ANTH 2103 - Lab #11

Archaeology of a City

This lab is similar to the earlier lab in which you interpreted archaeological a Neolithic site. In this case, you are investigating a city that was part of a complex society.

Each group will work with a single excavated area of the city during the lab period, and then present its interpretations to the lab class as a whole. Work to answer the following questions about the area you are assigned:

1. What were the people doing in this area of the site? What activities did they carry out? What specializations did they have? Which data indicate this?

2. What do the burial data indicate?
   a) What ages are represented? What might the age ranges indicate?
   b) Are there any obvious pathologies? What might cause them? Could the pathologies be related to a particular behavior or occupation?
   c) What burial goods are present? What do these tell you about status or occupation?
   d) What picture do you get of the lives of the general population of this particular neighborhood?

NOTE: In all areas besides Areas 2 and 3, burial data includes information from entire neighborhoods, rather than only the area described. This is so that you can have a large enough sample to be meaningful.

Your write-up should consist of two sections. First, answer the above questions to the best of your ability, making sure to include the specific archaeological data that you use to reach those answers and indicating how that data relates to the answer. Second, use the data for the other excavation areas to place your area in the context of the city as a whole. Answer the following questions as best you can:

1. Are the people in your area unique within the city? How might their activities relate to the activities that took place in the other areas?
2. Look at differences between the burial goods or skeletal evidence in your area and those of the other areas. What does this suggest about the lives of the people living your area versus the other parts of the city?
3. Where do the inhabitants of your excavation area fit in with the rest of the city in terms of rank, status, occupation, etc. How do any such differences play out in terms of the quality of life people led?

Your write-up should not exceed two pages.