

Spring 2019

Anthropology

ANTH 1126

Section S01, CRN 25799

Ethnographies of Heritage: Community and Landscape of the Mediterranean and Beyond
Spring 2019

Archaeologists study objects and (socio-cultural) anthropologists investigate culture is how stereotype and conventions have long had it. As material culture studies have increasingly blurred these boundaries, the distinction is entirely meaningless when it comes to archaeological heritage. Taking its cue from material culture studies, this course explores how local communities experience the material remains from the past and (re)incorporate them into their contemporary lives.

Peter Van Dommelen

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Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 1240

Section S01, CRN 26149

Religion and Culture

Spring 2019

Global events in recent years seem to defy the commonsensical idea that religious traditions would decline or disappear in the modern epoch. We examine classic theories and methods in the study of religion to understand the continuing vitality of spiritual contemplation, asceticism, myths, rituals, magic, witchcraft, experiences of healing, and other ways of thinking and acting that are typically associated with (or against) the concept of religion.

Erin Yerby

ANTH 1621

Section S01, CRN 24479

Material Culture Practicum

Spring 2019

Combines theory with hands-on study of artifacts from historical archaeological contexts in North and Latin America. Students will gain skills and experience in artifact identification, dating, recording, analysis, and interpretation, and will conduct individual or team research projects on material things as products of everyday life and history. Enrollment limited to 15.

Patricia E Rubertone
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Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 1900

Section S01, CRN 25507
History of Anthropology: Anthropological Theories

Looks at the way anthropological methods and theories have interlaced through history to understand the dominant concerns in present-day anthropology. What were the important issues that influenced the discipline's history? Who were the significant, and not so well known, historic personalities who shaped anthropological practice and gave it its identity? Enrollment limited to 20.

Erin Yerby

Archaeology

ARCH 1125

Section S01, CRN 26330
Building an Empire: The Sacred and Civic Architecture of Ancient Rome
Spring 2019

The Colosseum, Pantheon, and imperial palaces loom large in our impression of Roman civilization. Roman architecture set the standard for some of the most iconic buildings in the West. This course will examine the rise and development of Roman architectural principles and analyze how they were employed to create such a lasting image of empire. We will consider technological advancements and territorial expansion, as well as the shifting political and religious dynamics that shaped Rome's buildings.

Katia Schorle

ARCH 1153

Section S01, CRN 26512
Cities by the Sea: An Economic, Structural, and Social Examination of Mediterranean Ports
Spring 2019

Athens, Alexandria, Carthage, Ostia. Ports circled the ancient Mediterranean, and the sea infused these cities' hierarchies, structures, and daily patterns. This course will analyze the architecture and economy of key harbor cities of the Roman Empire by discussing their genesis or antecedents, their dynamics, and their role in the imperial era. To contextualize urban maritime landscapes across both time and space, we will consider issues pertaining to urbanism, trade, production, infrastructure, epigraphy, and iconography. Students will evaluate

the traditional “port model” and other theoretical approaches, to reach a more complex understanding of these cities by the sea.

Katia Schorle

ARCH 1475

Section S01, CRN 26224

Petra: Ancient Wonder, Modern Challenge

Spring 2019

The rose-red city of Petra in southern Jordan is a movie star (Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade). It is a tourist mega-hit (over half a million visitors annually). It was recently voted one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. This class will explore the history and archaeology of Petra and debate how best to present and preserve the site, as well as discussing (and planning!) Brown's ongoing fieldwork at this beautiful, but fragile, place. Enrollment limited to 15. Not open to first or second year students.

Felipe A Rojas Silva

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

ARCH 1494

Section S01, CRN 26541

Southeast Asia's Entangled Pasts: Excavated, Curated, and Contested

Spring 2019

Behind the caricature of Southeast Asia as an exoticized land of temples and tradition lies a conflicted past entangled with competing claims to power, identity, and territory. This course explores the history of that region (Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and the Philippines), examining how ancient ruins were used to justify postcolonial national states; how museums and monuments have bolstered authoritarian regimes and sparked democratic protests; and how circulation of artifacts and artworks sets off diplomatic disputes and connects diasporic communities. Students will also engage with relevant material cultures and artistic practices in the Providence area.

Lauren Yapp

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ARCH 1670

Section S01, CRN 25793

The Beginning of the End? Neolithic "Revolutions" and the Shaping of the Modern World

Spring 2019

How did the first farmers and settled human communities live their lives? How did they reshape the landscape, invent new forms of elaborate dwelling, and establish new relationships with plants and animals? And are the roots of some of our contemporary problems, including social inequality and patriarchy, to be found in the Neolithic? These are some of the questions we will be exploring in this course, using material from the European and Anatolian Neolithic and other, global, contexts.

Yannis Hamilakis

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Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Professor of Modern Greek Studies

ARCH 1775

Section S01, CRN 26331

Animals in Archaeology

Spring 2019

Food, foe, friend: animals play all these roles, and more, in their relationship to humans, in the past as well as the present. This course will explore how zooarchaeology -- the study of animal remains (bones, teeth, and shells) -- allows us to reconstruct ancient human-animal-environmental interactions. We will cover a range of topics and analytical techniques, including hands-on sessions for the identification and quantification of faunal remains. Additional topics will include ancient DNA in zooarchaeology, bone stable isotope analyses, human-caused extinctions, animal domestication, bone artifact production, and animal sacrifice. Enrollment limited to 20. Not open to first year students.

Katherine Brunson

ARCH 2151

Section S01, CRN 26653

Slow Archaeology: Thinking Things through in Archaeological Theory and Philosophy

Spring 2019

This course questions the so-called paradigm shifts in archaeology -- "the spatial turn", "the material turn", or the "the ontological turn" -- and analyzes the way archaeological theory has developed in our discipline. Students will explore theoretical angles other than the "usual suspects" in archaeological theory to creatively rethink individual research. We will take a philosophical approach to critically and carefully discuss academic archaeology and our roles, our engagement, and future as scholars within an institutional culture that often seems to be dominated by individual achievement, speed, and efficiency. What ideas might emerge if we all just slowed down?

Eva Mol

ARCH 2156

Section S01, CRN 25807

Other Pasts: Alternative Ontologies in the Study of What Was
Spring 2019

Archaeologists, historians, and anthropologists have become increasingly aware that “the past” is not a self-evident concept. What counts as a meaningful trace of former times is under constant negotiation, and strategies of exploring such traces are shaped by dizzyingly variable cultural norms and individual interpretations. This class asks what “the past” was (and is) in other times and places, especially among communities whose notions of materiality, temporality, causality, and agency differ fundamentally from modern western scientific ones. Can we study those pasts? If so, how?

Felipe A Rojas Silva

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

HIAA 1307

Section S01, CRN 26913

Politics and Spectacle in the Arts of Ancient Rome
Spring 2019

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

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Classics

CLAS 1120W

Section S01, CRN 24553

Aristotle

Spring 2019

A close study of Aristotle's major works: his method, natural philosophy, psychology, metaphysics, with main emphasis on his ethics. Readings from original sources (in translation)

and some contemporary secondary material. The class will combine lectures and discussion and is a writing course.

Mary Louise G Gill
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David Benedict Professor of Classics and Philosophy

CLAS 1120Z

Section S01, CRN 24939
Literature of Empires
Spring 2019

This course compares and contrasts the literatures of the ancient empires of East and West Asia (including the Mediterranean), with an emphasis on Chinese and Greco-Roman cultures. We will explore the literary discourses that grew up in support of and in opposition to imperialism and colonization; specific topics may include how empires use mythology, how tensions between centers and peripheries create imperial identities, how an empire assimilates a multiethnic past, the constitution of archives, and what “classic” means to different audiences. All readings will be in English.

Joseph D Reed
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Professor of Classics
Professor of Comparative Literature

CLAS 1121A

Section S01, CRN 25924
Late Plato
Spring 2019

This course investigates Plato’s response to difficulties posed in his Parmenides about the theory of Forms. To flesh out the theory we will look back at the Phaedo and Republic, and to understand his revisions we will read a series of dialogues responding to the Parmenides: Theaetetus (on knowledge), Sophist (on truth and falsehood), and Statesman (on method and politics). These dialogues present themselves as philosophical exercises to train the audience in philosophy and promise a final member to complete the series, but the Philosopher is missing. A question: can we find Plato’s philosopher in the series we have?

Mary Louise G Gill
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David Benedict Professor of Classics and Philosophy

CLAS 1320

Section S01, CRN 24525

Roman History II: The Roman Empire and Its Impact
Spring 2019

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
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W. Duncan MacMillan II Professor of Classics

CLAS 1750T

Section S01, CRN 24749
Ancient Novel
Spring 2019

Sex, pirates, powerful goddesses, and mistaken identities: these are just some of the aspects of the so-called Ancient Novel and its parodies. In this course we will investigate how a few fictional texts from the 1st-3rd centuries A.D. construct their characters' gender and sexuality, and therefore reflect concerns about wisdom, power, and difference within the Roman Empire.

Sasha-Mae C Eccleston
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Assistant Professor of Classics

Egyptology & Assyriology

EGYT 1410

Section S01, CRN 25011
Ancient Egyptian Literature
Spring 2019

A survey of one of the most intriguing aspects of ancient Egyptian culture. Readings (in translation) of many of the most significant literary documents that survive from Egypt. Presentation of a reasonable amount of historical perspective. Class discussions concerning the nature, purpose, quality, and effectiveness of the works read. Two term papers. No prerequisites. Offered in alternate years.

Leo Depuydt
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Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

Silvia Stubnova
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EGYT 1420

Ancient Egyptian Religion and Magic
Spring 2019

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
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Charles Edwin Wilbour Professor of Egyptology

EGYT 1490

Section S01, CRN 25795
Calendars and Chronology in Ancient Egypt and the Ancient World
Spring 2019

Time is the dimension of history. Chronology studies how we know when events happened. Chronology is much more important to "BC history" than to "AD history." History books state that the great Ramses II ruled around the thirteenth century B.C.E. But how do we know this? The focus of this class is on the answers to such questions through the study of the foundations of the history of Egypt specifically and of the ancient world in general. Some prior knowledge of Egyptian language or civilization might be handy but is by no means required.

Leo Depuydt
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Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

Mitu Choksi

ASYR 1700

Section S01, CRN 25009
Astronomy, Divination and Politics in the Ancient World
Spring 2019

This course will explore the relationship between astronomy, divination and politics in the ancient world. The sky provided ancient cultures with many possibilities for observing occurrences that could be interpreted as omens. In many cultures, celestial omens were

directed towards the king and his government. As a result, interpreting and controlling celestial omens became an important political activity. In this course, we will explore how and why astronomical events were used politically in ancient Mesopotamia, the Greco-Roman world, and ancient and medieval China. No prior knowledge of astronomy is necessary for this course.

Curricular Programs

John M Steele

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Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

Sara Mohr

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ASYR 2120

Section S01, CRN 26842

Historiography of Exact Sciences

Spring 2019

Introduces graduate students to the sources, problems, and methodologies of the history of astronomy and mathematics from Babylon to Kepler. Prerequisite: AWAS 0200. Open to graduate students only.

John M Steele

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Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1201

Section S01, CRN 26357

Brushwork: Chinese Painting in Time

Spring 2019

How did the tenor of the individual brushstroke become the locus of value in traditional Chinese painting? What other possible standards of excellence—such as verisimilitude—were displaced in the process? This course pursues these questions by analyzing the great monuments of Chinese painting from the perspective of the aesthetic debates that defined them over the centuries. Proceeding from the famous Six Laws of Painting down to the aesthetic watershed of the Northern and Southern Schools, the course traces the fraught interplay of artistic practice and critical judgment in China over more than a thousand years. No prior knowledge required. A

Jeffrey C Moser

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Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1307

Section S01, CRN 26913
Politics and Spectacle in the Arts of Ancient Rome
Spring 2019

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
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HIAA 1440E

Section S01, CRN 25946
The Body and the Senses in Medieval Art
Spring 2019

The seminar considers the contradictory aspects of embodiment in the visual and material culture of the Middle Ages. We will examine the veneration of holy bodies through living holy individuals, and through body parts (relics) and the Eucharist enshrined in sumptuous containers. We will look at the iconography of death and resurrection, the representation of the body in painting and sculpture, attitudes toward sexuality, the performance of identity through clothing, and the sumptuary laws that governed clothing and behavior. We will investigate funerary rituals and burial, and the movement of living bodies in dance and in civic and religious processions. A

Sheila Bonde
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Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World
Professor of History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 2440E

Section S01, CRN 24835
The Body and the Senses in Medieval Art
Spring 2019

The seminar considers the contradictory aspects of embodiment in the visual and material culture of the Middle Ages. We will examine the veneration of holy bodies through living holy individuals and through body parts (relics) and the eucharist enshrined in sumptuous containers

. We will look at the iconography of death and resurrection, the representation of the body in painting and sculpture, attitudes toward sexuality, the performance of identity through clothing, and the sumptuary laws that governed clothing and behavior. We will investigate funerary rituals and burial, and the movement of living bodies in dance and civic and religious processions.

Sheila Bonde
sheila_bonde@brown.edu
Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World
Professor of History of Art and Architecture

Religious Studies

RELS 1445

Section S01, CRN 26060
Sinners and Seers in Japanese Literature
Spring 2019

This course aims to foster understanding of Japanese and Buddhist values by identifying characteristic themes in folk tales, drama, poetry, and fiction. We will concentrate on the literary expression of concerns such as purity, defilement, renunciation, atonement, karma, and Buddha-nature, and discuss selected issues in the study of Buddhism and the Japanese literary arts, such as the tension between poetic activity and the religious quest, the role of travel in the creative process, and the spiritual status of plants and animals.

Janine T Anderson Sawada
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Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies

RELS 1500

Section S01, CRN 26494
From Moses to Muhammad: Prophets of the Ancient World
Spring 2019

The figure of "the Prophet" forms the backbone to many of history's major religions. From well-known prophets like Moses and Muhammad to more obscure figures like Mani, ancient prophets claimed to have unique access to God(s). Yet the concept of prophethood, and its twin, "prophecy," was as diverse as those who claimed its mantle. This seminar will explore ancient discourses of prophethood and prophecy from the Ancient Near East up to the early medieval era. Our reading selection will include the Hebrew Bible, apocalypses, Greek theories of divination, the Manichaean corpus, the Qur'an, and other "non-canonical" texts.

Jae Hee Han
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Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

RELS 1510

Section S01, CRN 24227

Islam in South Asia

Spring 2019

A survey of Muslim presence in South Asia. We will trace historical development of communities, including the arrival of Muslims in the subcontinent, establishment of various polities in the medieval period, and the evolution of modern colonial and postcolonial states. Paying attention to religious ideas, literary expression in numerous languages, and art and architecture, we will treat Islam as a multidimensional factor embedded within diverse South Asian intellectual and cultural contexts. Readings include original materials in translation and academic studies from various humanities and social science fields.

Shahzad Bashir

shahzad_bashir@brown.edu

Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Humanities

RELS 2050

Section S01, CRN 26453

Religious Identities in Sasanian Persia

Spring 2019

Sasanian Persia is rapidly emerging as a locus of study among scholars of Syriac Christianity, Rabbinic Judaism, and Ancient Iran. This course synthesizes recent advances in scholarship within these individual fields and experiments with alternative modes of contextualization. Primary sources include the Talmud, the Hekhalot corpus, Syriac martyrdom narratives, Manichaean literature, and Mandaean texts. We will also interrogate broader methodological questions, including comparative projects between “Roman” and “Persian” contexts, models of scholarly representation, and the limits of agonistic/assimilative frameworks. Reading knowledge of one of the following languages required: Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, Greek, Coptic, Arabic, or Middle Persian.

Jae Hee Han

jae_han@brown.edu

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

RELS 2350D

Section S01, CRN 25346

Studies in Japanese Religions

Spring 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

RELS 2400A

Section S01, CRN 26661
Orthodoxy and Heresy in Islamic Thought
Spring 2019

This graduate seminar comprises advanced readings exploring the concepts of "orthodoxy" and "heresy" in a range of scholarly and theoretical contexts. We will explore the historiography of these two terms, their problematization and limits, and related concepts in primary and secondary literature. This course is best suited for graduate students with background training in Islamic Studies, and knowledge of Arabic and/or other relevant languages is preferred.

Nancy Khalek
nancy_khalek@brown.edu
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

History

HIST 1110

Section S01, CRN 24504
Imperial China/China: Culture and Legacy
Spring 2019

As the current revival of Confucianism in the People's Republic of China demonstrates, the past is still very much alive in China today. This lecture-and-discussion course surveys the history of China from the origins of the first state through the twilight of the imperial period in the nineteenth century. Lectures are designed and the reading assignments chosen to emphasize in particular those ideas and beliefs, institutions and government structures, and literary and artistic developments that have shaped (and continue to shape) China today. "Imperial China" provides the knowledge necessary for informed study of modern China. P

Cynthia Brokaw
cynthia_brokaw@brown.edu

HIST 1211

Section S01, CRN 24634
Crusaders and Cathedrals, Deviants and Dominance: Europe in the High Middle Ages
Spring 2019

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.

Amy G Remensnyder
amy_remensnyder@brown.edu
Professor of History

HIST 1835A

Section S01, CRN 25518

Unearthing the Body: History, Archaeology, and Biology at the End of Antiquity
Spring 2019

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.

Jonathan P Conant
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Associate Professor of History

HIST 2981O

Section S01, CRN 25818

Seascapes of History
Spring 2019

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

