

Introduction: Early Civilisations of the East Mediterranean



HPAR4005

About the module

- Looking at development of **complex societies** in the East Mediterranean:
 - Urbanised communities
 - Literate societies
 - States & empires
- Three regions:
 - Egypt
 - the Levant
 - the Aegean
- Time-frame:
 - Bronze Age
 - Early Iron Age



East Mediterranean

About the module

- Pharaohs (ancient Egypt)
 - State formation in Egypt
 - Pharaohs and Pyramids
 - Middle Kingdom Egypt
 - New Kingdom Egypt



“Colossi of Memnon”, Thebes

About the module

- Phoenicians (Near East)
 - EBA towns and palaces
 - MB-LB Levant
 - LBA Cyprus
 - Philistines



“High Place”, Byblos

About the module

- Peoples of the Sea
(ancient Aegean)
 - EBA Troy & Cyclades
 - Palaces in Minoan & Mycenaean world
 - Greeks & Phoenicians



Knossos, Temple Repository Finds

Assessment

■ Portfolio

- 1000-word object analysis : 1st April
- 1000-word annotated bibliography: 8th April
- 2000-word essay: 22nd April



Object Analysis (25%)

- Choose one of the following objects from the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY). Write an analysis of this object: this should include a short description in your own words, a discussion of its possible use and a consideration of its archaeological significance. This should be academically grounded (i.e.) supported by the academic literature.



For More Details

- Object 1:
 - <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/329153>
- Object 2:
 - <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/248876>
- Object 3:
 - <https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/74.51.795/>
- Object 4:
 - <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/552927>

Annotated Bibliography

- Please write an annotated bibliography on an aspect of the Bronze Age of your choice in **either** Egypt, **or** the Aegean, **or** the Near East/Cyprus.
- Present four different academic sources (following the guidelines set out in the Archaeology and Anthropology referencing handbook):
 - One single authored text (monograph)
 - One journal article
 - One chapter from edited volume **or** paper from conference proceedings
 - One web source
- Annotate each of these with a 250-word summary of content and an assessment of their academic value. The bibliographic entry does not count towards your word count.

Essay

- Consider how useful Childe's criteria for the emergence of towns and/or states are for interpreting the emergence of social complexity in the East Mediterranean in the Bronze Age. Answer with reference to a case study of your choice from the Aegean, **or** Near East/Cyprus, **or** Egypt.
- Discuss the archaeological evidence for social complexity in the Bronze Age East Mediterranean in one of the following: the Aegean, **or** the Near East/Cyprus, **or** Egypt. Should this be considered a chiefdom or a state, using the criteria covered in the module?

Readings and Activities

- Each session will be accompanied by a choice of readings. Please complete one of these and upload a summary and your comments on moodle on the relevant blog
 - Make it clear which article!
- Also, there will be a variety of activities or quizzes designed to replace the hands-on workshops and a place to blog your answers
- Question and Answer forum: please use this to debate ideas amongst each other...