Fall 2019

Anthropology

ANTH 1030
Section S01, CRN 16836
Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture: A World That Matters
Fall 2019

Survey of ancient art and building in ancient America, with a focus on Mexico, Central America, and the Andes. Underlying concepts include: meaning and method, cosmos and kingship, narrative and symbol, personality and authorship, empire and royal court. Rich collections of the Haffenreffer museum will form the focus of work in the class.

Stephen D Houston
stephen_houston@brown.edu
Dupee Family Professor of Social Science, Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 1125
Section S01, CRN 16817
Indigenous Archaeologies
Fall 2019

This is an intro. to Indigenous archaeology, sometimes defined as archaeology "by, for and with Indigenous peoples." These approaches combine the study of the past with contemporary social justice concerns. However, they are more than this. In addition to seeking to make archaeology more inclusive of and responsible to Indigenous peoples, they seek to contribute a more accurate understanding of archaeological record. They thus do not reject science, but attempt to broaden it through a consideration of Indigenous epistemologies. This course covers topics as the history of anthropological archaeology, Indigenous knowledge and science, decolonizing methodologies, representational practices and NAGPRA.

Robert W Preucel
robert_preucel@brown.edu
James Manning Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 1720
Section S01, CRN 16823
The Human Skeleton
Fall 2019

More than simply a tissue within our bodies, the human skeleton is a gateway into narratives of the past--from the evolution of our species to the biography of individual past lives. Through
lecture and hands-on laboratory, students will learn the complete anatomy of the human skeleton, with an emphasis on the human skeleton in functional and evolutionary perspective. We'll also explore forensic and bioarchaeological approaches to the skeleton. By the course conclusion, students will be able to conduct basic skeletal analysis and will be prepared for more advanced studies of the skeleton from medical, forensic, archaeological, and evolutionary perspectives.

Aviva Cormier  
aviva_cormier@brown.edu

Alejandra Roche Recinos  
alejandra_rocherecinos@brown.edu

ANTH 1830  
Section S01, CRN 17046  
The Pictured Text  
Fall 2019

Writing makes language visible, and thus concerns images. Language also delimits the legibility of imagery. Turning words into images and images into words occurs at great speed around us. This course explores the relation of text and image across world traditions—Chinese, Mayan, Egyptian, Islamic, Greco-Roman, and others, extending up to the present. Topics include: calligraphy, context, scribal practice, the form and shape of writing, including typography, hidden or pseudo-writing, graffiti, and contemporary art.

Stephen D Houston  
stephen_houston@brown.edu  
Dupee Family Professor of Social Science, Professor of Anthropology

Jeffrey C Moser  
jeffrey_moser@brown.edu  
Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

ANTH 2501  
Section S01, CRN 16834  
Principles of Archaeology  
Fall 2019

Examines theoretical and methodological issues in anthropological archaeology. Attention is given to past concerns, current debates, and future directions of archaeology in the social sciences.

Andrew K Scherer  
andrew_scherer@brown.edu
Associate Professor of Anthropology

**ANTH 2590**
Section S01, CRN 17475
Space, Power, and Politics
Fall 2019

This course critically examines the politics of space and landscape from an interdisciplinary perspective. After reading key texts in political philosophy and cultural geography, we explore themes in recent scholarship including the spatial production of sovereignty, capital, and political subjectivity and the evolving role of digital cartography in public culture and politics. Case studies are drawn from archaeology, art history, ethnography, cultural geography, and history.

Parker Van Valkenburgh
parker_vanvalkenburgh@brown.edu
Assistant Professor

Archaeology

**ARCH 1792**
Section S01, CRN 17745
The Archaeology of Slavery
Fall 2019

No one would question that slavery leaves invisible and painful marks on all individuals and societies touched by it. But slavery leaves behind many physical, recoverable traces as well: plantations, slave forts, slaving wrecks, burial grounds. From such evidence, this course will explore four centuries of slavery in the Atlantic world, asking not only about how people coped in the past, but about the legacy of slavery in our world today.

Rui Gomes Coelho
rui_gomes_coelho@brown.edu

**ARCH 1870**
Section S01, CRN 17127
Environmental Archaeology
Fall 2019

From Neanderthals on the brink of extinction to the smog of the Industrial Revolution, humans have been impacted by the environment for millions of years. How has climate change affected the development of human society? How have people adapted to their environments in the past? What does "sustainability" mean over the long term? Environmental archaeology is the study of these questions through the use of scientific techniques to analyze soils, plants, artifacts, and human and animal remains from ancient archaeological contexts. These methods
will be introduced with an eye toward how they allow us to interpret human-environmental interactions in the past, as well as the present and future.

Zachary Dunseth
zachary_dunseth@brown.edu

Laurel Hackley
laurel_hackley@brown.edu

ARCH 1879
Section S01, CRN 17799
A World in Color: Seeing and Experiencing Colors in Ancient Times
Fall 2019

Filtered through the lens of western aesthetics, history books often describe the past in black and white. Scholars even receive death threats for asserting that marble statues were not pristine white in antiquity. But imagining the ancient world in all its colors is to see a fuller picture of the art, fashion, values, and struggles of the past. This class investigates the meaning of color as a culturally mediated and charged phenomenon, using not just art historical approaches, but contemporary critical theory, linguistics, and economics.

Shiyanthi Thavapalan

ARCH 1890
Section S01, CRN 17798
Lost Languages
Fall 2019

Humans make many marks, but it is writing that records, in tangible form, the sounds and meanings of language. Creating scripts is momentous; writing facilitates complex society and is a crucial means of cultural expression. This course addresses the nature of writing in past times. Topics include: the technology of script; its precursors and parallel notations; its emergence, use, and “death”; its change over time, especially in moments of cultural contact and colonialism; writing as a physical object or thing; code-breaking and decipherment, including scripts not yet deciphered; and the nature of non-writing or pseudo- or crypto-scripts.

Felipe A Rojas Silva
felipe_rojas@brown.edu
Associate Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Egyptology and Assyriology

ARCH 2250
Section S01, CRN 17128
Island Archaeology in the Mediterranean
Fall 2019
The Mediterranean is a world of islands, par excellence, and the island cultures that have developed there over the millennia have great archaeological distinctiveness. This seminar will consider the concept of insularity itself, in cross-cultural archaeological, anthropological, and historical perspective. We will then turn to the rich, specifically Mediterranean literature on island archaeology (exploring issues of colonization, settlement, interaction).

John F Cherry  
john_cherry@brown.edu  
Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Classics

ARCH 2625  
Section S01, CRN 17343  
Broken Pots to GDP: Economies of the Roman World  
Fall 2019

Rome developed one of the most complex and extensive economic systems of the pre-industrial era, and debates on the nature and scale of this system have intensified in recent years due to an influx of archaeological data. This course examines a diverse range of material from across the Roman world as we explore the impact that recent archaeological discoveries and new methodological developments have had on our understanding of the Roman economy.

Candace M. Rice  
candace_rice@brown.edu  
Assistant Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Classics

ARCH 2740  
Section S01, CRN 17296  
Social Life in Ancient Egypt  
Fall 2019

This course will draw upon recent discussions in anthropology and sociology that explore issues of identity by examining hierarchies of difference - age, sex, class, ethnicity. We will focus on linking theory with data and on discussing modern and ancient categories of identity. Taking the lifecycle as its structure, the course covers conception to burial, drawing on a range of data sources, such as material culture, iconography, textual data and human remains. The very rich material past of ancient Egypt provides an excellent framework from within which to consider how identity and social distinctions were constituted in the past.

Laurel D Bestock  
laural_bestock@brown.edu  
Associate Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Egyptology and Assyriology
Classics

**CLAS 1120G**
Section S01, CRN 16958
The Idea of Self
Fall 2019

Literature gestures us toward a certain kind of knowledge not quite psychological, not quite philosophical. We read widely in the classical and medieval traditions in order to gauge the peculiar nature of what this knowledge tells us about experience and the ways in which expressions of selfhood abide or are changed over time. Authors include but are not limited to Sappho, Pindar, Catullus, Horace, Augustine, and Fortunatus.

Joseph Michael Pucci
joseph_pucci@brown.edu
Professor of Classics
Professor of Comparative Literature

Jeremy Fischer
jeremy_fischer@brown.edu

**CLAS 1205**
Section S01, CRN 16946
The Long Fall of the Roman Empire
Fall 2019

Once thought of as the "Dark Ages," this period of western European history should instead be seen as a fascinating time in which late Roman culture fused with that of the Germanic tribes, a mixture tempered by a new religion, Christianity. Issues of particular concern include the symbolic construction of political authority, the role of religion, the nature of social loyalties, and gender roles.

Jonathan P Conant
jonathan_conant@brown.edu
Associate Professor of History

**CLAS 1210**
Section S01, CRN 16957
Mediterranean Culture Wars: Archaic Greek History, c. 1200 to 479 BC
Fall 2019

From the end of the Bronze Age to the end of the Persian Wars is a period of considerable change in the Mediterranean and beyond. The Greek polis challenges the powers of the ancient Near East. Over seven centuries we meet Greek writing, Homeric epic, and the first historian
(Herodotus). But the Greek world lay on the edges of the Ancient Near East and this course tries to offer a more balanced approach than the typically Hellenocentric perspective of the standard textbooks. CLAS 1210 addresses political, social and economic history. Literary, epigraphical and archaeological cultures provide the evidence.

Graham J Oliver  
graham_oliver@brown.edu  
Professor of Classics  
Professor of History

**CLAS 1930B**

Section S01, CRN 16985  
Dying God  
Fall 2019

The figure of the dying god (like Adonis, Osiris, or Attis), embodying both beauty and tragedy, has exerted a fascination from ancient times to the present day. His worship was sometimes central to the community, sometimes marginal, yet compelling in its "outsider" status. His myths invited meditations on love and death in various modes from comedy to epic. This course, through the great mythological texts of Greece and Rome as well as modern literature and art, will explore the figure in all its variety, along with Christian adaptations and recent interpretations. There will be writing assignments.

TBD

**CLAS 2000**

Section S01, CRN 16952  
Proseminar in Classics  
Fall 2019

Introduction to standard research methods and tools in major subdisciplines of classical philology and ancient history. Required of entering graduate students. Survey of various subdisciplines in order to become familiar with field and scholarly principles.

Stephen E Kidd  
stephen_e_kidd@brown.edu  
Associate Professor of Classics

**EGYT 1430**

Section S01, CRN 15642  
History of Egypt I  
Fall 2019
A survey of the history and society of ancient Egypt from prehistoric times to the end of the Eighteenth Dynasty (ca. 5000-1300 BC). Readings include translations from the original documents that serve as primary sources for the reconstruction of ancient Egyptian history.

Laurel D Bestock
laurel_bestock@brown.edu
Associate Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Egyptology and Assyriology

EGYT 1495
Section S01, CRN 16788
The Science and the Medicine of the Ancient Egyptians
Fall 2019

This course presents a survey of the science and medicine of the ancient Egyptians in light of the primary sources. Only fields of learning represented in some systematic way in the primary sources are deemed worthy of study, mainly four: mathematics, medicine, astronomy, and time-reckoning. Zoology, botany, chemistry, architecture, etc., are not discussed. The Egyptians probably had some notion of the kinds of knowledge on which these subjects focus. But no systematic treatment of any survives in the extant sources and none probably ever existed. There are no prerequisites for this class.

Leo Depuydt
leo_depuydt@brown.edu
Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

ASYR 1600
Section S01, CRN 15639
Astronomy Before the Telescope
Fall 2019

This course provides an introduction to the history of astronomy from ancient times down to the invention of the telescope, focusing on the development of astronomy in Babylon, Greece, China, the medieval Islamic world, and Europe. The course will cover topics such as the invention of the zodiac, cosmological models, early astronomical instruments, and the development of astronomical theories. We will also explore the reasons people practiced astronomy in the past. No prior knowledge of astronomy is necessary for this course.

