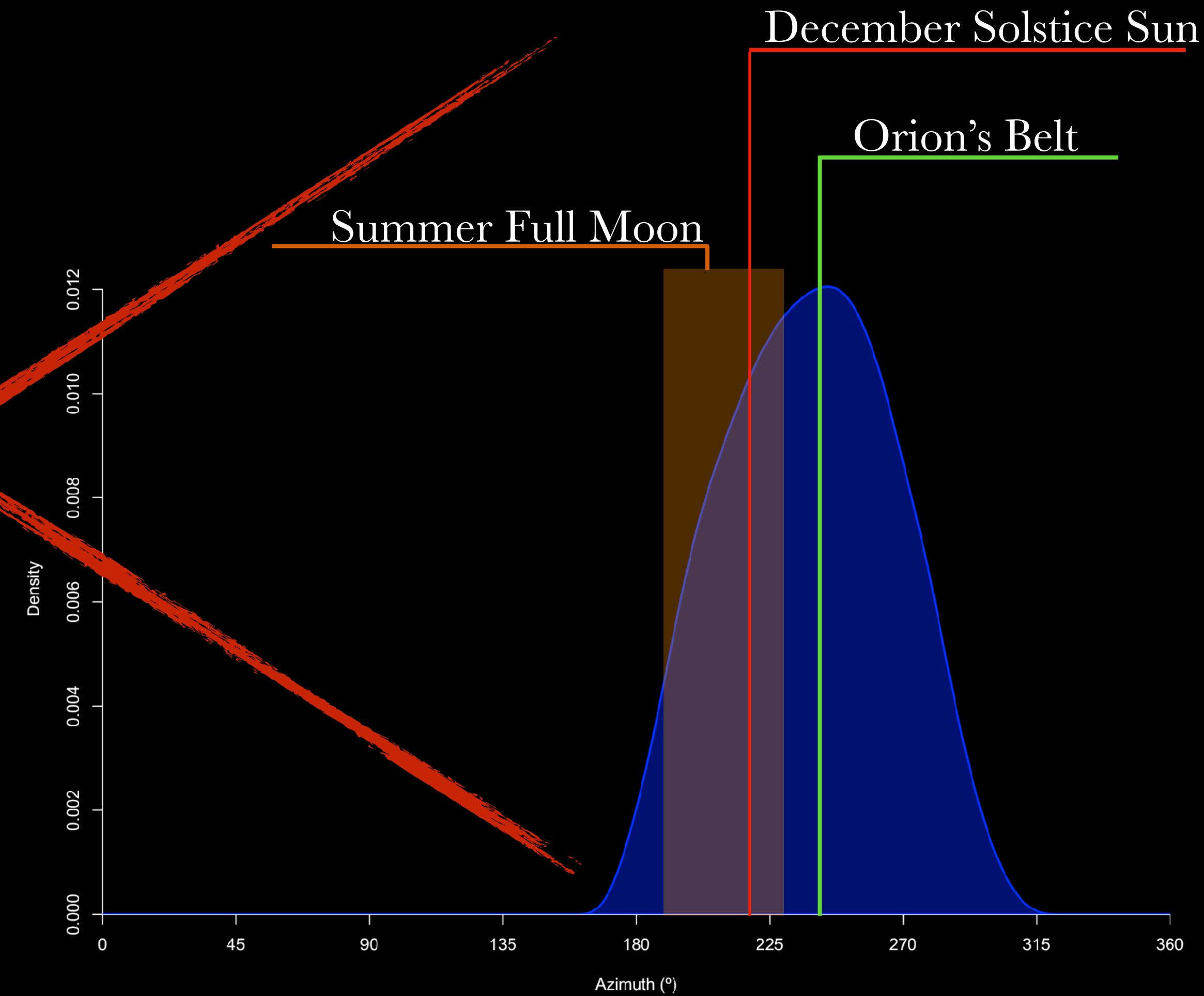
