

Department of the History of Art  
University of Pennsylvania

## Arth 301-302. Empire and History Assyria, Persia and Rome

Spring 2003

Undergraduate Seminar

Wednesdays 2-5 pm

Course homepage: <<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~harmansa/Empire.html>>

*Instructor:* Prof. Holly Pittman

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office hours: Thursdays 3:30-5 pm by appointment-sign-up at Art History office-)

*Teaching Assistant:* Ömür Harmansah

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Collaborating: Xin Wu

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### **Books on Reserve for general reference**

Larsen, Mogens Trolle (ed.); *Power and Propaganda: A Symposium on Ancient Empires*. Copenhagen, 1979. [Museum Library desk DS62.2 .P68]

Kuhrt, Amélie; *The Ancient Near East: c. 3000-330 BC*, 2 volumes. Routledge: London and New York, 1995. [Fine Arts Library Reserve DS62.23 .K87 1995]

Roaf, Michael; *Cultural atlas of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*. Oxfordshire, 1996. [Museum Library Reserve DT60 .B34 2000]

Henri Frankfort, *The Art and Architecture of the Ancient Orient* (Yale University Press Pelican History of Art.(with revisions by Michael Roaf and Donald Matthews), 1996. [Fine Arts Library Reserve N5345 .F7 1970]

Torelli, Mario, *Typology & structure of Roman historical reliefs*. Ann Arbor : University of Michigan Press, 1982. [Fine Arts Reserve NB133 .T57 1982]

### **Weekly schedule and required readings (in progress)**

**Week 1. January 15.** First meeting: introduction.

**Week 2. January 22.** Empires.

Lecture and discussion on empires: development, types, and their various aspects.  
Introduction to the three empires of the course: Assyria, Persia and Rome

**Readings:** [On reserve at Fine Arts library Reserve Desk, also available on line on Course Blackboard under Course Documents: You will have to

be signed up for the course to have access to the blackboard page for this course.]

Sinopoli, Carla M.; "The archaeology of empires," *Annual review of anthropology* 23 (1994) 159-180.

Larsen, Mogens Trolle; "The Tradition of Empire in Mesopotamia" in *Power and Propaganda: A Symposium on Ancient Empires* . M.T. Larsen (ed.), Copenhagen, 1979: 75-103.

Postgate, J.Nicholas; "The Land of Assur and the Yoke of Assur" in *World Archaeology* 23 (1992) 247-263.

Morrison, Kathleen D.; "Sources, approaches, definitions" in *Empires: Perspectives from archaeology and history*, Susan E. Alcock et. al. (eds.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, Mass., 2001: 1-9.

Kuhrt, Amélie; "The Achaemenid Persian empire (c.550-c.330 B.C.E): continuities, adaptations, transformations," in *Empires: perspectives from archaeology and history* . Susan E. Alcock et. al. (eds.), Cambridge, 2001: 93-124.

Greg Woolf; "Inventing empire in ancient Rome" in *Empires: perspectives from archaeology and history* , Susan E. Alcock et. al. (eds.), Cambridge, 2001: 311-322.

### **Week 3. January 29. History and Historical Consciousness**

Lecture and discussion on empire and history; the use of history and historical narratives in the imperially sponsored art, the art of persuasion. The question of the pictorial narrative in the representation of history and the ideology of historical past. Historicity and historical consciousness as a social/cultural practice. The presentation and reception of history through the making of commemorative art in the form of publicized visual spectacles. Reproduction of social power, definition of cultural identities, imperial vs. local.

#### **Readings:**

White, Hayden; "The value of narrativity in the representation of reality," in *The content of the form: narrative discourse and historical representation*. The John Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, 1987: 1-25.

Eagleton, Terry; "What is ideology?" in *Ideology: an introduction*. Verso: London, 1991, pp. 1-32.

Owens, Craig; "Representation, appropriation and power," in *Beyond recognition: Representation, power and culture*. S. Bryson et. al. (eds.),

University of California Press, Berkeley, 1992: 88-113.

Eisenstadt, S.N.; "Observations and queries about sociological aspects of imperialism in the ancient world," in *Power and Propaganda: A Symposium on Ancient Empires*. Morgen T. Larsen (ed.), Copenhagen, 1979: 21-33.

Brown, David; *Hierarchy, History, and Human Nature. The Social Origins of Historical Consciousness*. The University of Arizona Press, 1988.

"Introduction" 1-18; and Chapter 4. "Ancient Near East, Greece and Rome": 119-179.

**Week 4. February 5.** Presentation of monuments: Omur Harmansah and Wu Xin

Assyrian palace relief programs: Sennacherib-Assurbanipal reliefs

Persian urban and palatial programs: Pasargadae, Persepolis and its relief programs.

Roman Empire and its monuments in Rome: Temple of Apollo Medicus and its setting/program, Ara Pacis Augustae, Column of Trajan.

**Week 5. February 12.** Assyrian empire: discussion.

The tradition of empires and historical narrative in ancient Mesopotamia. The structure and aspects of the Assyrian empire: the use of geography and the transformations of landscape. Ideological representation of the conquered geography. Pictorial narratives in the structure of the Assyrian palaces.

### **Readings:**

Winter, Irene J.; "After the battle is over: the stele of the vultures and the beginning of historical narrative in the art of the ancient Near East", *Studies in the History of Art* 16 (1985) 11-32.

Liverani, Mario; "The Ideology of the Assyrian Empire" in *Power and Propaganda: A Symposium on Ancient Empires*. M.T. Larsen (ed.), Copenhagen 1979: 297-317.

Pittman, Holly; "The White Obelisk and the problem of historical narrative in the art of Assyria," *Art Bulletin* 78 (1996) 334-355.

Reade, Julian E.; "Ideology and Propaganda in Assyrian Art" in *Power and Propaganda: A Symposium on Ancient Empires*. M.T. Larsen (ed.), Copenhagen, 1979: 329-359.

Reade, Julian E.; "Narrative composition in Assyrian sculpture,"  
*Baghdader Mittelungen* 10 (1979) 52-110; Plates 1-25.

Tadmor, Hayim; "History and ideology in the Assyrian royal inscriptions," in *Assyrian royal inscriptions: New horizons in literary, ideological and historical analysis*. F.M. Fales (ed.), Roma, 1981: 13-33.

Liverani, Mario; "The Ideology of the Assyrian Empire" in *Power and Propaganda: A Symposium on Ancient Empires*. M.T. Larsen (ed.), Copenhagen, 1979: 297-317.

Liverani, Mario; "The fall of the Assyrian empire: ancient and modern interpretations," in *Empires: perspectives from archaeology and history*. Susan E. Alcock et. al. (eds.), Cambridge, 2001: 374-391.

Postgate, J. Nicholas. "Middle Assyrian to Neo-Assyrian: the nature of the shift," in *Assyrien im Wandel der Zeiten: XXXIXe Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* Heidelberg 6.-10. Juli 1992. H. Waetzoldt & H. Hauptmann (eds.), Heidelberg Orientverlag, 1997: 159-168.

**Week 6. February 19.** Persian empire: discussion.

**Readings:**

Briant, Pierre; 2002. *From Cyrus to Alexander: a history of the Persian empire*. Trans. by Peter T. Daniels. Eisenbrauns: Winona Lake, Indiana.

**Week 7. February 26.** Roman empire.

**Readings:**

Kessler, Herbert; 1985. *Pictorial narrative in antiquity and the Middle Ages*. Washington : National Gallery of Art.

**Week 8. March 5.** General discussion on empire history and the three empires.

**Spring break March 7-17**

- Student presentations and discussion forms the structure of the second half of the semester: each week's session will have a theme under which related projects will be grouped.

Each week three presentations of student projects on particular monuments: Each presentation will be ½ hour, while the remainder of time will be given to discussion. Presentations should be well-timed, they cannot go over.

***Week 9. March 19.*** History inscribed in landscape.

Assyria:

Persia:

Rome:

***Week 10. March 26.*** Text and image: their relationship.

Assyria:

Persia:

Rome:

***Week 11. April 2.*** The structure of visual narratives.

Assyria:

Persia:

Rome:

***Week 12. April 9.*** Coersion and collaboration: Themes of empire.

Assyria:

Persia:

Rome:

***Week 13. April 16.*** Reception: Who responds how

Assyria:

Persia:

Rome:

***Week 14. April 2.*** Final discussion.