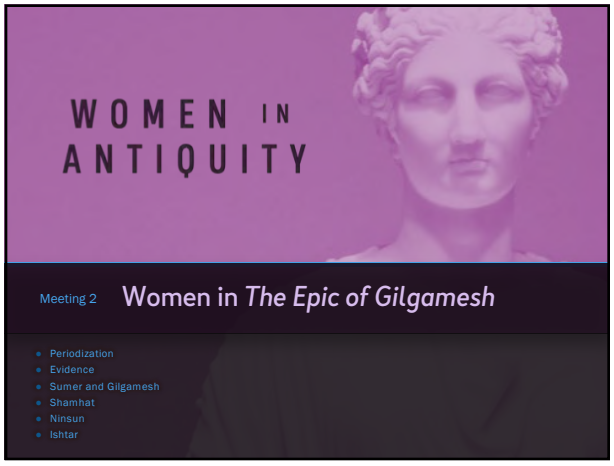


1

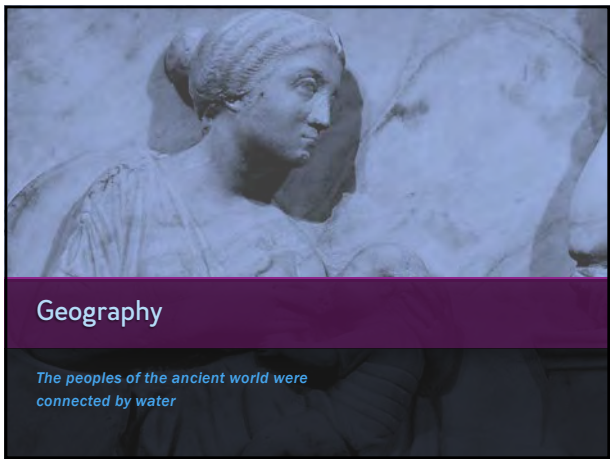
The story so far

Website & syllabus markbwilson.com

Themes of the course

- Understanding the complexities of evidence
  - Culture and tradition, period, class, and medium shape the evidence
  - Survival, translation, preconceptions, and bias shape understanding
- Consistent gender divide in ancient cultures
  - Men are responsible for the public and the present
  - Women are responsible for the private and the future
- The gods are divided according to gender
- They serve as a contrast to human behavior

3



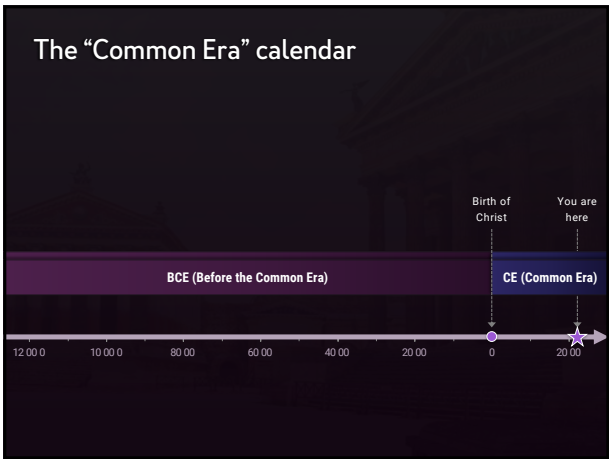
4

The Mediterranean world
EUROPE
INDO-EUROPEAN HOMELAND
Caspian Sea
Black Sea
ASIA
Adriatic Sea
ITALY
GREECE
Aegean Sea
ANATOLIA
MESOPOTAMIA
Mediterranean Sea
CANAAN
AFRICA
EGYPT
Red Sea