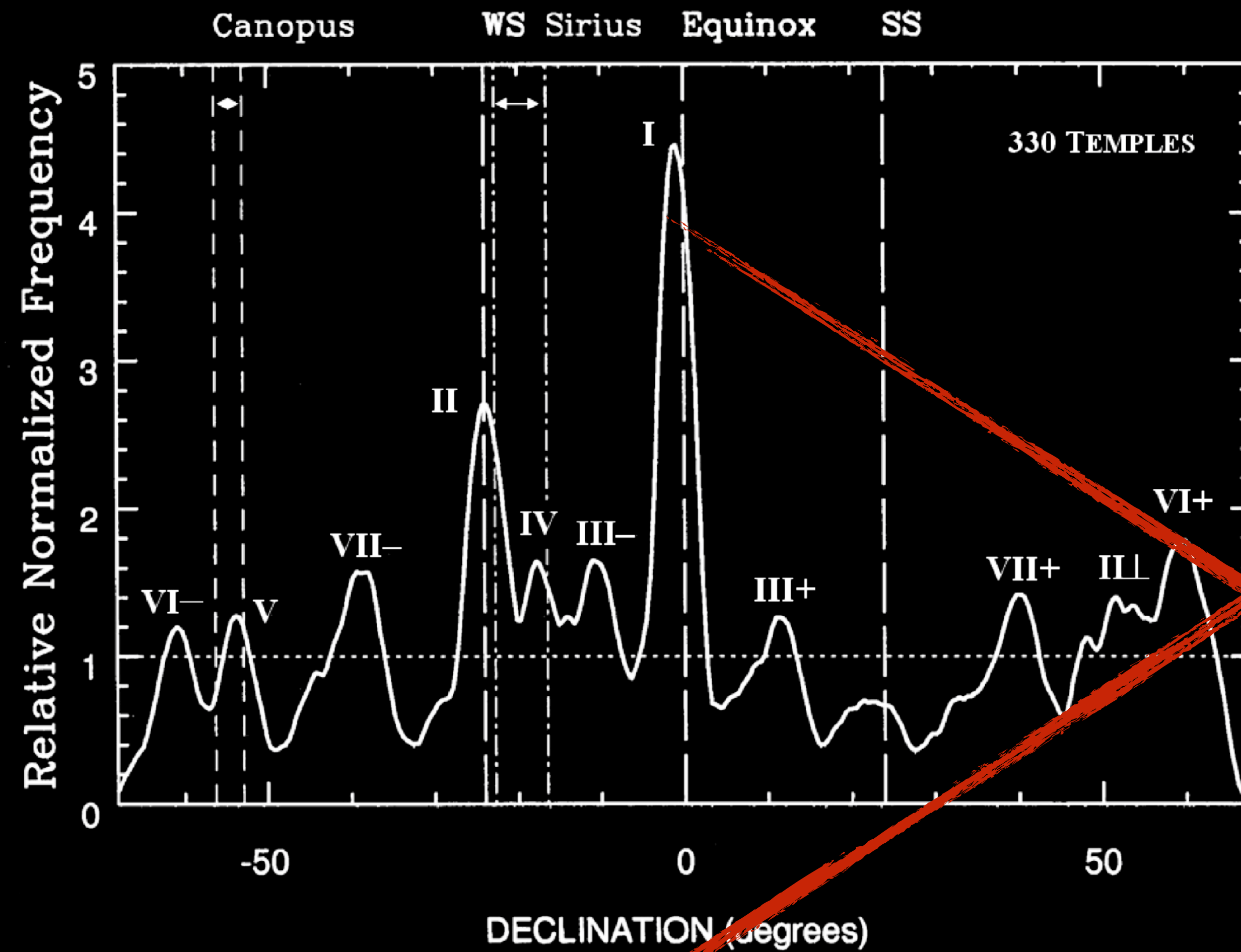
What to expect?

What to expect?



Statistics

What to expect?



Statistics

Unless you really want to!

What to expect?



Stonehenge
winter solstice sunset



Chaco Canyon
major standstill moon rise

Mnajdra South Temple
winter solstice sunrise

Photography

What to expect?



Phenomenology /Experiential

What to expect?

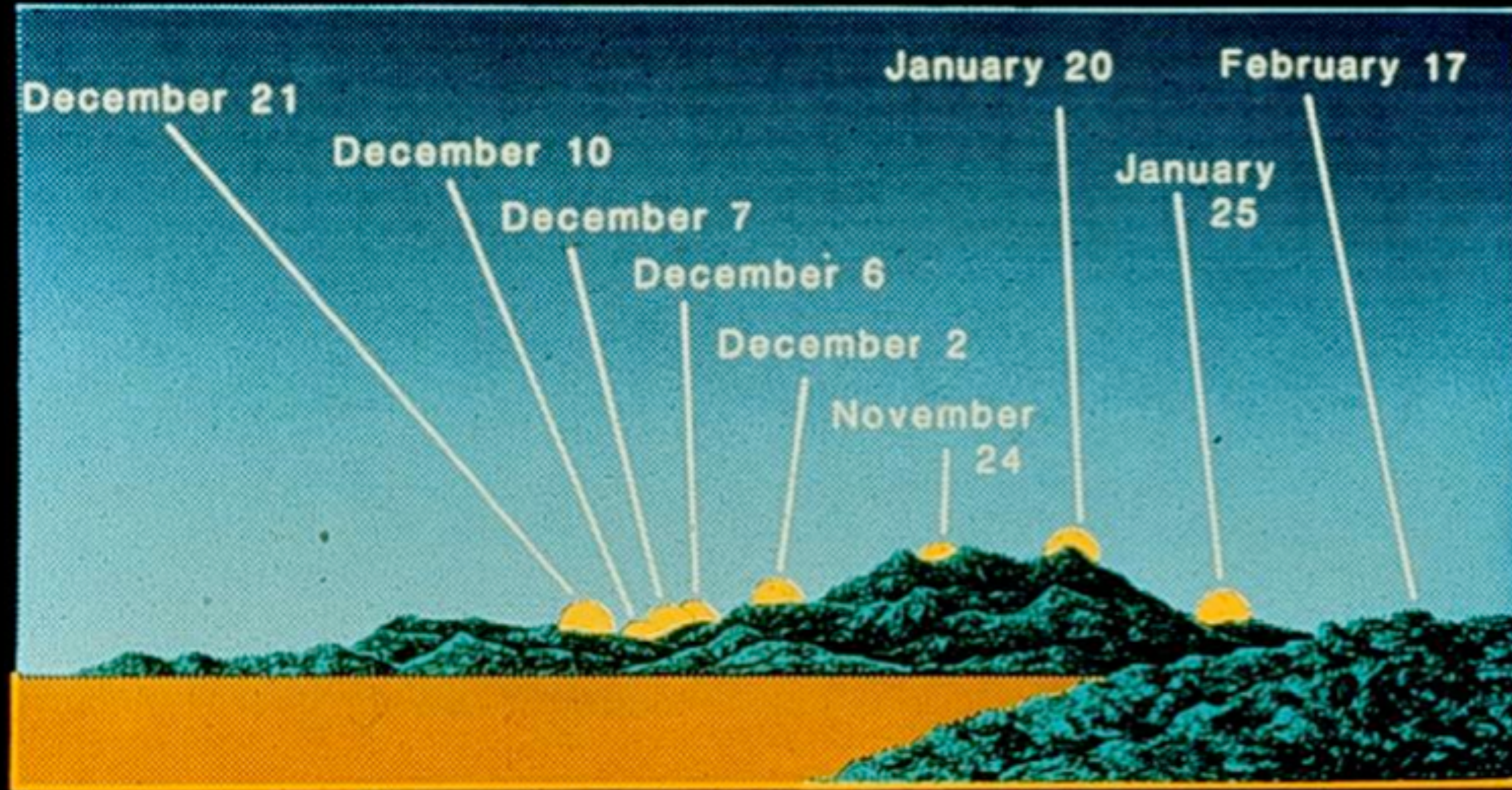


Experimental



What will you learn?

What will you learn?



Learn the movements of the
Sun, Moon and Stars



How to use a compass to tell
where a celestial object will
rise or set on a given date

What will you learn?

Learn how to plan and
conduct fieldwork



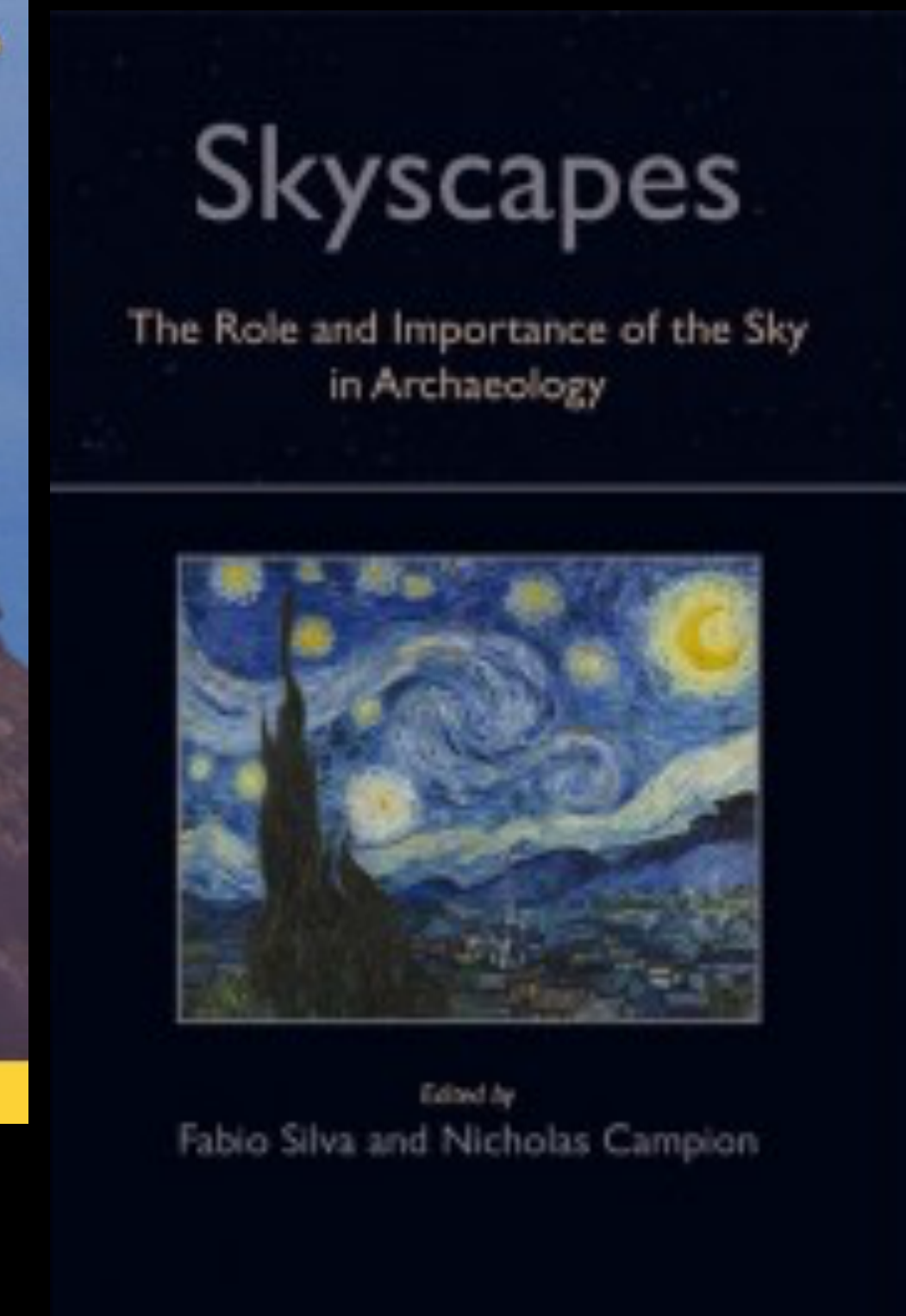
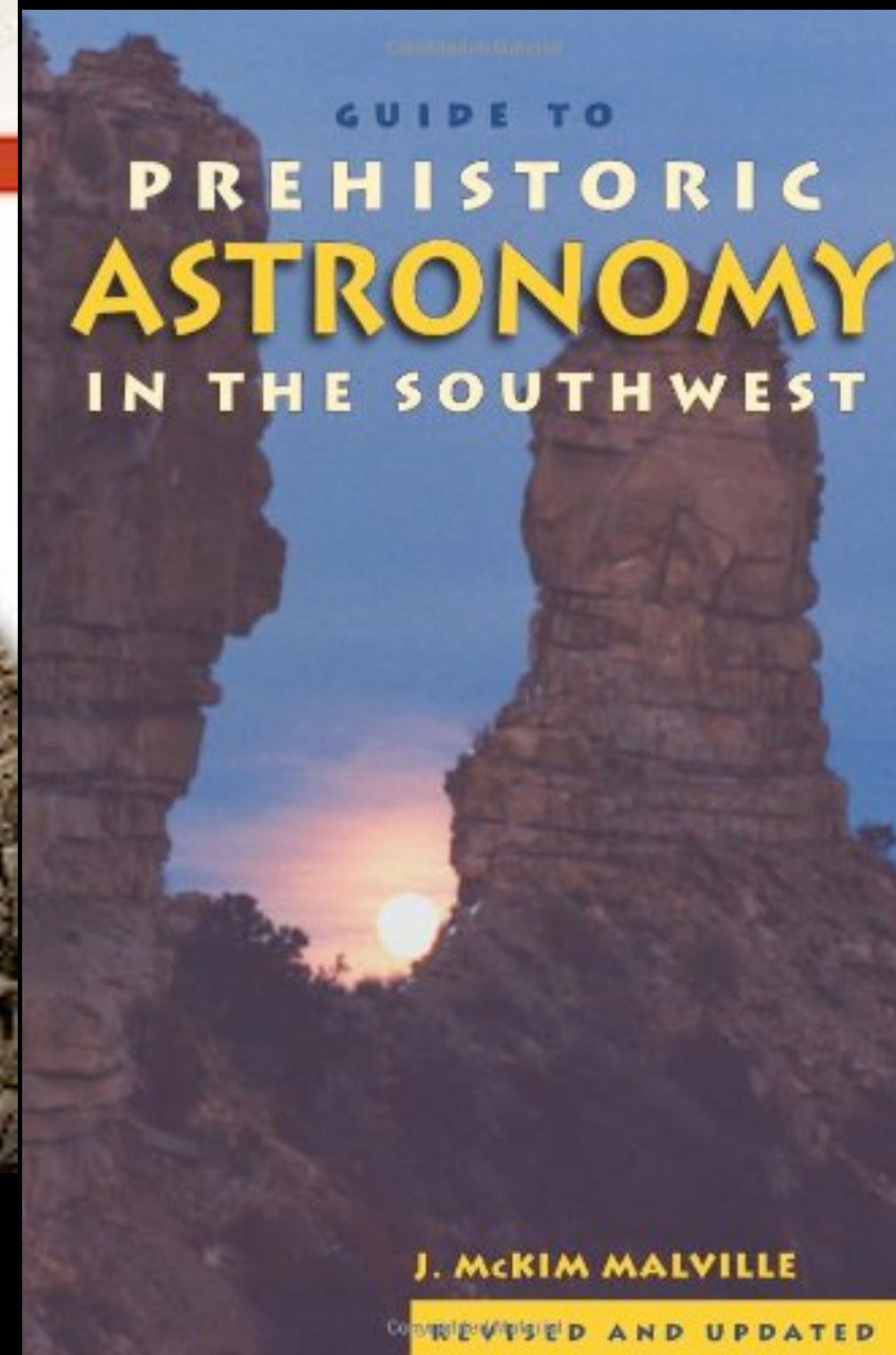
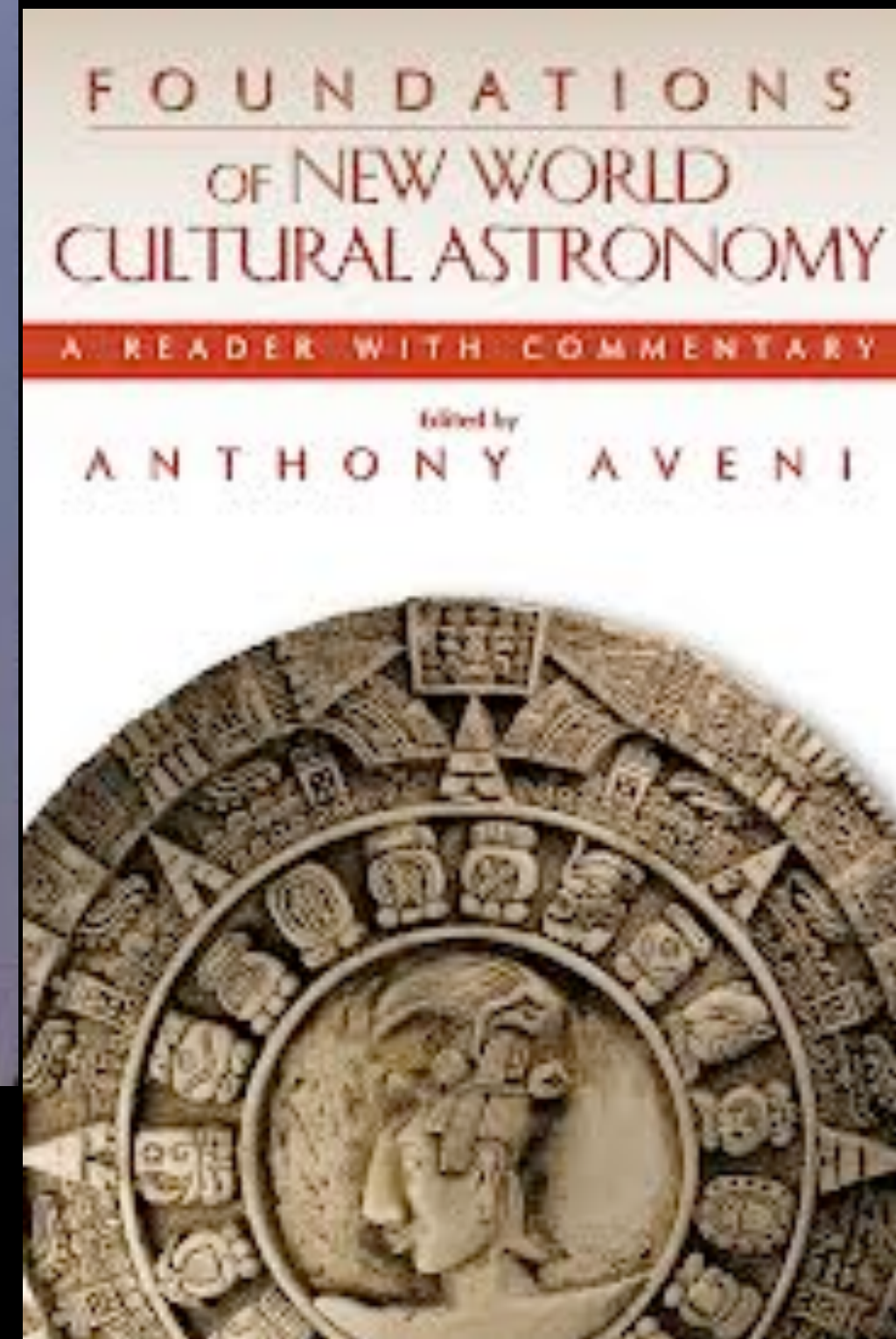
How to draw on
archaeological evidence to
support/reject an argument

What will you learn?



Worldwide Case Studies
spanning various time periods

Required Reading



Assessment

Assessment

1. One 1500 word assignment (20% of total marks)

Write a critical review of a debate over the interpretation of one of the archaeological site(s) below. You need to choose only ONE out of the three options below.

For the critical review, you should critically evaluate the different methodologies, theories and evidence provided by each scholar and you need to refer to other literature in the field (five or more works). You should read the guidelines on writing critical reviews (available on Moodle) before starting your assignment.

Option 1: Chankillo, Peru

- Ghezzi, I and C Ruggles (2011) “The Social and Ritual Context of Horizon Astronomical Observations at Chankillo.”
- Malville, K (2011) “Astronomy and Ceremony at Chankillo: an Andean Perspective.”

Option 2: Passage Graves of Western Iberia

- Hoskin, M (1998) “Studies in Iberian Archaeoastronomy (5) Orientations of Megalithic Tombs of Northern and Western Iberia”
- Silva, F (2015) "The View from Within: a ‘time-space-action’ approach to Megalithism in Central Portugal"

Option 3: Medieval Churches in the United Kingdom

- Ali, JR and Cunich, P (2001) “The Orientation of Churches: Some New Evidence”
- Brady, B, Gunzburg, D and Silva F (2016) “The Orientation Of Cistercian Churches In Wales: A Cultural Astronomy Case Study”

DUE DATE: MARCH 4th

Assessment

2. One 3500 word assignment (80% of total marks)

A research project within the subject area. You may choose one of the following approaches:

- Conduct a simple fieldwork exercise, investigating the likelihood of celestial alignments at prehistoric or sacred site(s). We can suggest places and projects, depending upon where in the world you live or would like to travel. Separate guidance will be posted. If you choose this approach, you will have to provide a literary justification and context.
- Take an experimental approach and, using simple tools and materials, put to test one archaeoastronomical theory regarding how a given culture measured, observed, marked and/or experienced a particular astronomical event. We can suggest projects, depending on the resources available to you. Separate guidance will be posted. If you choose this approach, you will have to provide a literary justification and contextualize your methodology within the field of experimental archaeology.

Your research project and title **MUST** be approved by your course tutor, and we will provide suggestions for additional reading in your chosen area. Your initial step will be to complete the Research Proposal Form.

DUE DATE: JULY 29th

Facebook Group

http://www.facebook.com/groups/ArchModuleTSD/

Skyscapes,
Cosmology and
Archaeology Module
(HPCA7009)

