

## Program in Early Cultures Graduate Courses – Spring 2022

ANTH 1145

Section S01, CRN 26080

### ***Barbarians and Bandits: Exploring Subaltern Resilience and State Power***

In the imaginations of ancient Greeks and Romans, the urban centers of ‘civilization’ were surrounded by wild lands where barbarians roamed. Even now, mountains, marshes, forests, and deserts are the realms of bandits, primitive tribes, warlords, and terrorists. From ‘shepherd-bandits’ in highland Sardinia and ‘red-faced Gauls’ in Roman France to ‘marginal tribes’ in the Kabyle mountains and the ‘wild people’ of the Ethiopian borderlands, this course explores peripheral lands through time and across the globe. We will critically examine such stereotypical representations, to understand how their inhabitants carved out their own spaces in the interstices of ancient and modern states.

TTh 2:30pm-3:50pm in [Rhode Island Hall 008](#)

*Peter Van Dommelen*

[peter\\_van\\_dommelen@brown.edu](mailto:peter_van_dommelen@brown.edu)

Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology and Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 1623

Section S01, CRN 24954

### ***Archaeology of Death***

Examines death, burial, and memorials using comparative archaeological evidence from prehistory and historical periods. The course asks: What insight does burial give us about the human condition? How do human remains illuminate the lives of people in the past? What can mortuary artifacts tell us about personal identities and social relations? What do gravestones and monuments reveal about beliefs and emotions? Current cultural and legal challenges to the excavation and study of the dead are also considered.

MWF 12pm-12:50pm in [Friedman Hall 101](#)

*Patricia Rubertone*

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Professor of Anthropology

ANTH 1720

Section S02, CRN 25586

### ***The Human Skeleton***

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.

MWF 10am-10:50am in [Bio Med Center 015](#)

*Josh Schnell*

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ANTH 1830

Section S01, CRN 24955

***The Pictured Text***

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.

M 3pm-5:30pm in [Sayles Hall 104](#)

Stephen D. Houston

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

ANTH 2202

Section S01, CRN 25794

***Advanced GIS and Spatial Analysis***

This course develops students' skills in geographic information systems and spatial analysis beyond those taught in Anthropology 1201 or other introductory GIS courses, with the goal of facilitating advanced, independent research. The course begins with a rapid review of data models, spatial data management, and thematic mapping, which is designed to quickly bring students with less formal GIS training up to speed. We then move on to suitability modeling, network analysis, intermediate spatial statistics, and scripting, with a focus on developing competencies across multiple software platforms, including QGIS, ArcGIS Pro and R. Some topics can be further adjusted to meet student needs and interests. There are no formal prerequisites but an introductory course in GIS (such as Anthropology 1201) is highly recommended.

F 3pm-5:30pm in [Giddings House 202](#)

Parker VanValkenburgh

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Stanley J. Bernstein Assistant Professor of Social Sciences

ARCH 1305

Section S01, CRN 27272

***Myth and Narrative in Greek Art***

From Homeric epics to Athenian tragedies, masterpieces of mythological narrative form the backbone of Greek literature. But myth and storytelling were also powerful forces in Greek art — from vase painting to monumental sculpture. This class asks how myth in art responded to social realities or political developments, and what was the role or agency of the artist as a creator of content? How did myths evolve over time or take on new meanings in different contexts? Our class will look at many mythological stories in art and learn to “read” Greek visual narrative within its artistic, social, economic, and political setting.

TTh 10:30am-11:50am Location TBD

Cicek Beeby

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ARCH 1439 (URBN 1870K)

Section S01, CRN 25631

***Jerusalem Divided: Politics and Cultural Heritage***

“The heritage of Jerusalem is indivisible, and each of its communities has a right to the explicit recognition of their history and relationship with the city. To deny, conceal or erase any of the Jewish, Christian, or Muslim traditions, undermines the integrity of the site, and runs counter to the reasons that justified its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.” These are the words of Irina Bokova, former Director-General of UNESCO, spoken in 2016. While the indivisible heritage referred to in this context reflects the reality of Jerusalem’s Old City’s intertwined historical, cultural, and religious legacies, it does not address the geopolitical conflict, in which ideological and territorial claims produce diverging heritage narratives. In this seminar, we will examine how competing heritage narratives have been shaped by Israeli, Palestinian, and international views and interests. We will explore the history of archaeological exploration, discovery, and interpretation in Jerusalem in the contexts of social, political, and religious debates from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on its urban landscape.