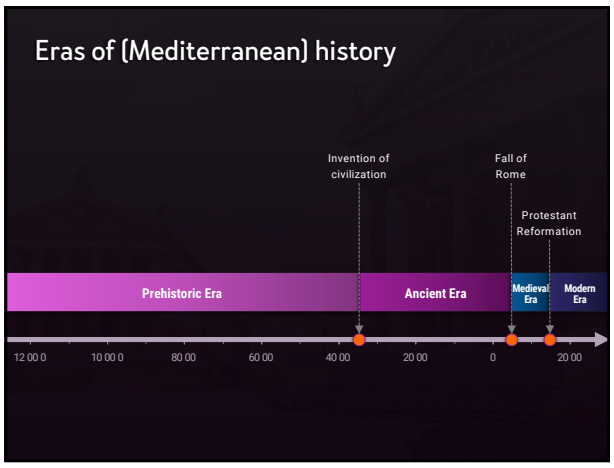
5

Periodization
Dividing history eras is useful but misleading

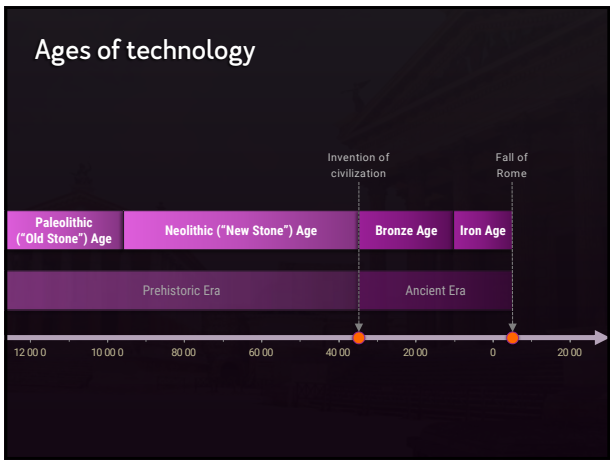
6


The "Common Era" calendar
Birth of Christ
You are here
BCE (Before the Common Era)
CE (Common Era)
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
2000

7


Eras of (Mediterranean) history
Invention of civilization
Fall of Rome
Protestant Reformation
Prehistoric Era
Ancient Era
Medieval Era
Modern Era
12 000
10 000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
2000

8


Ages of technology
Invention of civilization
Fall of Rome
Paleolithic ("Old Stone") Age
Neolithic ("New Stone") Age
Bronze Age
Iron Age
Prehistoric Era
Ancient Era
12 000
10 000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
2000

9

Counting centuries
3rd century BCE
2nd century BCE
1st century BCE
1st century CE
2nd century CE
3rd century CE
300 BCE
200
100
0
100
200
300 CE
Romans destroy Carthage: 146 BCE
Occurs during the 2nd century BCE

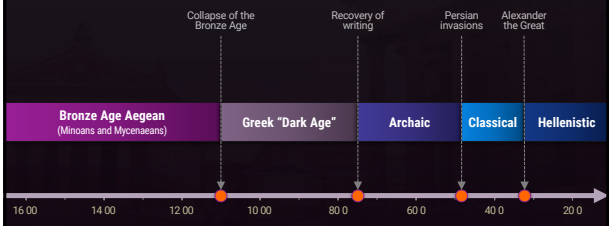
12

Periodization

- Historians divide history into “eras” based on how we can characterize society
- Archaeologists divide history into “ages” based on changes in prevalent technology
- These periods help organize our studies, but also overgeneralize places and times within each period

