

# THE ANCIENT WORLD (AW-UH)

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## AW-UH 1110 Ancient Empires (4 Credits)

*Typically offered occasionally*

This global history course presents the emergence of large territorial states in the ancient world. Starting from the earliest Eurasian civilizations in Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, and China, it aims to provide a thematic and comparative introduction to the major empires of the ancient world, including Qin and Han China, the Assyrian and Persian Empires, and the Roman Empire, as well as their successors. Topics in this course include kingship, warfare, economy, law, ethnic identity, core-periphery relations, and imperial ideologies.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Ancient World Studies
- Bulletin Categories: History: Pre-1800
- Bulletin Categories: History: Regional Perspectives on World History
- Crosslisted with: Ancient World Studies
- Crosslisted with: History: Major Required
- Crosslisted with: History

## AW-UH 1113X Alexander and the East: Central Asia and the Mediterranean from the Achaemenid Period (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Spring*

Taking the arrival of Alexander the Great in Central Asia as its pivot point, this course explores relations between the various steppe and oasis cultures in Central Asia and the Mediterranean world from the Achaemenid period up to the early Middle Ages. These relations are characterized by a broad spectrum of different forms of contact and exchange. Direct contacts were established, for example, by military campaigns, diplomatic exchanges, migrations or colonization. Less direct forms of cultural transmission resulted from complex transcontinental trade flows. The course will focus on the consequences different forms of communication with the Mediterranean had on Central Asian art and material culture. Students will consider topics such as urbanism, architecture, iconography, and historiography as well as specific aspects of material culture including ceramics, arms and costume.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Ancient World Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: History Religion
- Bulletin Categories: Art Art History: Art History Electives
- Bulletin Categories: History: Mediterranean Zone Electives
- Crosslisted with: Ancient World Studies
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies
- Crosslisted with: Art Art History
- Crosslisted with: History: Major Required
- Crosslisted with: History

## AW-UH 1114 Doing Archeology: Case Studies from Western Asia (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Spring*

Archaeologists 'read' information from artifacts, architecture, and the environment to understand people's lives in the past. Archaeology can tell us about the development of the world's first cities and empires, the beginnings of farming, ancient exchange networks, and other important changes across human (pre)history. This course offers a rich introduction to the ways archaeologists study the past and what these analyses reveal about pre-Islamic Western Asia. Students will be introduced to new ways of seeing the past through a series of hands-on laboratory sessions and activities. The material records of ancient Western Asia, especially Southern Arabia and Central Asia, will serve as case studies for exploring how scientific methods like high-powered microscopy and neutron activation analysis can answer fundamental questions about the past. The semester's coursework culminates in the completion of an individual research project and paper.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Ancient World Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: History Religion
- Bulletin Categories: Heritage Studies: Mgt Research Methods Electives
- Bulletin Categories: History: Indian Ocean Zone Electives
- Bulletin Categories: History: Mediterranean Zone Electives
- Bulletin Categories: History: Pre-1800
- Crosslisted with: Ancient World Studies
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies
- Crosslisted with: Heritage Studies
- Crosslisted with: History: Major Required
- Crosslisted with: History

**AW-UH 1115X Political Past, Political Presents: Archaeology and the Politics of Memory in the 'Near East' (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

The present cannot be separated from the past. This idea is reflected most recently in the destruction of the confederate statues in the US, and in the assaults on museums, places of worship and archaeological sites in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. None of these events occurred in a vacuum, but the intrinsic past-present linkages contextualizing them are not always evident. This course considers how the 'Near East' today has been shaped by the discipline of archaeology, so closely tied to 19th century European colonial and imperial ambitions in the region. By illuminating through diverse voices how the past reverberates in the present in the Near East, students will be better equipped to challenge the scholarly frameworks that shape so much of our thinking today. Employing a seminar style format, we think through confronting issues including how terminology shapes our understanding of a region, its people and its material cultures.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Ancient World Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: Society Politics
- Bulletin Categories: Art Art History: Art History Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Heritage Studies: Heritage Theory Electives
- Bulletin Categories: History: Mediterranean Zone Electives
- Crosslisted with: Ancient World Studies
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies
- Crosslisted with: Art Art History
- Crosslisted with: Heritage Studies
- Crosslisted with: History: Major Required
- Crosslisted with: History

