

Fall 2018

Anthropology

ANTH 1201

Section S01, CRN 16942

Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis

Fall 2018

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

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Assistant Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 2560

Section S01, CRN 16920

Lived Bodies, Dead Bodies: The Archaeology of Human Remains

Fall 2018

Bioarchaeology is the study of human remains from archaeological contexts. We will survey the "state of the art" in bioarchaeology, while exploring its relevance and application to the archaeology of complex societies. We will survey a range of bioarchaeological methods and applications, including paleopathology, stable isotope analysis, population affinity/ancient DNA, perimortem trauma, and body modification. In turn, we will explore how bioarchaeology can be used to approach a wide range of archaeological problems relative to complex societies, including subsistence, economy, migration, urbanism, social inequality, conflict and warfare, and identity. Open to graduate students only. S/NC.

Andrew K Scherer

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Associate Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 2501

Section S01, CRN 16112

Principles of Archaeology
Fall 2018

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.

Robert W Preucel
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James Manning Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 1720

Section S01, CRN 16104
The Human Skeleton
Fall 2018

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.

Andrew K Scherer
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Associate Professor of Anthropology

Joshua Schnell
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Archaeology

ARCH 1178

Section S01, CRN 17258
Archaeology and Social Justice: Un-disciplining the Past, Changing the Present
Fall 2018

The contemporary world is at a breaking point. Deepening social inequality, environmental crises, and neo-colonialism exacerbate global injustices. The stories that archaeologists tell about the past, more often than not, contribute to these injustices. In this course, we will use global case studies to explore the possibilities for other, decolonial archaeologies which can

liberate the material past from its colonial/racial disciplinary straightjacket, and at the same time provide essential tools for the necessary struggles for social justice today.

Yannis Hamilakis

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Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Professor of Modern Greek Studies

ARCH 1492

Section S01, CRN 17893

The Priest-Kings and Village Life of Ancient Pakistan and India

Fall 2018

The Indus Civilization was the largest culture in the Bronze Age, extending over Pakistan and much of India. It produced sculptures of priest-kings and dancing girls, seals imprinted with magical beings, vast water systems, and monumental structures. But it remains such a mystery that archaeologists can't even read its texts: the Indus script is still undeciphered. This course will look at the remarkable material culture of the Indus and famous sites like Harappa and Mohenjo Daro, but will also introduce current research examining grassroots change effected by villagers in their daily lives.

Jennifer Bates

ARCH 1500

Section S01, CRN 17128

Classical Art from Ruins to RISD: Ancient Objects/Modern Issues

Fall 2018

The RISD Museum's collection of Greek and Roman art will be studied first-hand and in light of recent scholarship in art history, archaeology, and museum studies. Through the lens of bodies in Classical art, the course will take a critical look at the materiality of art, particularly around issues of representation and display. Students will explore original contexts for museum objects; issues of cultural property and museum ethics; visitors' perception and experience of exhibitions; and notions of historical interpretation in museum display.

Eva Mol

ARCH 1837

Section S01, CRN 17226

The Origins of Things: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Early Human Worlds

Fall 2018

Were the first architects in the Orkneys subterranean-dwelling dwarves? What did Greek and Roman intellectuals have in mind when they spoke of ages of gold, silver, and bronze? Why did pots and brooms revolt against their owners in the ancient Americas? Accounts of bygone times

have existed for millennia offering insightful, perplexing, and often astonishing glimpses into early human experience. Using a combination of literary, visual, and archaeological evidence from around the world, students will explore the epistemological challenges and ethical dilemmas that people have confronted when imagining life in the remote past.

Felipe A Rojas Silva

felipe_rojas@brown.edu

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

ARCH 2020E

Section S01, CRN 17131

Economy and Trade in the Later Bronze Age Aegean and East Mediterranean

Fall 2018

Beginning with an examination of the workings of the Mycenaean palace economy, including the evidence of Linear B documents, this seminar will then turn to a more inclusive consideration of trade and exchange involving Aegean states and their counterparts further east, and of the nature and extent of cultural interaction between them during the later Bronze Age (ca. 1600-1100 BC).

John F Cherry

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Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology, Professor of Classics, Professor of Anthropology

ARCH 2535

Section S01, CRN 17361

The Levant and Egypt: Cultural Contacts and Connections

Fall 2018

A land steeped in story and history, the Levant (now Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan) was a dynamic crossroads of ancient civilizations, from Mesopotamia and Anatolia and stretching across Europe. But this region is nearly always viewed through the lens of its larger, well-known neighbor: Egypt. This course will shift this viewpoint by exploring the nature and agency of trade, colonization, diplomacy, migration – and even war – between the Levant and ancient Egypt, paying particular attention to the archaeological record in reconstructing these interactions and cultural interconnections.

Carl Walsh

ARCH 2630

Section S01, CRN 17204

Global Romans and Indigenous Persistence

Fall 2018

The military expansion of the Roman Republic has long been regarded as the starting point for profound cultural transformations around the West Mediterranean, as conquered indigenous societies were assumed to be "becoming Roman" as a result. In contrast with that traditional, profoundly hegemonic interpretation, this seminar will trace the longevity and influence of indigenous traditions -- particularly those of Gallia Narbonensis, the Hispaniae, Africa, and the major islands -- that began well before and extended far beyond the Roman conquests.

Peter Van Dommelen
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Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Professor of Anthropology

Classics

CLAS 1120G

Section S01, CRN 16169

The Idea of Self

Fall 2018

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
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Professor of Classics
Professor of Comparative Literature

CLAS 1120Q

Section S01, CRN 16170

Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Fall 2018

"Everyone has heard of the Seven Wonders of the World," wrote Philo of Byzantium two millennia ago, and it's still true today. But what's a "Wonder"? And why seven of them? Why make such a list anyway, then or now? This class will use ancient texts, explorers' accounts, and archaeological investigations to travel through several thousand years of history in the Mediterranean and Near Eastern world. We will consider how the Seven Wonders captured past imaginations; the aura of technological achievements; the intersections of history, memory, invention, and myth; and how members of one culture view another culture's monuments.

John F Cherry
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Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology, Professor of Classics, Professor of Anthropology

CLAS 1145

Section S01, CRN 16990

Goddesses and Women Gurus in South Asian Religious Traditions

Fall 2018

Indian Religions have featured some prominent female figures: fierce goddesses, domestic goddesses, legendary women sages, and historical women poets. These figures can be used to empower female authority and agency, but can also be used to construct normative gender roles that limit societally accepted agency for women. This course will explore the canonical narratives of these prominent female figures and the reception of these narratives in various historical contexts. It will also examine the contemporary reception of these figures, looking both at those who champion the progressive possibilities they represent as well as feminist and subaltern critiques.

David Buchta

david_buchta@brown.edu

Lecturer in Classics

CLAS 1310

Section S01, CRN 16165

Roman History I: The Rise and Fall of an Imperial Republic

Fall 2018

The social and political history of Ancient Rome from its origins to the death of Augustus in 14 CE. Focuses on the social conflicts of the early Republic; the conquest of the Mediterranean and its repercussions; the breakdown of the Republic and the establishment of monarchy. Readings emphasize ancient sources in translation.

John P Bodel

john_bodel@brown.edu

W. Duncan MacMillan II Professor of Classics, Professor of History

CLAS 1750H

Section S01, CRN 16174

Heroes and Heroism in Graeco - Roman Antiquity and Beyond

Fall 2018

Examines the concept of hero, an ancient Greek word, which had a wide variety of meanings and was employed to designate a series of diverse characters of myth. We will trace the evolution of this idea through a detailed analysis of its uses in Greek and Roman texts, and also contrast its ancient sense with present day conceptions of the hero and heroism. All readings

will be in English. The course is open to all undergraduates, but preference will be given to juniors and seniors. Enrollment limited to 25.

Pura Nieto Hernandez
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Distinguished Senior Lecturer in Classics

CLAS 1750L

Section S01, CRN 16177
Erotic Desire in the Premodern Mediterranean
Fall 2018

Erotic desire may be a universal human phenomenon. How we explain, depict, express, or experience desire is, however, not a universal, uniform matter. The premodern Mediterranean (from roughly the fifth century BCE to the fifteenth century CE) gives us a variety of forms of sexual experience and expression. We will study the history of these forms through texts, images, and objects: from Platonic love or eros to Roman tales of romance, from Judeo-Christian mysticism to Islamic literature, from sexual diets to erotic amulets. Enrollment limited to 25.

Efstratios Papaioannou
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Professor of Classics

CLAS 1750U

Section S01, CRN 17872
Greek Life: Athens as a College Town Under the Roman Empire
Fall 2018

This course focuses on the role of Athens as one of the most important educational centers of the Roman Empire to examine themes in the cultural history of the Eastern Mediterranean from the 2nd to the 6th century CE. Students traveled from all over the Roman world to study in Athens, celebrity professors competed to attract the biggest classes, and freshmen joining fraternities were subjected to bizarre hazing rituals. Course topics include the Second Sophistic, the educational curriculum, Paganism and Christianity in Late Antiquity, Neoplatonism, and the fate of Athens as an urban center. All readings in English translation.

Byron D MacDougall
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CLAS 2000

Section S01, CRN 16160
Proseminar in Classics
Fall 2018

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.

Graham J Oliver
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Professor of Classics
Professor of History

Egyptology & Assyriology

EGYT 2521

Section S01, CRN 18018
Problems in Amarna History
Fall 2018

The Amarna Period of ancient Egypt (ca. 1350-1300 BC) is one of the most debated, and variously interpreted, in ancient Egyptian history, in terms of people, events, and intellectual movements. In this course, students will research both the evidence and interpretations, and discuss their findings in class, to try to reach a consensus about the most likely scenarios. The instructor will act as a resource for the problems and sources of evidence, and as moderator in class discussions. Grades will be based on the depth of a student's research and on a student's contribution to class discussions.

James P Allen
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Charles Edwin Wilbour Professor of Egyptology

ASYR 1110

Section S01, CRN 17518
Literature of Ancient Iraq
Fall 2018

Introduction to rich and varied compositions surviving from ancient Mesopotamia (Iraq) and beyond, including selected myths, epics, hymns, prayers, rituals, oracles, elegiac poetry, fables, proverbs, riddles, debates and more. We will consider what they can tell us about people's lives and values in ancient times and the processes by which written knowledge was preserved and passed on, where the texts were collected and how they come to be scattered in museums. The definition of "literature" adopted in this course considers aesthetic intent but also the subjects (e.g. love, death, heroism, gods) and forms of writing meaningful to an ancient audience.

Shiyanthi Thavapalan

ASYR 2710

Section S01, CRN 17293
Babylonian Astronomy
Fall 2018

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

John M Steele
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Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

ASYR 2950

Section S01, CRN 17221
Scribal and Scholarly Practices in Babylonia and Assyria
Fall 2018

This seminar will explore the development of written traditions among the cuneiform scribes of ancient Babylonia and Assyria. Topics covered include the mechanics of writing on clay tablets, the training of scribes and the school curriculum, the status of scribes in society, the development of literary and scholarly traditions, the creation of tablet archives, the circulation of scholarly knowledge, and the range of scholarship (e.g. science, medicine, ritual, literature) found in Babylonia and Assyria.

John M Steele
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Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 2920

Section S01, CRN 16661
Methods of Research and Art Historical Interpretation
Fall 2018

Required of first-year and second year history of art and architecture A.M./Ph.D. students. Enrollment limited to 20. Instructor permission required.

Douglas R Nickel
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Andrea V. Rosenthal Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Religious Studies

RELS 1000

Section S01, CRN 15524
Methods in Religious Studies
Fall 2018

Intensive introduction to classical and contemporary theories of religion and the principal methods for the study of religion. Junior seminar for religious studies concentrators. Enrollment limited to 25.

Stephen Bush
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

RELS 1405

Section S01, CRN 17049
Buddhism in Chinese History
Fall 2018

This is an advanced course concerning the modern study of Buddhism in Chinese history. Weekly readings include content from major movements over eighteen hundred years. In-class seminar discussions emphasize modern methods, sources, and scholarly assumptions. We will revisit foundational debates from the 20th century, such as the competing models of 'Sinification of Buddhism' and 'Buddhist conquest of China.' We will also read recent publications that study Buddhism in China through lenses of cultural and material history. Students will lead book discussions each week, and complete a final seminar paper.

Jason A Protass
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Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

RELS 1440

Section S01, CRN 15527
Themes in Japanese Buddhism
Fall 2018

An exploration of critical themes and debates in the study of Japanese Buddhism. Participants become conversant with the key features of medieval Japanese thought as well as the strengths and weaknesses of established conceptual models in Japanese Buddhist studies. Readings include primary texts in English translation and modern secondary interpretations. Recommended: a course in Buddhism or East Asian religions.

Janine T Anderson Sawada

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Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies

RELS 1530B

Section S01, CRN 15528
Heresy and Orthodoxy in Islamic Thought
Fall 2018

Orthodoxy is defined as "right belief" while Heresy is just the opposite, but those definitions have always been in tension with society and culture. This course will interrogate theory and history to ask "What are Islamic Orthodoxy and Heresy?" From Islamic Law to who is or is not a "heretic" we will uncover interpretations of religious law, practice, and culture to learn how scholars apply orthodoxy or heresy to disrupt and unsettle notions of what "Islam" was at different moments, and how their interpretations force us to think of new ways to envision the formation of communities.

Nancy Khalek
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Associate Professor of Religious Studies

RELS 1610

Section S01, CRN 17906
Sacred Sites: Law, Politics, Religion
Fall 2018

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

RELS 2705

Section S01, CRN 17315
Sufism Seminar
Fall 2018

A survey of Sufism—as an Islamic religious phenomenon as well as a modern academic field—from the earliest sources to expressions in contemporary Muslim contexts. We will discuss Sufi mystical philosophies, liturgical practices, social organization, and historical development in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Readings consist of translations and academic treatments from various perspectives in the humanities and the social sciences. There will also be an optional weekly session dedicated to reading materials in original languages pertinent for course participants' research agendas.

Shahzad Bashir
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Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Humanities

History

HIST 1202

Section S01, CRN 15411

Formation of the Classical Heritage: Greeks, Romans, Jews, Christians, and Muslims
Fall 2018

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. P

Kenneth S Sacks
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Professor of History

HIST 1963Q

Section S01, CRN 15419

Sex, Power, and God: A Medieval Perspective
Fall 2018

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

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Professor of History

HIST 2971I

Section S01, CRN 15427
New Perspectives on Medieval History
Fall 2018

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
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Associate Professor of Classics
Associate Professor of History