



LECTURES AND EVENTS: 2014-2015

CRAM SEMINAR

“Violence, Space, and Religious Boundaries in Fourth-Century Constantinople”

- Rebecca Falcasantos, Religious Studies, Brown University
- Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

BROWN/YALE LECTURE

“Everybody, Nobody, Most, and Few in Greek Warfare, Politics, and Drama”

- Victor Bers, Yale University with response by Adele Scafuro, Brown University
- Monday, October 6, 2014, 5:30pm
- Brown University Faculty Club, One Magee Street, Providence, RI

CRAM SEMINAR

“Public Spending and Democracy in Classical Athens”

- David Pritchard, University of Queensland
- Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

LECTURE

“A Cognitive Approach to Greek Meter: Hermann’s Bridge in the Homeric Hexameter and the Interpretation of *Iliad* 24.1-63”

- Seth Schein, University of California, Davis
- Wednesday, October 6, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

LECTURE

“The Erotic Lures of Mimesis: Text and Image in the Ancient Cultural Imaginary and Beyond”

- Froma Zeitlin, Princeton University
- Wednesday, October 29, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- Starting from the premise that images and texts (and their interrelations) are integral and essential elements in mythic representations, this illustrated lecture focuses on erotic contexts, whose seductive allure bring these myths to life, as it were. These tales of desire, fulfilled and unfulfilled, give evidence of their power over both the ancients of old and ourselves today. As Aphrodite is the goddess who incarnates sexual desire, the question of divinity and its representations will be an eventual focus of this talk.

SEMINAR

Brown Bag Series in Archaeology

- Mihalios Kavouriaris, The Ikarian Centre

- Thursday, November 6, 2014, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- Mihalis Kavouriaris, Director of the Ikarian Centre, will be discussing a new Modern Greek course designed especially for archaeologists, and explaining aspects of his unique pedagogical methods for the teaching of Modern Greek. Pizza and soda will be provided, or feel free to bring a lunch. For more information, view [the full list of Archaeology Brown Bag talks](#).

CRAM SEMINAR

"Vertigo, Shivers, and Funk: Heightened Self-Awareness and Religious Spaces in Anatolia"

- Felipe Rojas, JIAAW and Egyptology & Assyriology, Brown University
- Tuesday, November 11, 2014, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

LECTURE

"Damned by Feigned Praise: the Role of Architecture in Julius Caesar's Death"

- Penelope Davies, University of Texas at Austin
- Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

LECTURE

"Falling in Love with Italy: The Trojan Journey in Vergil's *Aeneid*"

- Kris Fletcher, Louisiana State University
- Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 5:30pm
- Smith-Buonanno, Room 106

LECTURE

"Democracy's Impact on Warmaking in Ancient Athens and Today"

- David Pritchard, University of Queensland
- Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- This paper considers how democracy impacted on warmaking in ancient Greece's largest and most populous state. Athens developed democracy to a far higher level than any other state before the modern period. It was the leading cultural innovator of its age. Less well known is its military record. Athens transformed war and became one of the ancient world's greatest powers. The timing of this military revolution is striking: it followed directly the popular uprising of 508 and coincided with the flowering of Athenian culture, which was largely brought about by democracy. This suggests that it was democracy which caused this military success. Ancient writers may have thought as much but the tradition assumptions of ancient historians and political scientists have meant that democracy's impact on warmaking has not been studied. Democracy impacted on Athenian warmaking in two general but quite different ways. The competition of elite performers in front of non-elite adjudicators created a pro-war culture. This encouraged the Athenians to join the armed forces in ever-increasing numbers and to vote regularly for war. But this was offset by the democracy's rigorous debating of war. This reduced this militarism's risks and encouraged military reforms. It also helped to develop the initiative of the city's generals, hoplites and sailors. Today there is a pressing need to understand better how democracy affects war. The number of democracies is certainly rising in new regions of the world. But these regions are still plagued by wars, territorial disputes and arms races. They continue to experience wars or threats of war. Increasingly these conflicts will involve democracies. Currently there is no

satisfactory explanation of the behaviour of democracies in such conflicts. Consequently we will struggle to prevent them or even to predict how they will progress. Political Science has long used democratic Athens as a source of new hypotheses. Thus classical Athens serves as a historical study which is rich in new lines of enquiry into the wars of today's democracies.

LATIN CAROL CELEBRATION

- Monday, December 8, 2014
- First Baptist Meeting House, 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI
- Featuring seasonal readings by Brown Classics Department Faculty. Carols for all with musical prelude and accompaniment by University Organist Mark Steinbach, plus the Chattertocks' rendition of the XII days of Christmas and a special appearance by the Brown Madrigal Singers. Admission is free; all are welcome.