W 3pm-5:30pm in [Sayles Hall 306](#)

Katherina M. Galor

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Hirschfeld Senior Lecturer in Judaic Studies

ARCH 1765

Section S01, CRN 25761

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

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.

TTh 10:30am-11:50am Location TBD

Tyler V Franconi

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Visiting Assistant Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World

ARCH 1830

Section S01, CRN 27217

***Fake! History of the Inauthentic***

What is a fake? Who gets to decide what is authentic? Greek statues, Chinese bronzes, Maya glyphs. Have fraudulent objects always existed? Galileo's signature, a centaur's skeleton, Buddhas bearing swastikas. Are all fakes the same? If not, how are they different? Why do people make forgeries? This course revolves around the history of the inauthentic through a diachronic exploration of objects.

TTh 2:30pm-3:50pm in [Rhode Island Hall 108](#)

Felipe A. Rojas Silva

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

ARCH 2670

Section S01, CRN 26956

***Between the Sahara and the Sea: North Africa in the Ancient World***

The archaeology of ancient North Africa (here Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya) is a complex and fascinating record of the many ancient cultures, both indigenous and colonial, who lived between the Sahara and the Mediterranean. This course will explore the material record of Numidians, Garamantes, Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans across diverse rural and urban landscapes as we contextualize the archaeology of North Africa not simply as a place built by foreign powers who controlled the Mediterranean, but one characterized by vibrant and lasting local traditions and multidirectional connections and influences.

W 3pm-5:30pm in [Rhode Island Hall 008](#)

Candace M. Rice

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Assistant Professor of Archaeology and the Ancient World and Classics

ASYR 2430

Section S01, CRN 25349

***Akkadian Historical Texts***

This course offers focused study of the most significant Akkadian historical and chronographic texts from the second and first millennia BCE. Readings in cuneiform will come for the major genres of Mesopotamian history-writing found at sites throughout the ancient Near East, including commemorative inscriptions, annals, chronicles, literary historical texts, and historical miscellanea. We will contend with the disjunctions between ancient and modern modes of historical thinking and work to contextualize the ancient texts. Knowledge of Akkadian cuneiform required. Reading knowledge of German and French will be useful but is not required. Intended primarily for graduate students.

W 3pm-5:30pm in [Page-Robinson Hall 501](#)

Matthew T. Rutz

[matthew\\_rutz@brown.edu](mailto:matthew_rutz@brown.edu)

Associate Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

ASYR 2950

Section S01, CRN 24856

***Scribal and Scholarly Practices in Babylonia and Assyria***

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.

M 3pm-5:30pm in [Page-Robinson Hall 202](#)

John M. Steele

[john\\_steele@brown.edu](mailto:john_steele@brown.edu)

Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

EGYT 1320

Section S01, CRN 24857

***Introduction to Classical Hieroglyphic Egyptian Writing and Language (Middle Egyptian II)***

Continuation of a two-semester sequence spent learning the signs, vocabulary, and grammar of one of the oldest languages known. By the end of this introductory year, students read authentic texts of biographical, historical, and literary significance. The cornerstone course in the Department of Egyptology - essential for any serious work in this field and particularly recommended for students in archaeology, history, classics, and religious studies. Prerequisite: [EGYT 1310](#).

MWF 1pm-1:50pm in [Sayles Hall 002](#)

Instructors: TBD

EGYT 1410

Section S01, CRN 25152

***Ancient Egyptian Literature***

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.

MWF 9am-9:50am in [Rockefeller Library 206](#)

James P. Allen

[james\\_allen@brown.edu](mailto:james_allen@brown.edu)

Charles Edwin Wilbour Professor of Egyptology

EGYT 1485

Section S01, CRN 27621

***Magic, Mummies, and Drugs: Medicine and Physicians in Ancient Egypt***

Did you know the ancient Egyptians would rub crocodile fat on their heads to treat baldness? Or that an eel warmed in oil would supposedly combat the smell of sweaty feet? If you would like to know more about the practice of medicine in ancient Egypt (including treatments that actually worked), then welcome to Magic, Mummies, and Drugs! In this course, we will read through medical papyri (in translation) and examine ancient mummies to learn how the Egyptians understood and treated the diseases that afflicted them. We will also look at how physicians were trained, which instruments they used, and how much they knew about human anatomy. Lastly, we will explore such specialized branches of medicine as gynecology, dentistry, ophthalmology, surgery, and veterinary medicine.

TTh 10:30am-11:50am Course offered online

Silvia Nigrelli

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EGYT 1490

Section S01, CRN 27005

***Calendars and Chronology in Ancient Egypt and the Ancient World***

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.

MWF 2pm-2:50pm in [Page-Robinson Hall 303](#)

Leo Depuydt

[leo\\_depuydt@brown.edu](mailto:leo_depuydt@brown.edu)

Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

EGYT 2300

Section S01, CRN 25155

***Readings in Ancient Egyptian***

Advanced readings in ancient Egyptian texts in the original script and language. Readings will be selected from a particular genre, historical period, or site. This course is intended primarily for graduate students and may be repeated for credit. A reading knowledge of ancient Egyptian is required. A reading knowledge of both German and French is strongly recommended but not required.

MWF 11am-11:50am in [Rockefeller Library B17](#)

Leo Depuydt

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Professor of Egyptology and Assyriology

CLAS 1120W  
Section S01, CRN 25927

***Aristotle***

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.

TTh 10:30am-11:50am in [CIT Center \(Thomas Watson CIT\) 227](#)

Mary Louise G Gill

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David Benedict Professor of Classics and Philosophy

CLAS 1220  
Section S01, CRN 25827

***The Fall of Empires and Rise of Kings: Greek History 478 to 323 BC***

The Greek world was transformed in less than 200 years. The rise and fall of Empires (Athens and Persia) and metamorphosis of Macedon into a supreme power under Philip II and Alexander the Great provide the headlines. The course covers an iconic period of history, and explores life-changing events that affected the people of the eastern Mediterranean and the topics that allow us to understand aspects of life and culture of the peoples of the eastern Mediterranean. and through these transformations, offers insights into the common pressures that communities confronted.

No prior knowledge of ancient history is required.

TTh 10:30am-11:50am in [Page-Robinson Hall 303](#)

Johanna M. Hanink

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Professor of Classics

CLAS 1230  
Section S01, CRN 25896

***The Persian Empire and Achaemenid Culture***

CLAS1230 explores the Persian Empire (6th to 4th centuries BCE), its beginnings, development, historiography. We will incorporate Achaemenid culture, and its reception, in a broad spatial and temporal context. The course approaches the ancient world from the perspective of 'the Other'.

Taking a Perso-centric view, the course incorporates the multi-disciplinary fields associated with Achaemenid studies since the 1980s. Primary source documents, maps, and readings, will be assembled to provide students with visual, material, and written evidence from the regions of the Persian Empire. Central to this course will be our own engagement with difference/different cultures, and their presentation(s). The majority of the materials will be delivered via the Canvas site. No prior knowledge of antiquity is assumed.

MWF 2pm-2:50pm in [Smith-Buonanno Hall G01](#)

Graham J. Oliver

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Professor of Classics

Professor of History

CLAS 1420

Section S01, CRN 25821

***Death in the West***

This course explores the history of western attitudes toward death from their origins in the ancient Near East and classical antiquity through the medieval and early modern periods to the modern era. The aim is to trace the evolution of western deathways against the backdrop of an anthropologically and sociologically informed understanding of this universal human experience. Among the issues to be considered are the needs of both individuals and society in proper treatment of the dead; in what ways funerary customs reflect broader cultural and historical developments; and what the implications are of recent and contemporary trends in western funerary practices.

