

Spring 2021

Anthropology

ANTH 1201

Section S01, CRN 25755

Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis
Spring 2021

This course offers an introduction to the concepts and techniques of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Through weekly lab assignments and work on independent projects, students develop skills in cartography and coordinate systems, spatial database design, image processing, basic spatial analysis, hydrological modeling, and three-dimensional modeling. Discussions and case material draw primarily from the application of GIS in archaeology, anthropology, and cultural geography, including the study of archival materials and the ethics of geographic representation. Provides foundation for upper division coursework in spatial analysis. Software focuses on ESRI products (ArcMap, ArcScene, ArcCatalog, ArcGIS Pro).

Parker VanValkenburgh
parker_vanvalkenburgh@brown.edu

Stanley J. Bernstein Assistant Professor of Social Sciences
Morgan Clark
morgan_clark@brown.edu

ANTH 1505

Section S01, CRN 25809

Vertical Civilization: South American Archaeology from Monte Verde to the Inkas
Spring 2021

This course offers an introduction to the archaeology of indigenous south American Civilizations, from the peopling of the continent around 13,000 years ago, to the Spanish Invasion of the 16th Century C.E. Throughout, we seek to understand the often unique solutions that South America indigenous peoples developed to deal with risk and to make sense of the world around them. Course lectures and discussions focus on recent research and major debates. Weekly sections draw on viewings of artifacts and manuscripts from the Haffenreffer Museum and the John Carter Brown Library.

Parker VanValkenburgh
parker_vanvalkenburgh@brown.edu

Stanley J. Bernstein Assistant Professor of Social Sciences
Bethany Whitlock

bethany_whitlock@brown.edu

ANTH 1650

Section S01, CRN 25751
Ancient Maya Writing
Spring 2021

Nature and content of Mayan hieroglyphic writing, from 100 to 1600 CE. Methods of decipherment, introduction to textual study, and application to interpretations of Mayan language, imagery, world view, and society. Literacy and Mesoamerican background of script.

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 1025

Section S01, CRN 26097
Greece-Egypt-Anatolia-Mesopotamia: Transcultural Interactions in the Ancient World
Spring 2021

The ancient Mediterranean and Near East were intensely interconnected: myth, art, materials, technologies, and political institutions flowed between Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia, Greece, and beyond. For as long as those flows have existed, there have also been complex and protracted reflections about their directions, causes, and consequences. This class takes a long-term, cross-cultural perspective to study both ancient (e.g., Herodotus, Manetho, Berossus) and modern discourses (e.g., Bernal, Burkert, Broodbank) about the dynamics of such transcultural interactions and the changing political stakes of the debate.

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

ARCH 1712

Section S01, CRN 26596
Ruins: Cross-cultural Understandings of the Material Traces of the Past
Spring 2021

What is a ruin? How, when, and why does something become a ruin? What sorts of ruins (e.g., nuclear, digital, biological) are we leaving behind us? This class probes the widely varied understandings of the relationship between time and matter that inform people's ideas about the traces of the past. And it surveys how people across the globe and in many time-periods – from

ancient China and Greece, to the early Americas and Islamic Arabia – have explained their own and others' historical, ethical, aesthetic, and emotional connections to those traces.

Felipe A Rojas Silva

felipe_rojas@brown.edu

Associate Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Egyptology and Assyriology

ARCH 2228

Section S01, CRN 26597

Prosperity in Antiquity

Spring 2021

What did it mean to be prosperous in antiquity, and how do we identify this in the archaeological record? What methodologies can we use to conceptualize and evaluate privilege in the ancient world? This course investigates material evidence for prosperity at individual, community, and state levels, seeking to understand how lives were affected by broader societal prosperity. We'll address questions of inequality, explore the impact of technological developments, and consider how literacy, art, and entertainment contributed to a different quality of life for the wealthy.

Candace M. Rice

candace_rice@brown.edu

Assistant Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Classics

ARCH 2240

Section S01, CRN 26598

Key Issues in Mediterranean Prehistory

Spring 2021

This course's scope is the entire Mediterranean basin, from its first peopling until ca. 500 BC. The focus is on key transformations in economic, social, and political structures and interactions; on explanations for these changes; and on current issues where fresh data or new approaches are transforming our understanding. This seminar is intended for students both with and without prior knowledge of this field, and particularly for those preparing for the Joukowsky Institute's Mediterranean Prehistory field exam. Enrollment limited to 15 juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

John F Cherry

john_cherry@brown.edu

Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Classics

HIAA 1308

Section S01, CRN 26934

Arts of Memory in Ancient Rome

Spring 2021

In ancient Rome, art and architecture were important vehicles for preserving memories, both individual and collective. Works of art such as reliefs, stelae, paintings, and monumental tombs, perpetuated the memory of historical events and honored the legacies of notable individuals. This seminar will explore the multiple forms of commemoration in ancient Roman art and architecture, considering a variety of media including burials and cenotaphs, triumphal arches, honorific columns and statues, among others. We will analyze the monuments built by and for members of the Roman elite, as well as private memorials dedicated by ordinary citizens. (A)

Gretel Rodriguez
gretel_rodriguez@brown.edu
Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Classics

CLAS 1120E

Section S01, CRN 25449
Slavery in the Ancient World
Spring 2021

Examines the institution of slavery in the ancient world, from Mesopotamia and the Near East to the great slave societies of classical Greece and (especially) imperial Rome; comparison of ancient and modern slave systems; modern views of ancient slavery from Adam Smith to Hume to Marx to M.I. Finley. Readings in English.

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

CLAS 1141

Section S01, CRN 25619
Ancient India in Modern America: Yoga, Ayurveda, and More
Spring 2021

One finds, in modern America, a variety of modes of engagement with aspect of India's ancient cultures, and debates about how to understand this engagement, as genuine appreciation or illicit appropriation. The course will prepare students to make a more informed critique or defense of such engagement, by closely comparing the modern American manifestations with aspects of ancient Indian culture which ostensibly inspired them. Readings will consist of ancient texts in translation paired with scholarship on their modern counterparts. Topics include: Yoga, Ayurveda, Buddhism, Kamasutras, Monistic Vedanta, and Vaishnava Theism.

David Buchta
david_buchta@brown.edu

Lecturer in Classics

CLAS 1210

Section S01, CRN 26629

Mediterranean Culture Wars: Archaic Greek History, c. 1200 to 479 BC

Spring 2021

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 cultural, political, social, and economic histories. Literary, epigraphical and archaeological cultures provide the evidence. This is a hybrid course, with synchronous (recorded) meetings Tu/Th and one section (online only; time to be arranged) per week from week 3. There are no written exams for this course. No previous knowledge of the ancient world is required.

Graham J Oliver

graham_oliver@brown.edu

Professor of Classics

Professor of History

Erica Meszaros

erica_meszaros@brown.edu

CLAS 1441

Section S01, CRN 25728

Merchants, Trade, and Commerce in the Roman World

Spring 2021

Exotic spices, fermented fish sauce, mass-produced pottery, olive oil, fine wine, not so-fine wine, marble, bricks, metals, people, art, elephants – these are just a few of the things that the Romans traded. This course draws on archaeological, literary, and epigraphic material to investigate the world of Roman trade from the goods that were moved, to the logistics of transport, to the merchants and traders themselves. Who ventured to India in search of spices? Who ran the local wine shop? How were colossal columns transported across deserts?

Candace M. Rice

candace_rice@brown.edu

Assistant Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Classics

Christopher Cox

christopher_cox@brown.edu

CLAS 2021R

Section S01, CRN 26608
Ancient Bucolic Poetry
Spring 2021

This seminar studies the corpus of ancient Greek and Latin bucolic poetry (including Theocritus, Virgil's Eclogues, and other texts) and its reception through the early modern period. How is bucolic to be delimited as a genre? What are its intertextual and cultural origins within the Hellenistic, specifically Ptolemaic, culture in which Theocritus worked? What persists, and what changes, in the reception of Theocritus' dialogues through the later Hellenistic, Augustan, later Roman, and early modern periods? We will pay special attention to the ways this poetry mirrors or filters political changes and implies different ideological positions.

Joseph D Reed
joseph_reed@brown.edu
Professor of Classics
Professor of Comparative Literature

Egyptology & Assyriology

EGYT 1030

Section S01, CRN 27092
Collapse! Ancient Egypt after the Pyramid Age
Spring 2021

How does a civilization or a kingdom collapse after building some of the most enduring monuments from the ancient world? What happens in Egypt after the Pyramid Age? This course uses texts, objects, and monuments to delve into the history and archaeology of the Late Old Kingdom up to the beginning of the Middle Kingdom in Egypt (c. 2160–2055 BCE), often described as a Dark Age characterized by chaos, decline, and natural disasters. We will discuss how ancient history is written with a particular focus on the narrative of collapse in ancient cultures. The class will be based on presentations and discussions focused on controversies linked to the following topics: politics; kings, kinglets, and rulers; monuments and funerary architecture; climate change; religion and beliefs; (auto-)biographies; literature; and art. There are no prerequisites.

Christelle Alvarez
christelle_alvarez@brown.edu

Xiaofan Zhao
xiaofan_zhao@brown.edu

EGYT 1420

Section S01, CRN 25832

Ancient Egyptian Religion and Magic
Spring 2021

An overview of ancient Egyptian religion from both a synchronic and diachronic perspective. Examines such topics as the Egyptian pantheon, cosmology, cosmogony, religious anthropology, personal religion, magic, and funerary beliefs. Introduces the different genres of Egyptian religious texts in translation. Also treats the archaeological evidence which contributes to our understanding of Egyptian religion, including temple and tomb architecture and decoration. Midterm and final exams; one research paper.

James P Allen
james_allen@brown.edu
Charles Edwin Wilbour Professor of Egyptology

Rafa Saade Saade
jose_rafael_saade@brown.edu

ASYR 2710

Section S01, CRN 25836
Babylonian Astronomy
Spring 2021

An advanced seminar on Babylonian astronomy, taking both a technical and a cultural perspective on the history of this ancient science.

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

ASYR 2720

Section S01, CRN 25838
Greek Astronomy
Spring 2021

An advanced seminar on ancient Greek astronomy, taking both a technical and a cultural perspective on the history of this ancient science.

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

History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1202

Section S01, CRN 27315
Mountains and Waters: Art and Ecology in East Asia
Spring 2021

For more than a millennium, painters and poets across East Asia have acclaimed soaring peaks astride expansive rivers as the most sublime of all subjects. Often termed “landscape” in modern English, these images of “mountains and waters” (shanshui) offer fascinating insights into the ways in which what we now call “the environment” was conceptualized in premodern East Asia. Drawing upon recent eco-aesthetic perspectives, this seminar examines these celebrated monuments of East Asian painting as ecological entities, investigating their relationships with the human and nonhuman beings that participated in their reproduction, and interrogating the moral implications of their enduring appeal. First year seminar

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

HIAA 1308

Section S01, CRN 26934
Arts of Memory in Ancient Rome
Spring 2021

In ancient Rome, art and architecture were important vehicles for preserving memories, both individual and collective. Works of art such as reliefs, stelae, paintings, and monumental tombs, perpetuated the memory of historical events and honored the legacies of notable individuals. This seminar will explore the multiple forms of commemoration in ancient Roman art and architecture, considering a variety of media including burials and cenotaphs, triumphal arches, honorific columns and statues, among others. We will analyze the monuments built by and for members of the Roman elite, as well as private memorials dedicated by ordinary citizens. (A)

Gretel Rodriguez
gretel_rodriguez@brown.edu
Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1440B

Section S01, CRN 26648
The Architecture of Solitude: The Medieval Monastery
Spring 2021

Religious men and women, as well as their patrons, sought to establish places of devotion and learning across the medieval landscape. This course examines the rise and development of the

medieval monastery from its late antique beginnings in the deserts of Africa to the rise of the preaching orders in early thirteenth-century Europe. Emphasis will be placed upon the material expressions of western monasticism and upon the notion of the monastery as an architectural, archaeological and historical research problem through examination of individual case study examples. Instructor permission required. Enrollment limited to 12. A

Sheila Bonde

sheila_bonde@brown.edu

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

HIAA 2213

Section S01, CRN 25904

Chinese Image Theory

Spring 2021

This seminar prepares students to interrogate the languages of the visual arts in premodern East Asia. Beginning with foundational claims made in the Classic of Changes (Yijing) and other early texts, it traces the ways in which graphic terminology was refined and redefined through its encounter with Sanskrit and Buddhism, the medieval advent of new technologies of visualization, and the emergence of representationalism in the Song-Yuan period. Reading knowledge of Literary Chinese is required. Open to qualified undergraduates with instructor's permission.

Jeffrey C Moser

jeffrey_moser@brown.edu

Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Religious Studies

RELS 1325E

Section S01, CRN 26186

Ecotheology in Ancient Christianity

Spring 2021

How did early Christians understand the relationship of humanity to the natural world, the animal kingdom, and the created order? What were the obligations and responsibilities of Christians regarding care for the world? How did they manifest a relationship to God? A study of the ancient Christian conception of humanity's place in the cosmos, as lived out in the daily life of the Christians in the Roman Empire. The course will focus on the first seven Christian centuries, with attention to how legalization and ascendancy reshaped Christian ideas on these matters. Seminar.

Susan Ashbrook Harvey

susan_harvey@brown.edu

Willard Prescott and Annie McClelland Smith Professor of History and Religion

RELS 1330A

Section S01, CRN 26312

The Life and Afterlives of the Apostle Paul

Spring 2021

While the writings of the Apostle Paul are commonly understood as early Christian scriptures, the Apostle Paul never converted to “Christianity.” He was and remained Jewish. We must therefore reexamine his writings within his Jewish context, not apart from it. We also need to see how the earliest “Christians” talked about Paul within the context of an emerging “Christianity.” In this course, we will first dive into both the authentic and spurious letters of Paul in the New Testament. We will then turn to the figure of Paul in later Christian texts, both canonical and non-canonical.

Jae Hee Han

jae_han@brown.edu

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

RELS 1610

Section S01, CRN 25010

Sacred Sites: Law, Politics, Religion

Spring 2021

Sacred sites have long been flashpoints for inter-communal conflict the world over, as well as posing challenges to sovereign State authority. Such sites range from natural landscapes to architectural masterpieces. They often come to symbolize the perennial clash between the religious and the secular, the sacred and the political, tradition and modernity. We will discuss a diverse array of specific disputes and ask whether one may even speak of “sacred sites” cross-culturally. Can legal frameworks embrace different notions of the sacred? We will also examine the historical contexts that provoke such disputes, particularly the aftermath of colonialism.

Nathaniel A Berman

nathaniel_berman@brown.edu

Rahel Varnhagen Professor of International Affairs, Law, and Modern Culture and Religious Studies

History

HIST 1211

Section S01, CRN 26461

Crusaders and Cathedrals, Deviants and Dominance: Europe in the High Middle Ages

Spring 2021

Popes named Joan, Gothic cathedrals, and crusaders—all these were produced by rich world of the western European Middle Ages. The cultural, religious, and social history of this period are explored with special attention to the social construction of power, gender roles, and relations between Christians and non-Christians. P

Amy G Remensnyder
amy_remensnyder@brown.edu
Professor of History

HIST 1213

Section S01, CRN 26939
Memories of the Medieval in the Age of White Supremacy
Spring 2021

This course explores how the idea of a “medieval” period helped to create nationalist and racist identities in Europe and America—and continues to provide the bedrock for white nationalist identities—over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries through an exploration of literature, art, architecture, and film.

Leland Grigoli
leland_grigoli@brown.edu

HIST 1835A

Section S01, CRN 24612
Unearthing the Body: History, Archaeology, and Biology at the End of Antiquity
Spring 2021

How was the physical human body imagined, understood, and treated in life and death in the late ancient Mediterranean world? Drawing on evidence from written sources, artistic representations, and archaeological excavations, this class will explore this question by interweaving thematic lectures and student analysis of topics including disease and medicine, famine, asceticism, personal adornment and ideals of beauty, suffering, slavery, and the boundaries between the visible world and the afterlife, in order to understand and interpret the experiences of women, men, and children who lived as individuals—and not just as abstractions—at the end of antiquity. P

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

HIST 1963Q

Sex, Power, and God: A Medieval Perspective

Spring 2021

Cross-dressing knights, virgin saints, homophobic priests, and mystics who speak in the language of erotic desire are but some of the medieval people considered in this seminar. This course examines how conceptions of sin, sanctity, and sexuality in the High Middle Ages intersected with structures of power in this period. While the seminar primarily focuses on Christian culture, it also considers Muslim and Jewish experience. Enrollment limited to 20. P

Amy G Remensnyder
amy_remensnyder@brown.edu
Professor of History