**AW-UH 1116 Egyptomania (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

From Napoleons expedition and curious tourists to the modern pop recreation by Katy Perry and Assassin's Creed videogame franchise, the history of Egypt has held Western fascination for millennia. The backdrop of the Nile river and its monumental landscape already inspired awe in the Greeks and Romans who encountered Egyptian culture in the sixth and seventh centuries BCE. But why have ideas about "eternal Egypt" been reproduced through history? This course asks students to consider how we transmit, interpret, and reinterpret historical facts. By reading historical sources in translation from pharaonic Egypt through to the present, students will consider how contemporary issues of cultural appropriation, media portrayal, and stereotype are reflected in the obsession with Egyptian culture, from Classical authors discussing the Egyptian queen Cleopatra to modern Egyptian scholars arguing for the repatriation of Egyptian objects. What can we learn about modern history from the phenomenon known as "Egyptomania"?

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Ancient World Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Heritage Studies: Heritage Theory Electives
- Bulletin Categories: History: Mediterranean Zone Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Museum Curatorial Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Pre-Professional: Museum Curatorial Studies
- Crosslisted with: Ancient World Studies
- Crosslisted with: Heritage Studies
- Crosslisted with: History: Major Required
- Crosslisted with: History
- Crosslisted with: Museum Curatorial Studies
- Crosslisted with: Pre-Professional: Museum Curatorial Studies

**AW-UH 1117 Archeology: Early Societies and Culture (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

"Archaeology is anthropology or it is nothing," or so said archaeologists Gordon Willey and Philip Phillips in 1958. In this class, we explore whether this is still the case, by taking an anthropological approach to the study of human societies of the past globally. Using a combination of scientific and humanistic techniques, archaeology can tell us about the origins of farming and animal husbandry; cities; bureaucracy and government; writing; and religion. By studying the things people make, use, and throw away and the contexts in which these activities occurred, we can learn important details about how people lived in the past and structured their everyday lives. This course examines what archaeology can tell us about the human experience from the origins of Homo sapiens through the present day with a focus on prehistory. In studying the material remains of these past societies without texts, this course reveals the dynamic cultural and technological transformations of communities often assumed to be "people without history."

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Ancient World Studies

**AW-UH 1118 Archaeology, Arabia and the Bible (4 Credits)***Typically offered Spring*

The Bible and archaeological research provide distinct, and sometimes conflicting, narratives of the history of ancient Israel, Palestine, Jordan and their surrounding neighbors in the ancient world. But how can archaeology help us understand the premodern development of the Middle East? In this seminar we will discuss archaeological research from the southern Levant including the northern Arabian Peninsula as it relates to the Bible and its ancient Near Eastern background. Moving chronologically from the Neolithic period into Roman Arabia, students will critically explore the relationship between biblical and archaeological scholarship and the impact of science on archaeology. Emphasis is placed on archaeological evidence, material culture, and historical sources for understanding the development of Abrahamic religions, pre-Islamic languages and culture, ancient Israelite funerary and household practices, pilgrimage and cults, Arab and Nabataean trade at the crossroads of the Arabian Peninsula, and the imperialism of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, and Rome each interacting within the southern Levant-northern Arabian political spheres.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Ancient World Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: History Religion
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Bulletin Categories: History: Mediterranean Zone Electives
- Crosslisted with: Ancient World Studies
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies
- Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Crosslisted with: History: Major Required
- Crosslisted with: History

**AW-UH 1119X Sacred Cities: Jerusalem and Mecca (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

A study of the holy cities, Jerusalem and Mecca, is fundamental to a rich understanding of the history, archaeology, anthropology, religion, geography, and politics of the Middle East. But how are historical cities such as Mecca and Jerusalem constructed as sacred places? What are the rituals within both centers, and what kind of behavior are expected for these heritage and holy places? Beginning in antiquity and continuing through the medieval and modern periods, this course will chronicle the rise, fall, and reconstruction of Jerusalem many times over in historical relationship with the rise and development of Mecca as a sacred city. Emphasis is placed on the architecture of both cities, the phenomenology of the sacred, the nexus between power, prayer, peace and violence, and, finally, how Mecca and Jerusalem are centers in the arts, mercantile trade, politics, and literature of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Inter-religious, political, and heritage dialogues are encouraged to understand the history of Middle Eastern landscapes. We will investigate the meanings Mecca and Jerusalem have had in the past and will consider current questions about their futures.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: History Religion
- Bulletin Categories: Heritage Studies: Heritage Theory Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Peace Studies Minor: Electives
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies
- Crosslisted with: Heritage Studies
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies