

WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

ANCIENT HISTORY 118.601/HISTORY 110.601

FALL 2003

Tuesday 5:30 – 8:10 pm Logan 204

Instructor Peri Johnson

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Office hours Monday noon to 1 pm in Logan 251/252 or by appointment (send an email message to confirm that you wish to meet)

Mailboxes in Logan 201 & Jaffe 109

Blackboard course website: <http://courseweb.library.upenn.edu>

(information for new users of Blackboard:

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bb/bbhandout.html>)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is an introduction to the cultural history of the ancient Near East and Greece from *c.* 3000 BC through the Hellenistic Period (*c.* 200 BC) through the study of monuments and the historiography of the later reception of these monuments. The eight lectures and discussions focus on the famous 'seven wonders of the world,' and students are responsible for researching and presenting a comparable wonderful monument. In addition to readings in the textbook, ancient descriptions, archaeological evidence, illustrations of reconstructions, and contemporary interpretive scholarship are examined to deconstruct the changing reception of antiquity through time.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Clayton, P.A. and M.J. Price. 1989. *The seven wonders of the ancient world*. Routledge. [Van Pelt Library Rosengarten reserve: N5333 .C58 1989]

The textbook is available at the Penn Book Center located at 130 S 34th ST (34th and Sansom).

OTHER REFERENCES:

Jordan, P. 2002. *The seven wonders of the ancient world*. Longman. [Van Pelt Library Rosengarten reserve: N5333 .J67 2002]

Romer, J. and E. 1995. *The seven wonders of the world: a history of the modern imagination*. Henry Holt. [Fine Arts Library reserve N5333 .R74 1995]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1— Attendance.

- 2— Assigned readings completed by the assigned date, participation in discussions, and preparing questions for the discussion of a single reading.
- 3— Quizzes (image identifications and short questions).
- 4— A final examination consisting of an essay question (several questions to choose from). The final exam will cover material from the entire course.
- 5— All components of the research project (proposal, draft, readings, and 8 page paper).
- 6— The final grade will be determined as follows:
 - Attendance, preparedness, participation, and quizzes: 40%
 - Research project 45%
 - Final examination: 15%
- 7— All assignments must be turned in or no grade will be given for the entire class.
- 8— Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will automatically result in failure of the class.
- 9— Only a doctor's excuse will be accepted for a missed presentation or final.

SCHEDULE:

- 1- Tuesday, September 9th : INTRODUCTION : What is a wonder? : monuments and the study of history
Reading: Clayton & Price 1-12
- 2- Tuesday, September 16th : KHUFU'S PYRAMID AT GIZA : cultural complexity and monumental architecture
Readings: Clayton & Price 13-37; *testimonia** Arnold 1991; Trigger 1990
Suggestions for student projects and project description distributed
- 3- Tuesday, September 23rd : HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON : ancient and contemporary imperialism in Mesopotamia
Readings: Clayton & Price 38-58; *testimonia*; Stronach 1990 (on expression of ancient imperial ideology in gardens); Bahrani 1998 (on colonial ideology); al-Khalil 1991 (on Ba'thist ideology); US/ICOMOS letter to President Bush on the looting of cultural heritage in Iraq
- 4- Tuesday, September 30th : STATUE OF ZEUS AT OLYMPIA : from *theamata* (sights) to *thaumata* (wonders) : description, imagination, and exegesis
Readings: Clayton & Price 59-77, 158-167; *testimonia*; Elsner 1994; Romer & Romer 1995

Project Proposals due

- 5- Tuesday, October 7th : TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS AT EPHEBUS : intentional and unintentional monuments and their destruction
Readings: Clayton & Price 78-99; *testimonia*; Riegl 1982; Eco 1997

Quiz

Tuesday, October 14th : FALL BREAK (no class)

