



Ancient Civilisations: Comparative Analysis and Critical Perspectives

(HPAH5006: Independent Project)

2019-2020

Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts

University of Wales Trinity Saint David



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



Ancient Civilisations: Comparative Analysis and Critical Perspectives

This module incorporating an individual project develops comparative analytical and research skills in preparation for your dissertation at Level 6. It explores the concepts of civilisation, society and culture as theoretical constructs and their application to specific examples drawn from a range of ancient civilisation. You will examine a number of research themes and methodologies that are key to the study of ancient civilisations, which you will apply to a specific aspect (art, religion, mythology, economy for example) of an ancient civilisation of your choice (including ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, the Classical World, Mesoamerica, and other civilisations of the East Mediterranean).

Credits: 20 This module has **20 contact hours** in class during Block 1. You are required to attend ALL these classes. In addition, you will have to meet your supervisor during the academic year.

Module convener: Dr. Katharina Zinn, office: Arts Building A110

AIM(S)

- To examine in detail the concept(s) of civilisation, culture and society with reference to ancient world civilisations;
- To evaluate key methodological and theoretical approaches for the comparative analysis of ancient world civilisations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of an ancient civilisation of their choice;
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theoretical approaches and analytical methods appropriate to the study of ancient civilisations and the application of these to a specific civilisation of their choice;
- Develop independent research and presentation skills.

This year's special topic is RELIGION

Syllabus: It is required to check MOODLE every day during the block.

Date	Title	Readings / Tasks to do
Week 1	17/09-20/09/2019 Introduction	
Mo	General induction: Please follow INDUCTION timetable	
AC1 Tue	Welcome to the course and Administrative Definitions: what are civilisation/culture/society?	→ Decide on your civilisation for your project in class discussion
AC2 Thur	No class	
AC3 Fri		
Week 2	23/09-27/09/2019 Theory, culture and religion	
AC2 Mo	Theories and Theorists: Why Theory is Important for the Understanding of ancient civilisations	Busmann 2015
AC3 Tue	Theoretical approaches to religion	Workshop: What aspects of religion in your culture interests you?
Thu	No class	
Fri		
Week 3	30/09-04/10/2019	
AC4 Mo	Case studies: Ancient China (TJ) and Ancient Egypt (KZ)	Workshop: Compare these two approaches
AC5 Tue	Religion and you: Your culture, your project and	Prepare a short talk (with or without PPTX to introduce the class to some ideas how you would like to approach religion in your culture, suggest a title of your project. Workshop: How to write an abstract and outline/structure?
Thu	No class	10AM: submit your abstract drafts to the ABTRACT-Forum on MOODLE Prepare an outline/structure for tomorrow's discussion
AC6 Fri	Abstract discussion	Class discussion abstracts (marked) and outlines / structure: you need to read all abstracts on MOODLE
Week 4	07/10-11/10/2019	
Mo	No class	Submission Coursework 1 - Abstract
Tue		
Thu		
AC7 Fri	Individual supervision for project – where to go from here?	Please sign yourself into a times lot on a list at Katharina's office door

03/02/20	Submission of presentation HANDOUT → date of actual presentation TBC, but likely to be during that week
01/05/20	Submission of Project Summary / Dissertation

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essential → civilisations, complexity, comparatistic

- Assmann, J. 2011. *Cultural Memory and Early Civilization*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Boivin, N. 2008. *Material Cultures, Material Minds: The Impact of Things on Human Thought, Society, and Evolution*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Bussmann, R. 2015. Egyptian archaeology and social anthropology. In: Oxford Handbooks Online. Available online: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935413.013.24>
- Carrithers, M. 1992. *Why Humans Have Cultures: Explaining Anthropology and Social Diversity*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press,
- Chadwick, R. 2005. *First Civilizations: Ancient Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt*. London: Equinox. (2nd ed).
- Chapman, R. 2003. *Archaeologies of Complexity*. London: Routledge.
- Harris, W.V. 2007. *Rethinking the Mediterranean*. Oxford: OUP.
- Insoll, T. 2011. *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Ritual and Religion*. Oxford: OUP.
- Ross, J.C.; Steadman, S.R. 2017. *Ancient Complex Societies*. New York: Routledge.
- Trigger, B.G. 2003. *Understanding Early Civilizations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Background

- Appadurai, A. (ed.) 1986. *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Carruthers, W. (ed.). 2015. *Histories of Egyptology: Interdisciplinary Measures*. New York: Routledge.
- Delaney, C. 2004. *Investigating Culture*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- DeMarrais, E. Gosden, C. and Renfrew, C. 2004. *Rethinking Materiality: the Engagement of Mind with the Material World*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
- DeMarrais, E.; Gosden, C.; Renfrew, C. 2004. *Rethinking Materiality: the Engagement of Mind with the Material World*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
- Drazin, A.; Küchler, S. (eds.). 2015. *The social life of materials: studies in material and society*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Hodder, I. 2012. *Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things* (Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012);
- Hodder, I. 2016. *Studies in Human-Thing Entanglement*. 2016. Available online: <http://www.ian-hodder.com/books/studies-human-thing-entanglement>
- Knappett, C.; Malafouris, L. 2008. *Material Agency: Towards a Non-Anthropocentric Approach*. Berlin: Springer, cop.
- Powell, B. 2009. *Theory and History of the Technology of Civilization*. Oxford: John Wiley.
- Pyburn, K.A. 2004. *Ungendering Civilization*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Ransome, P. 2010. *Social Theory for Beginners*. Portland: the Policy Press.

Recommended / useful for special topic RELIGION:

- Insoll, T. 2001. *Archaeology and World Religion*. London: Routledge, 2001. Print.
- Johnston, S.I. 2004. *Religions of the Ancient World : A Guide*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap P.
- Johnston, S.I. 2007. *Ancient Religions*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap.
- Lévi-Strauss, C. 1978. *Myth and Meaning*. London: Routledge.
- Rappaport, R.A. 1999. *Ritual and Religion in the Making of Humanity*. Cambridge. → especially chapter 2: The ritual form.

Egypt:

- Assmann, J. 1995. *Egyptian Solar Religion in the New Kingdom: Re. Amun and the Crisis of Polytheism*. London: Kegan Paul.
- Assmann, J. 2001. *The Search for God in Ancient Egypt*. Ithaca. (transl. of Assmann, J. 1984. *Theologie und Frömmigkeit einer frühen Hochkultur*. Stuttgart. → even this is a very good translation, if you can read German, then use the original book)
- Assmann, J. 2005. *Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt*. Ithaca and London: Cornell Univ. Press.
- Baines, J. 1987. Practical Religion 'Practical religion and piety.' JEA 73 (1987): 88–93.
- Baines, J. 2007. *Visual & written culture in ancient Egypt*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bard, K. A. 2015. *An introduction to the archaeology of ancient Egypt*. Oxford: Blackwell. (or the previous edition)
- David, R. 2002. *Religion and Magic in Ancient Egypt*. London.
- DuQuesne, T. 1994. The raw and the half-baked: Approaches to Egyptian religion. In: *Discussions in Egyptology* 30(1994). 29-35.
- Hays, H.M. 2010. Funerary Rituals (Pharaonic Period). In J. Dieleman, W. Wendrich (eds.), *UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology*, Los Angeles.
- Hornung, E. *Conceptions of god in ancient Egypt; the one and the many*. London: Cornell Univ. Pr., 1982.
- Ikram, S. 2010a. *Ancient Egypt: An Introduction*. Cambridge. → especially chapter 5 (115-164): Maintaining Egypt: Religion
- Kemp, B. 1995. How religious were the ancient Egyptians? In: *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 5 (1995)1. 25-54.
- Kemp, B. 2006. *Ancient Egypt. Anatomy of a civilization*. London: Routledge. (you can also use first edition 1989 or third edition 2018)
- Lloyd, A.B. 2010. *A Companion to Ancient Egypt*. London: Wiley-Blackwell. (esp. Spencer / Clarysse. 255-290 and Szpakowska / Frankfurter. 507-546).
- Morenz, S. 1992 (or any other edition). *Egyptian Religion*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Pinch, G. 2004. *Egyptian Myth: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Pr.
- Pinch, G. 2006 (or any other edition). *Magic in Ancient Egypt*. London: British Museum.
- Quirke, S. (2001). *The Cult of Ra: Sun Worship in Ancient Egypt*. London.
- [Redford, D.B. 2002. *The ancient god speaks: A guide to Egyptian religion*. Oxford: OUP.](#)

- Sauneron, S. 2000. *The priests of Ancient Egypt*. Ithaca & London: Cornell Univ. Pr.
- Shafer, B. (Ed.) 1991. *Religion in Ancient Egypt: Gods, Myths, and Personal Practice*. Ithaca & London: Cornell Univ. Pr.
- Shafer, B. (Ed.) 1997. *Temples of Ancient Egypt*. Ithaca & London: Cornell Univ. Pr.
- Wilkinson, R.H. (ed.) 2008. *Egyptology Today*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Wilkinson, T. 2010. *Egyptian World*. London: Routledge. (Goebs' article on Blackboard)
- Zinn, K. 2012. Cults: Divine. In: *Encyclopedia of the Ancient World*. New York: Wiley.
- Zinn, K. 2012. Magic. In: *Encyclopedia of the Ancient World*. New York: Wiley.
- Zivie-Coche, C. and F. Dunand. 2013. *Die Religionen des Alten Ägypten*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer.

ASSESSMENTS

One research project (comprises Ass.Components 1-3)

Choice of civilisations:

ancient Egypt, ancient China, Mesopotamia, Hittites, Phoenicians; Mesopotamia, Indus Valley; Minoans/Mycenaeans; Canaanites; Inca, Maya, Persians, Classical Greece, Roman Empire, Etruscans

Your choice of culture needs to be agreed upon

The overarching topic is RELIGION

Assessment Component 1 – 10% → submission on Monday 07/10/2019 via Turnitin (MOODLE)

Project abstract – 500-word assignment

Please see the *How to write an abstract?* document on MOODLE (Section: [Your assessments - your independent project](#)) for further information and help.

Assessment Component 2 – 10% → submission of presentation HANDOUT on Deadline: 03/02/2020 @ 23/59, on Moodle for ppt/handout. Specific presentation dates to be announced nearer the time, but are likely to be during that week between Tuesday and Friday.

5-10 min presentation

Introduce your research topic, your sources / methodology and critically reflect upon the progress so far.

Assessment Component 3 – 80% → submission via Turnitin on 01/05/2020

Project summary – 3500 words

This dissertation type summative essay should provide an answer to your research question presented in your abstract. Please follow the usual structure of a dissertation explained in the document *How to write your project summary / dissertation* on MOODLE (Section: [Your assessments - your independent project](#)). See there for further information and help.

You can find your Marking Criteria on MOODLE.



*"It doesn't mean a thing, but boy, will it drive them
crazy a thousand years from now!"*

THE END