M 3pm-5:30pm in [Barus & Holley 159](#)

John P. Bodel

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

CLAS 2080H

Section S01, CRN 26140

***Topics in Roman Republican History***

This seminar will examine some of the major controversies in Roman Republican history, with possible excursions to the archaic and triumviral periods. The focus will be on political and cultural history, and on questions of method and theory. Topics will be partially dictated by student interest. Assessment include student presentations and leading discussions, writing an abstract for a term paper, and a term paper.

F 3pm-5:30pm in [Sayles Hall 305](#)

Amy Russell

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Associate Professor of Classics

COLT 1310E

Section S01, CRN 26776

***A Classical Islamic Education: Readings in Arabic Literature***

This seminar introduces students to the essential texts of a classical education in the Arabic-Islamic world. What works of poetry, literary criticism, belletristic prose, biography, geography, history, and other disciplines were considered staples of a well-rounded education in medieval Baghdad, Cairo, Damascus, or Fez? Emphasis will be placed on close and patient readings of primary sources. At least three years of Arabic required.

W 3pm-5:30pm in [Prospect House 102](#)

Elias I Muhanna

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Associate Professor of Comparative Literature

Associate Professor of History



COLT 2821X

Section S01, CRN 26081

***Approaches to the Han Dynasty***

This graduate seminar aims to give students a grounding in both traditional and recent approaches to Han dynasty literature, culture, and history. We will look at both excavated and received traditions from a range of disciplinary perspectives (philology, archaeology, history, comparative literature). Reading knowledge of classical and modern Chinese required.

T 10am-12:30pm in [Prospect House 102](#)

Tamara Chin

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Associate Professor of Comparative Literature

HIAA 1101C

Section S01, CRN 26315

***Water and Architecture***

The seminar explores the varied ways in which water is manipulated in architecture and urban planning. It is organized in 'archaeological' order: from the most recent to the oldest. We will examine case studies, beginning with Tadao Ando's Water Temple and Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. We will examine the local examples of Slater Mill, the Blackstone River, and Barnaby Evans' Waterfire. We will then look back at historical examples: the Hoover Dam, the creation of Venice and the Grand Canal of China, the fountains at Versailles, the Islamic gardens at Isfahan, the medieval hydraulic plan for Canterbury Cathedral, and the Roman aqueduct bridge of the Pont du Gard. One of the principal aims of the course is to place the discussion of design into historical, technological and environmental contexts, and to provide students with experience in the production of architectural projects

Th 4pm-6:30pm in [List Art Center 210](#)

Sheila Bonde

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

HIAA 1411

Section S01, CRN 27340

***Illustrating Indigenous Knowledge***

This seminar examines the transatlantic politics of publishing indigenous knowledge. In early modern Europe, pictorial prints codified paradigm shifts in geography, ecology, and medicine. Knowledge of newly conquered lands appeared in books illustrated by artists who, often, had never visited the places they pictured. Meanwhile in the Americas, indigenous and creole artists appealed to experienced printmakers and publishers in Europe while building resources and artisanal knowledge among local printmakers. How did the power dynamics of coloniality shape the way knowledge of indigenous peoples was codified? We will answer this question through study of illustrated books in special collections at Brown.

Emily K. Monty

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Visiting Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture

HIAA 1440E

Section S01, CRN 26314

***The Body and the Senses in Medieval Art***

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.

M 3pm-5:30pm in [List Art Center 210](#)

Sheila Bonde

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

HIAA 1882

Section S01, CRN 26978

***Indigenous Art, Issues and Concepts***

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.