- 6- Tuesday, October 21st : MAUSOLEUM AT HALICARNASSUS : artisans and patrons
Readings: Clayton & Price 100-123; *testimonia*; Jeppesen 1997; Waywell 1997; Helms 1993
- 7- Tuesday, October 28th : COLOSSUS OF RHODES : ideological interpretation of monuments
Readings: Clayton & Price 124-137; *testimonia*; Boime 1991

Paper drafts and presentation readings due

- 8- Tuesday, November 4th : PHAROS AT ALEXANDRIA : Hellenistic royal patronage of science and scholarship

Readings: Clayton & Price 138-157; *testimonia*; Empereur 1998 (skim 82-87); Green 1990

9- Tuesday, November 11th : SEVEN WONDERS : memory and commemorative monuments (and possible screening of *Intolerance*)

Readings: Alcock 2002 (readings on *Intolerance* to be assigned)

Quiz

10- Tuesday, November 18th : STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Readings: to be assigned

11- Tuesday, November 25th : STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Readings: to be assigned

12- Tuesday, December 2nd : STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Readings: to be assigned

Papers due

Tuesday, December 16th : **FINAL EXAMINATION**

**Testimonia* will be on the Blackboard course website on the Tuesday before they are to be read.

LIST OF READINGS:

- Alcock, S.E. 2002. "Archaeologies of memory," in *Archaeologies of the Greek past: landscape, monuments, and memories*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-35.
- al-Khalil, S. 1991. "The kitsch of Baghdad," in *The monument: art, vulgarity and responsibility in Iraq*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 68-78.
- Arnold, D. 1991. "Transport of stone: pyramid ramps," in *Building in Egypt: pharaonic stone masonry*. New York: Oxford University Press, 98-101.
- Bahrani, Z. 1998. "Conjuring Mesopotamia: imaginative geography and a world past," in *Archaeology under fire: nationalism, politics and heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East*. ed. L. Meskell. New York: Routledge, 159-174.
- Boime, A. 1991. "Patriarch fixed in stone: Gutzon Borglum's Mount Rushmore," *American Art* 5:143-168.
- Eco, U. 1997. "Function and sign: the semiotics of architecture," in *Rethinking architecture: a reader in cultural theory*. ed. N. Leach. New York: Routledge, 181-202.
- Elsner, J. 1994. "From the pyramids to Pausanias and Piglet: monuments, travel and writing," in *Art and text in ancient Greek culture*. eds. S. Goldhill and R. Osborne. New York: Cambridge University Press, 224-254.
- Empereur, J.-Y. 1998. "The seventh wonder of the world," in *Alexandria rediscovered*. New York: George Braziller, 62-87 (skim 82-87).
- Green, P. 1990. "The politics of royal patronage: early Ptolemaic Alexandria," in *Alexander to Actium: the historical evolution of the Hellenistic age*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 80-91
- Helms, M.H. 1993. "What skilled crafting means" & "Skilled crafting and political authority: the kingly craft of building," in *Craft and the kingly ideal: art, trade, and power*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 13-27 & 77-87.
- Jepesen, K. 1997. "The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus: sculptural decoration and architectural background," in *Sculptors and sculpture of Caria and the Dodecanese*. eds. I. Jenkins and G.B. Waywell. London: British Museum Press, 42-48.
- Riegl, A. 1982. "The modern cult of monuments: its character and its origin," *Oppositions* 25:20-51.
- Romer, J. and E. 1995. "The pyramids and the rise of wonder," in *The seven wonders of the world: a history of the modern imagination*. New York: Henry Holt,
- Stronach, D. 1990. "The garden as a political statement: some case studies from the Near East in the first millenium BC," *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* n.s. 4:171-180.
- Trigger, B.G. 1990. "Monumental architecture: a thermodynamic explanation of symbolic behaviour," *World Archaeology* 22:119-132.
- Waywell, G.B. 1997. "The sculptors of the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus," in *Sculptors and sculpture of Caria and the Dodecanese*. eds. I. Jenkins and G.B. Waywell. London: British Museum Press, 60-67.