John M Steele
john_steele@brown.edu
Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

Erica Meszaros
erica_meszaros@brown.edu
Writing makes language visible, and thus concerns images. Language also delimits the legibility of imagery. Turning words into images and images into words occurs at great speed around us. This course explores the relation of text and image across world traditions—Chinese, Mayan, Egyptian, Islamic, Greco-Roman, and others, extending up to the present. Topics include: calligraphy, context, scribal practice, the form and shape of writing, including typography, hidden or pseudo-writing, graffiti, and contemporary art.

Stephen D Houston
stephen_houston@brown.edu
Dupee Family Professor of Social Science, Professor of Anthropology

Jeffrey C Moser
jeffrey_moser@brown.edu
Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Survey of ancient art and building in ancient America, with a focus on Mexico, Central America, and the Andes. Underlying concepts include: meaning and method, cosmos and kingship, narrative and symbol, personality and authorship, empire and royal court. Rich collections of the Haffenreffer museum will form the focus of work in the class.

Stephen D Houston
stephen_houston@brown.edu
Dupee Family Professor of Social Science, Professor of Anthropology

This seminar will map out the field of indigenous art with an emphasis on artworks from English-speaking settler colonial countries, concentrating on Native North American and Aboriginal Australian artists. We will approach indigenous art theoretically, outlining major
issues and concepts of this global topic. Units will include defining indigeneity and indigenous art terms, anthropology in relation to art, and curatorial practice. We will begin by addressing the concept of indigeneity through legal and sociopolitical frameworks, continuing with museological display of indigenous art across time, and seeing how museums are working to better contextualize their anthropological collections.

Marina Tyquiengco

HIAA 2212
Section S01, CRN 17474
The Pictured Text
Fall 2019

Writing makes language visible, and thus concerns images. Language also delimits the legibility of imagery. Turning words into images and images into words occurs at great speed around us. This course explores the relation of text and image across world traditions—Chinese, Mayan, Egyptian, Islamic, Greco-Roman, and others, extending up to the present. Topics include: calligraphy, context, scribal practice, the form and shape of writing, including typography, hidden or pseudo-writing, graffiti, and contemporary art.

Stephen D Houston
stephen_houston@brown.edu
Dupee Family Professor of Social Science, Professor of Anthropology

Jeffrey C Moser
jeffrey_moser@brown.edu
Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Religious Studies

RELS 1105
Section S01, CRN 17420
Kabbalah: An Introduction to Jewish Mysticism
Fall 2019

In the 12th and 13th centuries, new ways of approaching Judaism sprung up in France and Spain that would come to be known as “kabbalah.” These new approaches expressed aspirations for mystical illumination and elaborated vast mythological narratives about divine and demonic beings. The kabbalists radically departed from the then-conventional understandings of Judaism, particularly those of philosophers like Maimonides. However, they also claimed to find their new worldviews in the tradition’s most ancient texts. This course will introduce students to kabbalah’s founding period, focusing on primary texts (in translation), especially the Zohar, the magnum opus of classical kabbalah.
How does one live in a hostile Empire? How do you carve out a niche? Where do you allow the Empire in and where do you draw a hard line? Such were the questions that both Jewish and Christian communities faced at various times in the Roman Empire. In this course, we will look at the variety of ways that both communities negotiated with and against Empire. We will read texts across religious lines, including gospels, gnostic texts, Rabbinic literature, apocalypses, and Church orders. To sharpen our thinking, we will also read literature associated with post-colonial critical thought.

Jae Hee Han
jae_han@brown.edu
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

In our arguably “post-secular” age, conflicts over the relationship between religion and law have again moved to the forefront of international debate. In a multicultural and globalized world, such conflicts often provoke contestation over the very possibility of universal definitions of either “religion” or “law,” let alone their proper relationship. Our interdisciplinary inquiries on these questions will include concrete legal disputes in domestic and international courts; theoretical debates over the construction of “religion” in fields such as anthropology, religious studies, and philosophy; and historiographical controversies about the relationship between “secularization” and sovereignty, particularly in light of the legacy of colonialism.
RELS 2000
Section S01, CRN 16541
Theory of Religion
Fall 2019

Critical examination of major approaches to the study of religion, especially those of the anthropology and the history of religions, with attention to issues in current debate.

Thomas A Lewis
thomas_lewis@brown.edu
Professor of Religious Studies

RELS 2350D
Section S01, CRN 16962
Studies in Japanese Religions
Fall 2019

Intensive study of the history of Japanese religions with attention to major scholarly issues in the field.

Janine T Anderson Sawada
janine_sawada@brown.edu
Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies

History

HIST 1200C
Section S01, CRN 16031
History of Greece: From Alexander the Great to the Roman Conquest
Fall 2019

In 334 BCE, the 22-year-old Alexander crossed over to Asia and North Africa perhaps already in his own mind to conquer the known world, thus changing the history of the West forever. The values of a small, if intensely introspective, people (the Greeks) became the cultural veneer for much of West, as the period became known as the Hellenistic (“Greekish”) Age. It led to the spread of a monotheistic idea, a profound belief in individualism, alienation from central power, and yet, conversely, the creation of natural law and human rights, along with a deep desire for universalism. P

Kenneth S Sacks
kenneth_sacks@brown.edu
Professor of History
Paris has been called the capital of modernity, the capital of the nineteenth century, and the capital of the black Atlantic. This course explores how Paris grew from a small settlement into a vast city with an enormous global impact. Covering the settlement of the Celtic Parisii in the mid-third century BCE through the present, the course investigates the dynamic relationship between urban space, public activism, racism, and colonialism. It also considers who has been excluded from the city’s complex mythology and how these myths impacted experiences of the “other” (including people of color, low-income people, Jewish people, and women).

Charles Carroll
charles_carroll@brown.edu

This course will chart the evolution of the Mexica (better known as the Aztecs) from nomads to the dominant people of central Mexico; examine their political, cultural, and religious practices (including human sacrifice); explore the structure and limitations of their empire; and analyze their defeat by Spanish conquistadors and their response to European colonization. We will draw upon a variety of pre- and post-conquest sources, treating the Aztecs as a case study in the challenges of ethnohistory.

TBD

Before the Spanish invaded in the 1530s, western South America was the scene of the largest state the New World had ever known, Tawantinsuyu, the Inca empire. During almost 300 years of colonial rule, the Andean provinces were shared by the "Republic of Spaniards" and the "Republic of Indians" - two separate societies, one dominating and exploiting the other. Today the region remains in many ways colonial, as Quechua- and Aymara-speaking villagers face a Spanish-speaking state, as well as an ever-more-integrated world market, the pressures of neoliberal reform from international banks, and the melting of the Andean glaciers.

Jeremy R Mumford
Philosopher George Santayana famously warned that “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Ten years later, industrialist Henry Ford perhaps even more famously dismissed that notion: “History is more or less bunk.” What we mean by history and how we construct and use it are essential questions in all societies. Thinking Historically explores how we view and employ the past. The course examines major ways of interpreting the past through a survey of historians and methods and studies how history is produced, used, and misused, by professionals as well as by the public.

Kenneth S Sacks
kenneth_sacks@brown.edu
Professor of History

Islands command an outsized place in history and imagination. They can drive politics and economies, inspire worldviews and fantasy, and impel movements of people. The power of islands has been brought to life in narratives about fictional figures like Sinbad, Odysseus, and Robinson Crusoe, and it has shaped the experience of many peoples, including premodern Pacific Ocean indigenous navigators and contemporary migrants in the Mediterranean. Using sources ranging from ancient epics and medieval books of islands to contemporary fiction and film, this seminar combines history and literary arts to explore the diverse meanings and roles islands have had for centuries.

Amy G Remensnyder
amy_remensnyder@brown.edu
Professor of History

Carole Maso
carole_maso@brown.edu
Professor of Literary Arts