



Ancient Civilisations: Comparative Analysis and Critical Perspectives

(HPAH5006: Independent Project)

2018-2019

Faculty of Humanities and Performing Arts

University of Wales Trinity Saint David



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
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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 (Block 5: 48 contact hours, Arts 6)

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

Tutors	
Dr Louise Steel	LS
Dr Katharina Zinn	KZ

➔ 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 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.

Syllabus: Guided self-learning

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

Date	Title	Readings
PW Thu 07/02, 10AM	Prepare the abstract of your research project Open Surgery: Get your project started and how to write the abstract.	Chose a culture, a phenomenon and start to decide /compile your sources (objects, texts, material culture) representing both your culture and the aspect you have chosen.
10/02	Submission of project abstract	

Week 1	11/02-15/02/2019 Introduction, Civilisations, Theory and Theorists (Katharina Zinn)	
AC1 Mo	Welcome to the course and Administrative	
	Definitions: what are civilisation/culture/society?	→ Decide on your civilisation in class discussion
AC2 Tue	Theories and Theorists: Why Theory is Important for the Understanding of ancient civilisations	Busmann 2015
AC3 Thu	Are new theories always a help? Materialities, (new) materialism, corporeality, bodies and ancient Egypt	Zinn 2018
	Submission of handout / PPTX for presentation	
AC4 Fri	Workshop: <u>Present</u> on the concept of "civilisation", culture with reference to specific culture of your choice	
Week 2	18/02-22/02/2019 Case Studies of critical analysis – Mesopotamia (Louise Steel)	
AC5 Mo	Urbanism	
AC6 Tue	Writing and literacy	
AC7 Thu	Art in the Royal Tombs of Ur	
AC8 Fri	Gender: Women in Mesopotamia	
Week 3	25/02-01/03/2019 Case Studies of critical analysis – Egypt (Katharina Zinn)	
AC9 Mo	Hands on with ancient things: boring objects or convincing narratives? Roderic Bowen Library and Archives	Zinn 2017b
AC10 Tue	The gendered past: Middle Kingdom Queens as expression of gender issues in ancient Egypt (Brandi Hill)	Roth 2009. Wilfong 2011.
AC11 Thu	Globalisation in the past OR the problem of becoming Egyptian in pharaonic Egypt	Franci 2012 Liska 2013
AC12 Fri	Research discussion: your objects chosen for part 1 of the portfolio	Bring an image of the 2 sources you have chosen for the first part of the portfolio, introduce them to the class and let's discuss!
Week 4	04/03-08/03/2019 Ancient Civilisations today (Katharina Zinn)	
AC13 Mo	Research day – self-directed research	Writing of part 1 of the PF (draft of critical reflection of the two sources), preparing part 2 (annotated bibliography)
AC14 Tue	Workshop annotated bibliography	Bring one of your bibliography entries you would like to annotate, we will write the bibliographical description and annotation in class and discuss.

		We will also discuss your draft of the critical reflection on your sources.
	Ancient Civilisations and Museums ➔ Case study: The Museum of Innocence	Moser Stevenson 2015. Pamuk – different sources, please see MOODLE
AC15 Thu	Workshop: Your summary (part 3 of PF)	Do you need help with your summary? Now is the time to ask.
	Representing the past - Hands on with modern materials and alternative narratives	Zinn 2017a.
AC16 Fri	Orientalism and postcolonialism	Said 2003.
	Representing the past – mummymania, Egyptomania, chinoiserie and no end?	Lorenzen / Zermani 2016.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ➔ For more readings appropriate to the specific sessions, please see MOODLE

