



What makes civilisation?

HPAR4006

2019-2020, Block 2



Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts
University of Wales Trinity Saint David



What makes civilisation?

This co-taught module explores the questions what makes civilisation and what makes a civilisation through the analysis of theoretical literature as well as primary sources of chosen examples of civilisations. It explores, through various case studies (taught by staff involved in the programme Ancient Civilisations), the indispensable features of the phenomenon “civilisation” and will enable the student for their comparative studies of ancient civilisations. The module investigates the relevance of social constructs as religion, state, kingship, elite culture, literacy/orality, cultural memory etc. in theory and applied to specific cultures.

→ **Credits: 20;**

→ **Block 2; Arts 1**

Module convener: Dr. Katharina Zinn

office: **Arts Building A110**

Participating Lecturer	Initial	Office	Culture covered
Errietta Bissa	EB	A114	Ancient Greece
Dr Ros Coard	RC	A019	Indus Valley Culture
Dr Matt Cobb	MC	A111	Ancient Rome
Dr Thomas Jansen	TJ	A040	Ancient China
Dr Louise Steel	LS	A122	ANE and Cyprus
Dr Katharina Zinn	KZ	A110	Ancient Egypt, Maya

→ For questions concerning specific sessions, please contact the lecturer of the session; for general enquiries (attendance etc), please contact module convener Dr Zinn

AIM(S)

- To examine the characteristics of the terms “civilisation”, “society”, “culture” in different subjects of humanities (anthropology, archaeology, Egyptology, Chinese Studies, Classics, Religious Studies) and their relevance for the history of the ancient world;
- Explore the various civilisations of the ancient world; looking at their cultural, social, religious and historical context;
- Examine their impact on other societies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this module students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the taught terminologies;
- Be aware of the distinctions and similarities of particular cultures and societies;
- Demonstrate the ability to apply the learned characteristics to other societies not looked at in case studies;
- Evaluate the necessity to include all characteristics when describing civilisations

SYLLABUS

This syllabus follows loosely the characterisation of *early civilisations* as given by **Trigger (2003)**, see your bibliography and the PDF on MOODLE:

- A. Socio-political Organization
- B. Economy
- C. Cognitive and Symbolic Aspects

Date	Who?	Title	Trigger	Readings (more on MOODLE)
PW <u>14-18/10</u>	KZ	The preparation week will give you time and opportunity to prepare for this module. Please, see your tasks on MOODLE.		
Week 1				
W1 Mo 21/10	KZ	Welcome to the course and Administrative		
	KZ	Early civilisations and complex societies – definitions, evidence and interpretations		
W2 Tue 22/10	KZ	Text Workshop – how to deal with secondary theoretical literature?		Will be based on Wengrow (to be read during preparation week) and prepare for Portfolio 2 Ross/Staedman 2017, chapters 2+3
	KZ	Origins, emergence and re-emergence of ancient Egypt	A	Kemp 2006, chapter 2 Overview: Shaw. 2000, chapters 2-4
W3 Thu 24/10	RC	Indus Valley Culture	A, B, C	
W4 Fri 25/10	Self-representation of ancient civilisations in text and art			
	KZ	Mayan gestures – with gesture workshop	C	Palka, J.W. 2002
	KZ	Creating Memory in ancient Egypt	C	
	Submission Portfolio 1.1			
Week 2				
W5 Mo 28/10	LS	Urbanisation in the ancient World: Mesopotamia	A	
W6 Tue 29/10	EB	State formation, civilization and identity – Greece (2.5 hours)	A	
		Workshop (30 min) – forum task (self - study)		Name the biggest differences and most striking similarities between the situation in Greece and Egypt (lecture 22/10 and Kemp 2006, chapter 2) – 50-100 words.
W7 Thu 31/10	LS	Gender in Mesopotamia	A	
W7	EB	Economy of ancient civilisations – case study Greece	B	

Fri 01/11	Submission Portfolio 1.2			
Week 3				
W9 Mo 04/11	MC	Rome's relation to the East	A	
W10 Tue 05/11	TJ	Literacy in ancient China	C	
	TJ	Workshop (30 min): Compare approaches in literacy to AE (use the boards)		Zinn. 2018
W11 Thu 07/11	EB	Ancient civilisations and imperialism – Ancient Greece	A	
	KZ	6pm Cliff Tucker Lecture Theatre – R. Emmerich “Stargate – director's cut” viewing – compulsory viewing for session on 11/11		
W12 Fri 08/11	KZ, TJ, RC	Oxford Fieldtrip (Pitt Rivers Museum, Ashmolean Museum)		
Sat 09/11	Submission Portfolio 1.3			
Week 4				
W13 Mo 11/11	KZ	Reception of Ancient Worlds: Ancient Egypt in Film, text and news		R. Emmerich “Stargate” (movie 2001, watch on 07/11) To read: Agatha Christie “Death comes as the End”
W14 Tue 12/11	KZ	Let's summarise in preparation for the In-Class test – ancient civilisations and theory		
W15 Thu 14/11	KZ	In-Class Test (Ass. 2)		
W16 Fri 15/11	KZ	Off in lieu for watching “Stargate” (07/11, 6pm) and longer hours fieldtrip		

BIBLIOGRAPHY

➔ You will find more readings on MOODLE. These readings will help you to write your assessments, prepare for the exam or are for ongoing research.

Essential (equals textbooks)

Ross, J.C.; Steadman, S.R. 2017. *Ancient Complex Societies*. New York: Routledge.

Trigger, B.G. 2003. *Understanding Early Civilizations: A Comparative Study*. Cambridge: CUP.

Wengrow, D. 2010. *What Makes Civilization? The Ancient Near East and the Future of the West*. Oxford: OUP.

Wenke, R.F.; Olszewski, D.J. 2007 (5th edition). *Patterns in Prehistory: Humankind's First Three Million Years*. Oxford: OUP.

Essential for an overview, but not used as textbooks in class

Scarre, C. 2018. *The Human Past: World Prehistory and the Development of Human Societies*. London: Thames & Hudson. 4th ed.

Scarre, C.; Fagan, B.M. 2016. *Ancient Civilizations*. London: Routledge. 4th ed.

Essential for specific sessions

Carney, E.D. 2010. Putting Women in their Place: Women in Public under Philip II and Alexander III and the Last Argeads. In: Carney, E.D; Ogden, D. (eds.) *Philip II and Alexander the Great father and son, lives and afterlives*, Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press. 43-54.

Kemp, B. 2006. *Ancient Egypt. Anatomy of a civilization*. London: Routledge. (you can also use first edition 1989 or third edition 2018)

Llewellyn-Jones, L. 2013. *King and Court in Ancient Persia 559 to 331 BCE*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Palka, J.W. 2002. Left/Right Symbolism and the Body in Ancient Maya Iconography and Culture. *Latin American Antiquity* 13(2002)4, pp. 419-443.

Petersen, A. 2016. Baghdad and Samarra: Imperial Capitals of the Abbasid Empire. In: Holmquist, L.; Kalmring, S. and Hedenstierna-Jonson, C. (eds.) *New Aspects on Viking-age Urbanism c. AD 750-1100*, Stockholm: Stockholm University. pp. 211-220.

Shaw, I. 2000. *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (you can also use the 2004 edition)

Zinn, K. 2018. Literacy in Pharaonic Egypt: Orality and Literacy between Agency and Memory. In: A. Kolb (ed.). *Literacy in Ancient Everyday Life - Schriftlichkeit im antiken Alltag*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2018, 67-98.

Recommended (could be necessary for the understanding of the module and are the basics for your coursework)

Brewer, D.J. 2005. *Ancient Egypt: Foundations of a Civilization*. Harlow: Pierson.

Brewer, D.J. 2012. A Cultural Transformation: Explaining or Describing the Past. In: Brewer, D.J. (ed.) *The Archaeology of Ancient Egypt beyond Pharaohs*. Cambridge: CUP. pp. 54-78.

Chapman, R. 2003. *Archaeologies of Complexity*. London: Routledge. → especially chapters 1,3,6 and 7.

Charvát, P. 2013. *The Birth of the State: Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China*. Prague: Karolinum.

Cowgill, G.L. 2004. Origins and Development of Urbanism: Archaeological Perspectives. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 33(2004), 525–549.

Harris, W.H. 2005. *Rethinking the Mediterranean*. Oxford: OUP. → especially chapters 1-4, 14.

- Johnson, M. 1999. Culture as a System. In: Johnson, M. *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell. pp. 64-84.
- Maisels, C.K. 2005 (or any other edition). *The Emergence of Civilisation: From Hunting and Gathering to Agriculture, Cities, and the State in the Near East*. London: Routledge.
- Renfrew, C.; Bahn, P. 1991 (or any other edition). How Were Societies Organized? Social Archaeology. In: Renfrew, C.; Bahn, P. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. New York: Thames and Hudson. pp. 153-194, chapter 5 (in this edition).
- Wenke, R.J. 2009. The Significance and Character of Ancient Egyptian Civilization. In: Wenke, R.J. *The Ancient Egyptian State: The Origins of Egyptian Culture (c. 8000-2000BC)*. Cambridge: CUP. pp. 1-30.

Detailed reading lists for the following week and detailed bibliographies of each lecture will be uploaded latest after the lectures and seminars. It is required to check MOODLE every day.

ASSESSMENT

1. Coursework – Portfolio (50% of module mark)

Portfolio of critical evaluation of case studies and phenomena

Choose yourself one civilisation which you would like to explore in more detail. You could think about one of the ancient cultures talked about in this module (Ancient Egypt, China, Maya, Persia, Indus Valley Culture) or another one of your choice.

Part 1:

Develop a timeline for your culture, add milestones in the development which you think will characterise your culture. You can illustrate your timeline with images which visually exemplify your argument.

You can work in Word, PPTX, Publisher or any other appropriate programme. The result should be uploaded to Turnitin as PDF file (after being converted).

- ➔ **WORTH 500 words** (there might be more or less words on your timeline), **to be submitted Friday 25/10/2019 by latest 23:59**, (equivalent to 20% of overall module mark)
- ➔ Marks and feedback will be released latest Friday 01/11/2019 by 5pm

Part 2:

Review and evaluate of one of the following chapters of one of the core texts, apply this to your chosen culture

- ➔ **750 words; to be submitted Friday 01/11/2019 by latest 23:59**, (equivalent to 40% of overall module mark)
- ➔ Marks and feedback will be released latest Friday 08/11/2019 by 5pm

Part 3: Discuss, what makes a civilisation.

Use Childe's characteristics of complex societies (Trigger. *Defining Early Civilisations*, 43), discuss at least one of them by giving examples from your chosen culture.

→ 750 words; **to be submitted Saturday 09/11/2019**, (equivalent to 40% of overall module mark)

→ Marks and feedback will be released latest Friday 16/11/2019 by 5pm

2. In class test (50% of module mark) → Thursday 14/11/2019

This in-class test will ask you to work with one of the core texts for this module and apply it to the culture of your choice.

Students who are eligible for extra-time will be granted 30 min in addition. If you are allowed the use of computer, please bring your own to this class.

Marks will be released via Turnitin link on MOODLE page on 21/11/2019 by 5pm.

You can find your Marking Criteria, which will be applied to the coursework and the exam, on MOODLE.