M 3pm-5:30pm in [List Art Center 220](#)

Maria Tyquiengco

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HIST 1700 (ARCH 1781)

Section S01, CRN 25051

***Violence: A Brief History***

Violence has long shaped human societies. This class considers violence as a social phenomenon across the globe from prehistory to today: how it has been conceptualized, practiced, and legitimated; its effects on societies and on individuals; and its role in creating, patterning, and perpetuating relations of power. Class meetings interweave lectures with student analysis of textual, archaeological, and visual evidence. Themes include the origins of violence, gender, warfare, state mobilization, rhetorics of dehumanization, religion, colonialism, imperialism, race and ethnicity, the coercion of labor, crime and punishment, trauma, reliance, and representations and constructions of violence.

MWF 11am-11:50am in [Sharpe House 125](#)

Jonathan P. Conant

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Associate Professor of History

Associate Professor of Classics

RELS 1325A

Section S01, CRN 24971

***Educating Bodies in Ancient Christianity***

How did ancient Christians learn to be Christian? Did Christian education look different from the ways that “Pagans” learned to be Pagan, Jews Jewish, or “heretics” heretics? This course explores the many ways that Christians learned to be Christian, paying particular attention to the role of the family, city, liturgy, and, of course, “schools.” We will adopt a comparative approach, looking at education among heretical “Gnostic” communities, on the one hand, and the rabbinic Jewish community, on the other. Some familiarity with the ancient Mediterranean world, through prior study of early Christianity, Judaism, Classics, or Ancient History, is recommended.

TTh 9am-10:20am in [Page-Robinson Hall 402](#)

Jae Hee Han

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Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies

RELS 1420

***The Contemplative Foundations of Classical Daoism***

Spring 2022

Introduction to classical Daoism, one of the two indigenous religions of China, through the history, philosophy, and contemplative practices found in its foundational works the Daodejing and the Zhuangzi. Through careful study of these texts, we will attempt to reconstruct the intellectual and experiential elements on which this tradition was based.

TTH 4pm-6:30pm – Remote Access

Harold D. Roth

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Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies

RELS 1445

Section S01, CRN 27374

***Sinners and Seers in Japanese Literature***

Exploration of Japanese Buddhist sensibilities as expressed in poetry, popular tales, drama, and fiction. Recurring themes include wrongdoing and its karmic consequences; renunciation; tension between aesthetic and religious commitments; pilgrimage as creative process; the role of nature in the quest for enlightenment. Reading and discussion in a seminar-style format. A previous course in Buddhism or East Asian culture is helpful but not required. Counts for concentration credit in Religious Studies and East Asian Studies.

TTh 1pm-2:20pm in [59 George St- S. Miller House 101](#)

Janine T. Anderson Sawada

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Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies

RELS 1600A

Section S01, CRN 27334

***Race, Religion, and Ethnicity in the Study of Antiquity***

Critical theory presents new challenges and opportunities for the study of antiquity. What is critical theory and how might it be useful for understanding categories such as race, religion, and ethnicity in antiquity? How might critical theory help us to think about the ethical implications of contemporary study of the distant past? Graduate and advanced undergraduate students with interests in any premodern society are welcome. All class readings will be in English.

W 3pm-5:30pm in [Barus & Holley 159](#)

Michael A. Satlow

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Professor of Judaic Studies and Religious Studies

RELS 1830D

Section S01, CRN 27333

***Constructing the Human: Humanness and Animality in the Ancient World***

What does it mean to be human? How do we define “Humanness” and what assumptions do we make about our own distinctions between “Humans” and “Animals” when we define humanness? This course will look at the process of constructing the human category in the ancient world and compare that process to our own modern conceptions of humanness. In what ways are they similar and in what ways are they different? How can ancient examples of the human category inform our own ethical understandings of what it means to be human?

TTh 2:30pm-3:50pm in [59 George St- S. Miller House 101](#)

Tanner Walker

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RELS 2050

Section S01, CRN 27119

***Religious Identities in Sasanian Persia***

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.

MWF 8am-8:50am in [Page-Robinson Hall 201](#)

Jae Hee Han

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Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies