

Fall 2020

Anthropology

ANTH 1030

Section S01, CRN 17386

Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture: A World That Matters

Fall 2020

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, Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Morgan Clark

morgan_clark@brown.edu

ANTH 2501

Section S01, CRN 16483

Principles of Archaeology

Fall 2020

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.

Stephen D Houston

stephen_houston@brown.edu

Dupee Family Professor of Social Science, Professor of Anthropology, Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Archaeology

ARCH 1765

Section S01, CRN 17531

Pandemics, Pathogens, and Plagues in the Greek and Roman Worlds

Fall 2020

Terror of mass illness is nothing new; as long as there have been humans, there has been disease. These pandemics and plagues have had mortal impacts on past societies, much as contemporary plagues affect today's economies, social and political structures, and populations. This class considers disease and society in the ancient Greek and Roman worlds, beginning with the Plague of Athens in 430 BC and continuing to the outbreak of the 'first pandemic' of bubonic plague in AD 541. We will examine these case studies through archaeological material, written accounts, DNA analysis, palaeoclimate reconstruction, and palaeopathology.

Tyler V Franconi
tyler_franconi@brown.edu
Visiting Assistant Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World

ARCH 2245

Section S01, CRN 17546
Rural Landscapes and Peasant Communities in the Mediterranean
Fall 2020

The aim of this course is to explore rural settlement and agrarian production in the Mediterranean, both in the ancient and the recent past. The archaeological starting-point is provided by the numerous scatters of surface remains that archaeological surveys across the Mediterranean have collected and that are usually interpreted as 'farmsteads' broadly datable to Classical Antiquity. We will look beyond these scatters to examine the social and economic significance of rural settlement through comparison with ethnographic and historical rural studies from across the Mediterranean and to explore household and community organisation and agrarian production in Classical Antiquity. Enrollment limited to 15.

Peter Van Dommelen
peter_van_dommelen@brown.edu
Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Professor of Anthropology

ARCH 2710

Section S01, CRN 18027
The Archaeology of Nubia and Egypt
Fall 2020

Egypt and Nubia share the distinction of ancient civilizations along the Nile river, but Nubia remains much more poorly known than Egypt. This seminar will examine the archaeology of Nubia, including its relationship to Egypt, from the introduction of ceramics and agriculture to the medieval period. This long-term perspective will allow comparative study of issues such as state formation, imperialism and religious change. Enrollment limited to 15 graduate students.

Laurel D Bestock
laurel_bestock@brown.edu

Associate Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Egyptology and Assyriology
Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1307

Section S01, CRN 15733

Politics and Spectacle in the Arts of Ancient Rome

Fall 2020

This seminar investigates the intersection of politics and spectacles in the artistic production of ancient Rome. We will explore a variety of public monuments to reveal how they codify essential aspects of Roman culture. Topics include the architecture of entertainment spaces such as theaters, amphitheaters, and circuses, as well as the social functions of spectacles such as gladiatorial games and triumphal processions. We will look at expressions of imperial propaganda in monuments such as tombs and honorific arches. The class also considers how these ideas entered the private realm in the form of domestic wall paintings, mosaics, and sculpture gardens. A

Gretel Rodriguez

gretel_rodriguez@brown.edu

Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Classics

CLAS 1130

The Fragility of Life in Ancient Greece

Fall 2020

This interdisciplinary course explores the fragility of life in the Ancient Greek city-state from multiple perspectives: those of state-building, the population stress in the city, the capacity for the family to maintain and sustain itself, to those of the individual: man, woman, and child, whose life experiences left them vulnerable to disease and economic hardship. This course explores Ancient Greek socio-economic history addressing health, disease, fertility and childbirth, migration, mobility, and population and family 'management' as well as topics fundamental to historical demography (mortality, birth rates, and growth) over the *longue durée* approach (Archaic through Roman Imperial eras).

Graham J Oliver

graham_oliver@brown.edu

Professor of Classics

Professor of History

CLAS 1320

Roman History II: The Roman Empire and Its Impact

Fall 2020

The social and political history of the Roman Empire (14-565 CE). Focuses on expansion, administration, and Romanization of the empire; crisis of the 3rd century; militarization of society and monarchy; the struggle between paganism and Christianity; the end of the Empire in the West. Special attention given to the role of women, slaves, law, and historiography. Ancient sources in translation.

John P Bodel
john_bodel@brown.edu
W. Duncan MacMillan II Professor of Classics, Professor of History

CLAS 1930C

Section S01, CRN 16951
Parasites and Hypocrites
Fall 2020

The course is a study of the many forms of toadying, groveling, feigning friendship, flattery, ass-kissing, and so on, that were such a large of source of concern — and comedy — in antiquity. The anxieties over hypocrisy in a democracy and parasites in client-patron systems will be explored historically, in literary representations, and in their social, political, and economic contexts. Authors to be read include Aristophanes, Plutarch, Lucian, Plautus, Horace, and Petronius.

Kenneth Haynes
kenneth_haynes@brown.edu
Professor of Comparative Literature
Professor of Classics

CLAS 2011

Section S01, CRN 17826
Critical Approaches to Classical Texts: Theory and Methods
Fall 2020

These seminars will examine categories fundamental to the study of ancient literature and historiography, highlighting the relevance of ancient philosophy, rhetoric and poetics to modern critical/theoretical approaches. Topics can include: text, author, context, literature, genre, representation, emulation, narrative, historiography, commentary, reception. Contradictions in the idea of 'classics' can also be considered, in connection with questions of diversity and ethical approaches to Greco-Roman texts. The course aims to draw on participants' needs and experiences to offer firm and constructive guidelines for professional academic writing, eliminating common errors and misconceptions (intentional and biographical fallacies, confusion between allusion and intertextuality, 'topoi and 'tropes'.)

Andrew J W Laird

andrew_laird@brown.edu

John Rowe Workman Distinguished Professor of Classics and Humanities, Professor of Hispanic Studies

History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1213

Section S01, CRN 17278

The Bureaucracy of Hell: Envisioning Death in East Asian Art

Fall 2020

This seminar examines the material and visual cultures of death in premodern East Asia. Topics include the materiality of funerary rites, the practice of entombing the dead with miniatures, and the visual tradition associated with the influential Scripture on the Ten Kings, which envisioned the afterlife as an infernal bureaucracy. We will discover that the way people in premodern East Asia envisioned death had a lot to do with the way in which they experienced life. By thinking through the continuities, we will use the present traces of death to envision the absent world of the living

Jeffrey C Moser

jeffrey_moser@brown.edu

Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1307

Section S01, CRN 15733

Politics and Spectacle in the Arts of Ancient Rome

Fall 2020

This seminar investigates the intersection of politics and spectacles in the artistic production of ancient Rome. We will explore a variety of public monuments to reveal how they codify essential aspects of Roman culture. Topics include the architecture of entertainment spaces such as theaters, amphitheaters, and circuses, as well as the social functions of spectacles such as gladiatorial games and triumphal processions. We will look at expressions of imperial propaganda in monuments such as tombs and honorific arches. The class also considers how these ideas entered the private realm in the form of domestic wall paintings, mosaics, and sculpture gardens. A

Gretel Rodriguez

gretel_rodriguez@brown.edu

Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1882

Section S01, CRN 17563

Indigenous Art, Issues and Concepts

Fall 2020

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 2440F

Section S01, CRN 17437

Reframing Medieval Art

Fall 2020

The seminar will look critically at the history of medieval art and architecture. We will examine the voices of past scholarship, and the ways in which topics like cultural contact, race, and the movements (forced and unforced) of people and objects have been handled. Each student will construct a syllabus that develops new pedagogic strategies for teaching medieval art and architecture in a global and postcolonial context.

Sheila Bonde

sheila_bonde@brown.edu

Christopher Chan and Michelle Ma Professor of History of Art, Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World

Religious Studies

RELS 1440A

Section S01, CRN 16355

Japanese Buddhism

Fall 2020

An exploration of key ideas and debates in the study of Japanese Buddhism. Influential paradigms of medieval Japanese Buddhism, including “original enlightenment,” “transfer of merit,” and “harmonization of gods and buddhas,” will be brought into conversation with aspects of Japanese religious life in premodern and modern contexts, such as healing; care of the dead; bodily self-denial; and ritual uses of language. Materials include primary texts in English translation, modern secondary interpretations, and related literary and visual expressions.

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

RELS 2380D

Section S01, CRN 18253
Chinese Buddhism
Fall 2020

This graduate level course offers an in-depth review of the academic study of Buddhism in China. We read major works and students explore their own position in the field. Weekly monographs will introduce Chinese Buddhism as historical phenomena and an object of knowledge. Discussions emphasize methods, sources, and scholarly assumptions. We revisit foundational debates from the 20th century, such as the 'Sinification of Buddhism,' and read recent publications that study Buddhism in China through lenses of cultural and material history. The course includes a series of writing assignments, culminating in a seminar paper.

Jason A Protass
jason_protass@brown.edu
William A. Dyer, Jr. Assistant Professor of Humanities, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

History

HIST 1202

Section S01, CRN 15876
Formation of the Classical Heritage: Greeks, Romans, Jews, Christians, and Muslims
Fall 2020

Explores essential social, cultural, and religious foundation blocks of Western Civilization, 200 BCE to 800 CE. The main theme is the eternal struggle between universalism and particularism, including: Greek elitism vs. humanism; Roman imperialism vs. inclusion; Jewish assimilation vs. orthodoxy; Christian fellowship vs. exclusion, and Islamic transcendence vs. imminence. We will study how ancient Western individuals and societies confronted oppression and/or dramatic change and developed intellectual and spiritual strategies still in use today. Students should be prepared to examine religious thought from a secular point of view. There is no prerequisite or assumed knowledge of the period

Kenneth S Sacks
kenneth_sacks@brown.edu
Professor of History

HIST 1956A

Section S01, CRN 17277
Thinking Historically: A History of History Writing

Fall 2020

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

HIST 2971I

Section S01, CRN 15903
New Perspectives on Medieval History
Fall 2020

Over the past several decades, the field of medieval history has been reshaped radically. New approaches have changed the ways in which medievalists think about old subjects. Our understanding of medieval society itself has expanded as previously marginalized or unexplored subjects have become central to medievalists’ concerns. This seminar explores the ways in which medievalist historians have altered how they practice their craft in response to these developments. Readings in classic older works are juxtaposed with newer ones on the way to becoming classics themselves.

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

HIST 2981O

Section S01, CRN 18581
Seascapes of History
Fall 2020

This seminar explores the recent “oceanic turn” in history, examining how and why the sea and the maritime matter to interpretations of the past. Key readings will include general works that theorize new maritime history and thalassography, and studies focused on the history of specific oceanic and maritime areas (e.g. the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean), which illuminate sub-themes such as migration, colonization, empire building, trade, sailors’ culture, piracy, cultural attitudes toward the sea, religion and sea, and maritime environmental history. Readings will be drawn from a wide range of chronologies as well as geographies.

Amy G Remensnyder
amy_remensnyder@brown.edu
Professor of History