Essential

- Bussmann, R. 2015. Egyptian archaeology and social anthropology. In: Oxford Handbooks Online. Available online: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935413.013.24>
- Chadwick, R. 2005. *First Civilizations: Ancient Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt*. London: Equinox. (2nd ed).
- Chapman, R. 2003. *Archaeologies of Complexity*. London: Routledge.
- Carrithers, M. 1992. *Why Humans Have Cultures: Explaining Anthropology and Social Diversity*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press,
- DeMarrais, E.; Gosden, C.; Renfrew, C. 2004. *Rethinking Materiality: the Engagement of Mind with the Material World*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
- Powell, B. 2009. *Theory and History of the Technology of Civilization*. Oxford: John Wiley.
- Ross, J.C.; Steadman, S.R. 2017. *Ancient Complex Societies*. New York: Routledge.
- Trigger, B.G. 2003. *Understanding Early Civilizations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Recommended / useful for some sessions:

- Appadurai, A. (ed.) 1986. *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ashcroft, B. Griffiths, G. and Tiffin, H. 2007. *Post-Colonial Studies: the Key Concepts*. London: Routledge. (2nd ed.).
- 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.
- Budin, S.; Turfa, J. (eds.). *Women in antiquity: Real women across the Ancient World*. London: Routledge, 2016
- Carruthers, W. (ed.). 2015. *Histories of Egyptology: Interdisciplinary Measures*. New York: Routledge.
- DeMarrais, E. Gosden, C. and Renfrew, C. 2004. *Rethinking Materiality: the Engagement of Mind with the Material World*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.

- Desai, G.G. & Nair, S. 2005. *Postcolonialisms: an Anthology of Cultural Theory and Criticism*. Oxford: Berg
- Drazin, A.; Küchler, S. (eds.). 2015. *The social life of materials: studies in material and society*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Englehardt, J. (ed). 2013. *Agency in Ancient Writing*. Boulder, Col.: Univ. Pr. Of Colorado.
- Gell, 1998. *Art and Agency: An Anthropological Theory*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Hakes, T. 1977. *Structuralism and Semiotics*. London: Methuen.
- Harris, W.V. 2007. *Rethinking the Mediterranean*. Oxford: OUP.
- Hénaff, M. 1998. *Claude Lévi-Strauss and the Making of Structural Anthropology*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- 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.
- Lévi-Strauss, C. 1978. *Myth and Meaning*. London: Routledge.
- Lockman, Z. 2010. *Contending Visions of the Middle East: the History and Politics of Orientalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Macfie, A. 2000. *Orientalism: a Reader*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Miller, D. 2005. *Materiality*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Moore-Gilber, 1997. *Postcolonial Theory: Contexts, Practices, Politics*. London & New York: Verso.
- Piaget, J. 1971. *Structuralism*. London: Routledge.
- Piquette, K.E.; Whitehouse, R.D. 2013. *Writing as Material Practice: Substance, Surface and Medium*. London: Ubiquity Press.
- Pyburn, K.A. 2004. *Ungendering Civilization*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Said, E. 2003. *Orientalism*. London: Penguin (reprint).
- Shafer-Elliott, C. (ed.) 2016. *The Five-Minute Archaeologist in the Southern Levant*. Sheffield: Equinox.

Egypt:

- 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)
- Franci, M. 2012. Being a Foreigner in Egypt, between Maintenance and Loss of Cultural Identity: the Archaeological Data
- Graves-Brown, C. (ed.) 2008. *Sex and Gender in Ancient Egypt*. Swansea: Classical Pr. of Wales.
- Kemp, B. 2006. *Ancient Egypt. Anatomy of a civilization*. London: Routledge. (you can also use first edition 1989 or third edition 2018)
- Liska, K. 2013. Foreigners, Pharaonic Egypt. In: R.S. Bagnal *etal*. The Encyclopedia of Ancient History. Oxford; Blackwell, 2710–2713.
- Lorenzon, M.; Zermani, I. 2016. Common Ground: Community Archaeology in Egypt, Interaction Between Population and Cultural Heritage. *Journal of Community, Archaeology & Heritage* 3:3, 183-199.

- Riggs, C. 2010. Body. In: Elizabeth Froom and Willeke Wendrich (eds), *UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology*. Available online: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8f21r7sj>
- Riggs, C. 2014. *Ancient Egyptian art and architecture : a very short introduction*. Oxford: OUP.
- Robins, G. (1997). *The Art of Ancient Egypt*. London: British Museum Press. (or any other edition)
- Robins, G. 1993. *Women in Ancient Egypt*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Pr. (or any other edition!)
- Roth, S. 2009. Queen. In: Froom, E.; Wendrich, W. (eds.), *UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology*, Los Angeles. Available online: <http://digital2.library.ucla.edu/viewItem.do?ark=21198/zz001nf7cq>
- Stevenson, A. 2015. Egyptian Archaeology and the Museum. In: *Oxford Handbooks Online*. Available online: <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935413.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199935413-e-25>
- Stevenson, A.; Libonati, E.; Baines, J. 2017.: Introduction—object habits: Legacies of fieldwork and the museum. *Museum History Journal*. Available online <https://doi.org/10.1080/19369816.2017.1328780>
- Wilfong, T. 2011. Gender in Ancient Egypt. In: Wendrich, W. (ed.) *Egyptian Archaeology*. New York: Wiley, 205-217.
- Wilkinson, R.H. (ed.) 2008. *Egyptology Today*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Ziegler, C. 2008. *Queens of Egypt: from Hetepheres to Cleopatra*. Monaco: Grimaldi Forum.
- Zinn, K. 2017a. Object Biographies and Political Expectations: Egyptian Artefacts, Welsh Heritage and the Regional Community Museum. In: Rosati, G.; Guidotti, M. C. (eds.). *Proceedings of the 11th International Congress of Egyptologists, Florence, Italy 23-30 August 2015*. Oxford: Archaeopress. 693-700.
- Zinn, K. 2017b. Lacklustre offering plates? Symbolic Food Consumption, Ritual, and Representations in ancient Egyptian funerary culture. In: Steel, L.; Zinn, K. (eds.). *Exploring the materiality of Food 'Stuffs': Transformations, symbolic consumption and embodiments*. London: Routledge. 205-225.
- Zinn, K. 2018. Did you sleep well on your headrest? – Anthropological Perspectives on an Ancient Egyptian Implement. *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 17, 202–219.

Mesopotamia:

- Aruz, J. (ed.) 2003. *Art of the First Cities: The Third Millennium B.C. from the Mediterranean to the Indus*. 11-20. New Haven; London: Yale University Press.
- Bahrani, Z. 2017. *Mesopotamia: Ancient Art and Architecture*. London: Thames and Hudson.
- Crawford, H. 1991. *Sumer and the Sumerians*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Matthews, R. 2003. *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia: Theories and Approaches*. London: Routledge.
- Pollock, S. 1999. *Ancient Mesopotamia*. Cambridge: CUP.

Background

- Delaney, C. 2004. *Investigating Culture*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Ransome, P. 2010. *Social Theory for Beginners*. Portland: the Policy Press.

ASSESSMENTS

One research portfolio

Choice of civilisations:

ancient Egypt; Mesopotamia, ancient China, 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

Choice of aspects – as example only (more can be agreed):

Art, religion, gender, emergence, collapse, literacy, social hierarchy, self-representation,

Assessment Component 1 – 10% → submission on Sunday 10/02/2019 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 HANDOUT on 14/02/2019 via Turnitin (MOODLE), presentation on Friday, 15/02/2019

5-10 min presentation

Critically reflect upon concepts of civilisation, culture and society and their relevance to your chosen “ancient civilisation”.

Assessment Component 3 – 80% → submission via Turnitin in ONE word document on Sunday 10/03/2019

- a) Choose and critically reflect upon TWO sources (images, objects or texts) from your chosen culture (**750 words**, 20% of your component 3)
- b) **500-word** annotated bibliography – 20% of your component 3

Critically reflect on 3-5 key texts (**secondary literature, modern academia**) you have used for part c of component 3. These should draw equally on theoretical/methodological sources and key sources for your chosen ancient civilisation.

Please see the documents/links *Writing an annotated bibliography* and *How to prepare and annotated bibliography* on MOODLE (Section: [Your assessments - your independent project](#)) for further information and help.

- c) **Project summary** – 2500 words – 60% of your component 3

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