CRAM SEMINAR

“The Text after the Sacrifice: Divination Reports from Kassite Babylonia”

- Matthew Rutz, Egyptology & Assyriology, Brown University
- Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

THE 49TH ANNUAL CHARLES ALEXANDER ROBINSON, JR. MEMORIAL LECTURE

“The Rise and Fall of *Quellenforschung*”

- Glenn Most, Professor of Ancient Greek, Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, and Visiting Professor, University of Chicago in the Committee on Social Thought
- Thursday, January 29, 2015, 5:30pm
- Pembroke Hall, Room 305

CRAM SEMINAR

“Biblical History as Ethnic History: A Reassessment”

- Andrew Tobolowsky, Religious Studies, Brown University
- Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

LECTURE

“Price Control and Taxes: at the Delian Customs House”

- Alain Bresson, University of Chicago
- Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- The question of taxes is rightfully coming back to the attention of scholars. Indeed in ancient Greece, customs duties and taxes on trade were one of the main sources of income for the states. Another question, that of price control, is also currently the object of detailed analysis. In this vein, the case of Delos, the famous sanctuary-island in the Cyclades, provides a privileged terrain of investigation. The Delian case also helps to shed light on business organization in the Hellenistic world.

LECTURE

“Latin Historiography and the Distortions of Historicism”

- David Levene, New York University
- Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 5:30pm

- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- The practice of analyzing texts in their historical context is fundamental to Classical scholarship: indeed, it is so deeply ingrained that few classical scholars can imagine any other valid way of doing it. Nevertheless, such an approach is only one mode of analysis among many; still more importantly, it is a practice which carries with it the potential for seriously distorting our understanding of the texts under discussion. This paper will explore how such distortions arise and how they might be overcome, looking specifically at the particular problems created by historiography, where the relationship between the narrative and the external reality being described cannot be properly captured within the framework of an analysis which places its primary focus on the historical circumstances under which texts are produced.

CRAM SEMINAR

“Late Hellenistic Sacred Textiles and the Construction of Greek Identities”

- Jennifer Swalec, Classics, Brown University
- Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

THE MICHAEL C.J. PUTNAM LECTURE

“Horace’s Hymn to Bacchus (*Odes* 2.19): poetics and politics”

- Stephen Harrison, University of Oxford
- Friday, March 13, 2015, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- This paper considers *Odes* 2.19 in which Horace represents himself as encountering Bacchus in the wild teaching carmina to Nymphs and Satyrs. It argues as follows: in *Odes* 2.19 Bacchus can be seen as the inspiration for Horatian lyric; the god can also be viewed as a parallel in his conquest and divine nature for one of Horace’s key poetic subjects, Augustus. Further, *Odes* 2.19’s description of Bacchus’ wide-ranging actions and deeds suggest the range of topics covered by the lyric poet Horace himself, including the self-conscious incorporation of material from another genre associated with this god – Attic tragedy. Thus the Horace/Bacchus parallel, that between matching poet and patron god of poetry, sits in interesting tension with the Bacchus/Augustus parallel, that between divine conqueror and the mortal victor and ruler who is ultimately destined for the status of a god.

LECTURE

“Seneca and Hughes: Translation, Adaptation, Composition”

- Christopher Trinacty, Oberlin College
- Monday, March 30, 2015, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

WORKSHOP

“Lust and Logic: the Rational and the Irrational in Aristotle’s Theory of the Mind”

- Dr. Michael Leese, University of New Hampshire
- Monday, April 13, 2015, 6:00pm
- MacFarlane House, Room 101
- Dr. Michael Leese will lead this workshop that will explore the relationship between Aristotle and modern economic rationality. In the *Nicomachean* and *Eudemian Ethics*, Aristotle lays out a systematic theory of human behavior, including the motives for human actions, and the process whereby people made choices. His discussion of the rational and irrational parts of the ancient Greek mind is not only

interesting for its psychological insights, but it even resembles modern economists' notion of economic rationality in many significant respects. These similarities are so strong that some modern economic theories of human behavior may have even been directly based upon or inspired by Aristotle's insights. The round-table style format of our workshop will be ideal for advanced Undergraduates, Graduate students, and Faculty interested in these important issues as they have been prominent in the current debate about ancient economies, as well as the Classical world and Economic thought in general.

CRAM SEMINAR

"Why 386?"

- Johanna Hanink, Classics, Brown University
- Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

LECTURE

"Family Matters: the Long Life of Roman Tombs"

- Barbara Borg, University of Exeter
- Monday, April 20, 2015, 5:30pm
- Smith-Buonanno, Room 106

THE ANNUAL GRIMSHAW-GUDEWICZ LECTURE

"Vinous Voices: Horace, Epode 9"

- A.J. Woodman, University of Virginia
- Monday, April 27, 2015, 6:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

LECTURE

"Rethinking Mountains in Ancient Literature & Culture: Strabo, Apuleius, & Edward Dodwell"

- Jason König, University of St. Andrews
- Monday, April 27, 2015, 6:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

CRAM SEMINAR

"Female Figures in Pindar: Colonization and Panhellenism"

- Pura Nieto, Classics, Brown University
- Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008