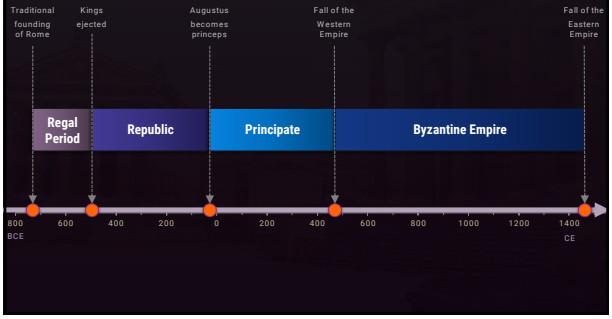
13

Periods of Greek history

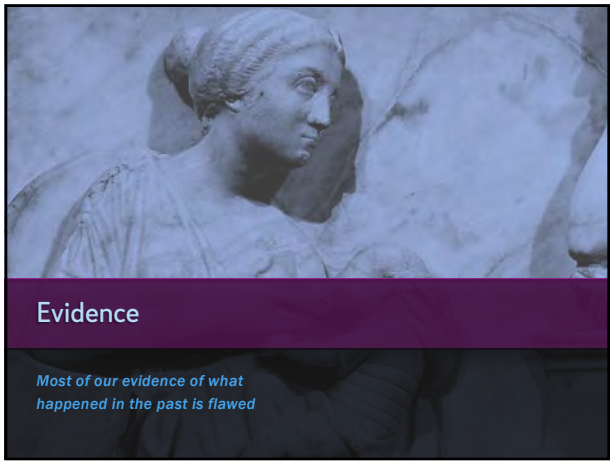


14

Periods of Roman history



15


Evidence
Most of our evidence of what happened in the past is flawed

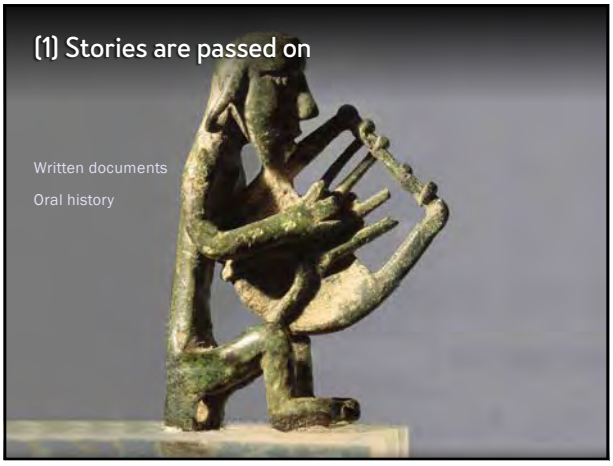
16

How do past events get to us?

17

(1) Stories are passed on
Written documents

18


(1) Stories are passed on
Written documents
Oral history

19

(2) Things survive
Archaeology

20

(2) Things survive
Archaeology
Material culture (tools, coins, etc.)

21

22

23

Kinds of evidence

- Primary source
  - Eyewitness testimony from the place and time being studied
- Secondary source
  - A scholar collects and interprets primary sources on a subject
- Tertiary source
  - General scholarly consensus on a subject
  - Includes encyclopedias, textbooks, and almost everything on the web
  - NOT ALLOWED as a source for history papers

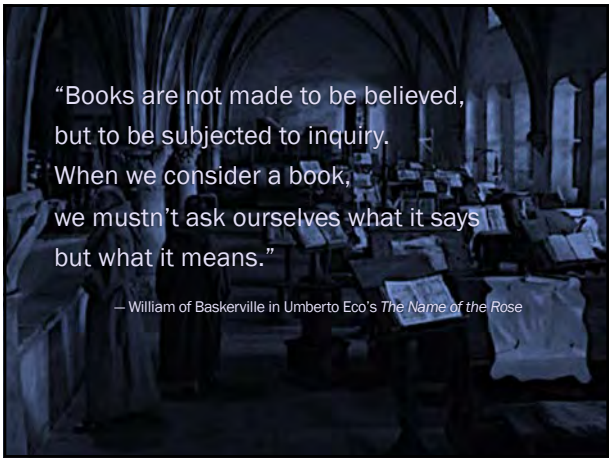
24

Problems with primary sources?

- Intentional bias
- Unintentional bias
- Point of view
- Survival
- Translation

CONCLUSION:
There are no facts in history

25



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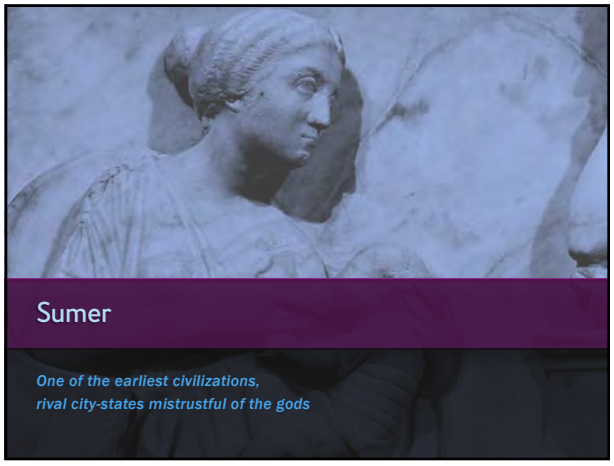

Sumer
One of the earliest civilizations,
rival city-states mistrustful of the gods