Closed group

About

Discussion

Chats

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

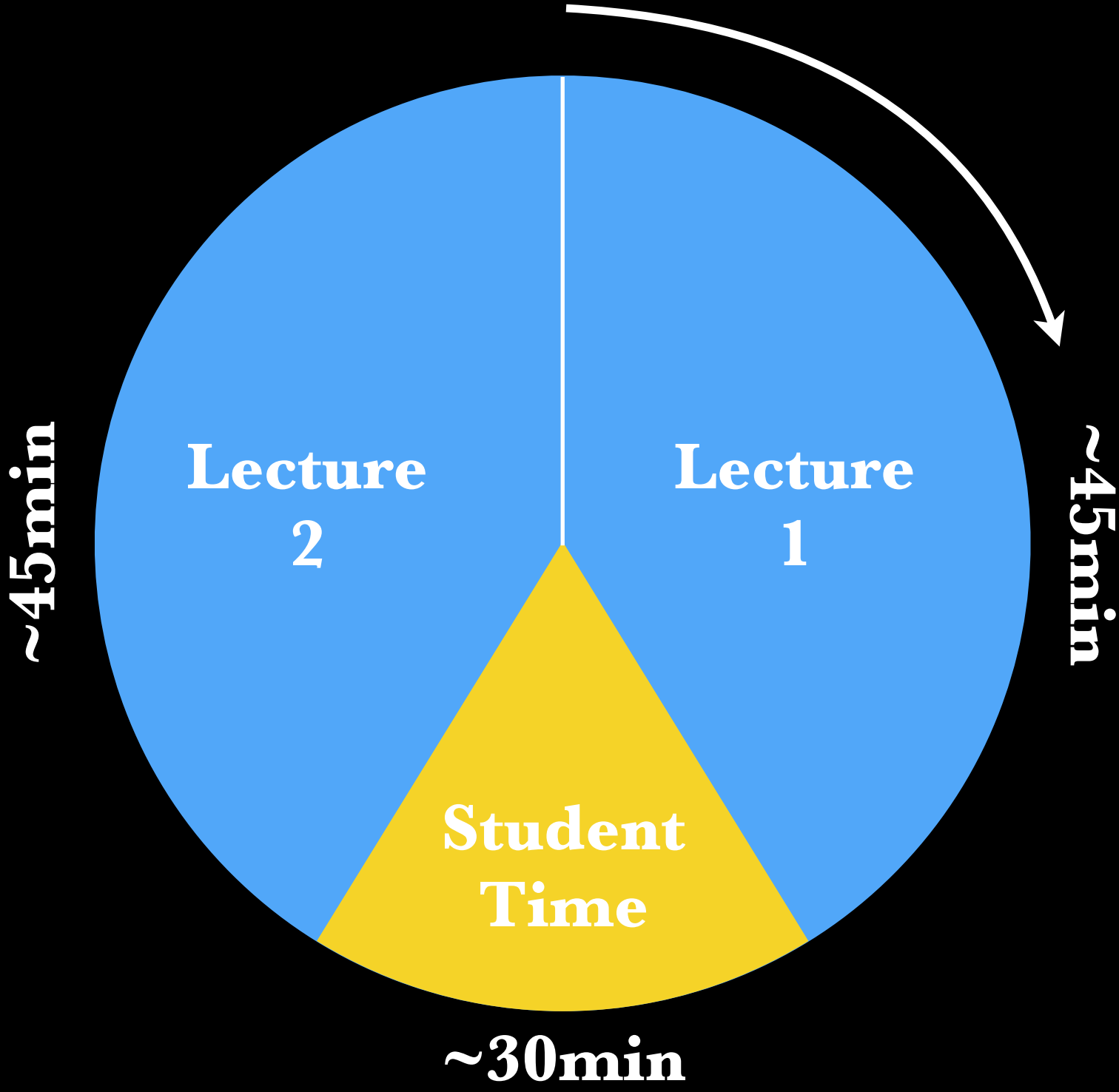
Files



Joined ▾ ✓ Notifications ➦ Share ... More

Seminars

WEEK	DATE	SEMINAR	
1	Feb 6th	Introduction to the Module Fabio Silva	How the Sky Moves Bernadette Brady
2	Feb 13th	History of Archaeoastronomy Liz Henty	Skyscapes & Skyscape Archaeology Fabio Silva
3	Feb 20th	Archaeology & Cosmology Fabio Silva	Stars and Star Phases Bernadette Brady
4	Feb 27th	Fieldwork I Fabio Silva	Nabta Playa and India Kim Malville
5	Mar 6th	Fieldwork II Fabio Silva	Astronomy of the Ancestral Pueblos Kim Malville
6	Mar 13th	Making Sense of Field Measurements Fabio Silva	Astronomy of Andean Cultures Kim Malville
	Mar 20th	READING WEEK / NO SEMINAR	
7	Mar 27th	Identification vs. Interpretation Fabio Silva	Title TBA Bernadette Brady
8	Apr 3rd	Title TBA Bernadette Brady	Title TBA Tore Lomsdalen



Hands On Exercises

- Simple exercises of astronomical observation or measurement that everyone can do from their homes
- Record and/or photograph your results and share them on the facebook page of the module.

Exercises will progress from:

- simple observation;
 - rudimentary measurements using hands and fingers;
 - learning how to use a compass, clinometer and GPS;
 - finding out when does the sun rise in alignment to a given street in your neighbourhood;
-
- By doing these exercises you will build up hands-on knowledge of how to measure the quantities archaeoastronomers routinely measure and allow you to feel comfortable in any future fieldwork.

Hands On Exercises

Week 1

What phase is the moon on?

Use a smartphone or camera to take a picture of the moon and post it on the module's facebook page. Don't forget to tell us where you are and what time it was when you took the picture.

Need 1 volunteer to talk in next week's seminar about this

Thoughts of the Week

- This section includes a question for you to think about during your readings of the week.
- Share your thoughts on the facebook page.
- You might even find yourself taking notes that you can use for your essays.

Week 1

What distinguishes Archaeoastronomy from 'Cultural Astronomy'?
Is there a difference?

Need 1 volunteer to talk in next week's seminar about this