28

Caspian Sea
Nineveh
ASSYRIA
Assur
MESOPOTAMIA
Euphrates River
Tigris River
Zagros Mountains
MEDIA
PHOENICIA
Lebanon Mts.
Jordan River
Dead Sea
Jericho
Syrian Desert
AKKAD
Babylon
BABYLONIA
ELAM
Susa
Umma
Lagash
Uruk
SUMER
Ur
Eridu
SUMER
ARABIA

29

Fertile Crescent
TURKEY
Caspian Sea
IRAN
Nineveh
Kalhu
ASSYRIA
Assur
SYRIA
Euphrates
MESOPOTAMIA
Mediterranean Sea
CANAAN
LEBANON
AKKAD
Tell Asmar
Sippar
Zagros Mountains
BABYLONIA
Babylon
Jerusalem
Dead Sea
IRAQ
SUMER
Susa
Girsu
Lagash
Uruk
Ur
Eridu
JORDAN
SAUDI ARABIA
CHALDEA
modern-day coastline
Persian Gulf
Nile
N
Red Sea
250 km
250 miles
Fertile area of early agriculture

30

The city-state

31

Tigris
Euphrates
Mari
Hamazi?
ZAGROS
Bit Bunakki
GUTIANS
MOUN
Eshnunna
Tutub
Neribtum
Rapiqurn
Der
Borahshi
Sippar
Akshak
Agade?
Kutha
A K K A D
Kid-nun
Kazallu
Babylon
Kish
Larak
Dur Untash
Awan
Susa
Borsippa
Marad
Dilbat
Nippur
Pazurish-Darjan
Isin
Kissura
E L A
Shuruppak
Adab
Lagash
S U M E R
Umma
Girsu
Urukag
Bad-Tibira
Nina
Kutallu
Uruk
Larsa
Eridu
Ur
Persian Gulf
ancient c

32

Ziggurat

33

Rivalry for resources → warfare

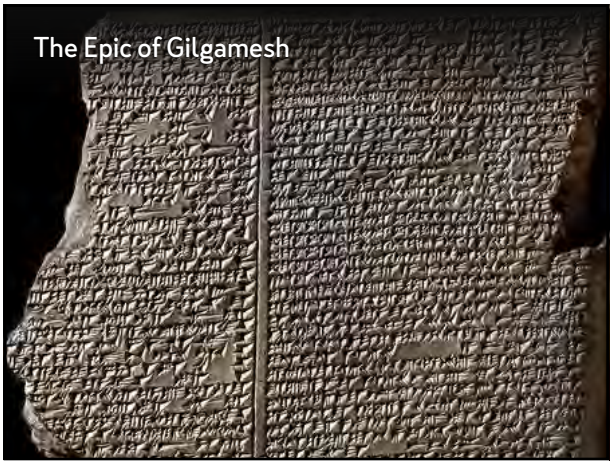
34

The deluge

35

Life and afterlife

36



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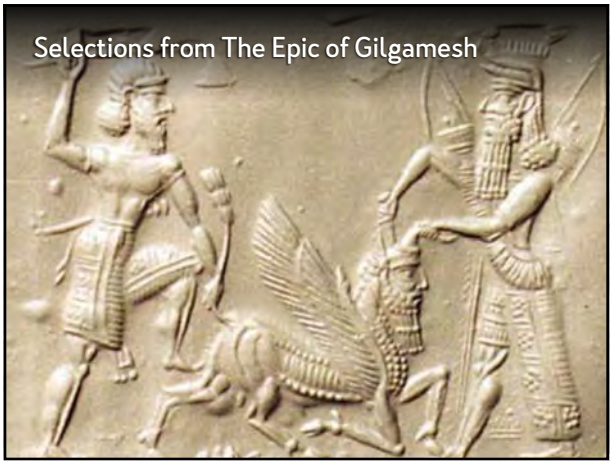
Characters

Gilgámesh	king of Úruk
Nínsun	his divine mother
Enkídu	his friend
Shámhat	a prostitute in Úruk
Shámash	sun-god
Humbába	forest guardian
Íshtar	great goddess
Úta-napíshti	survivor of the Flood

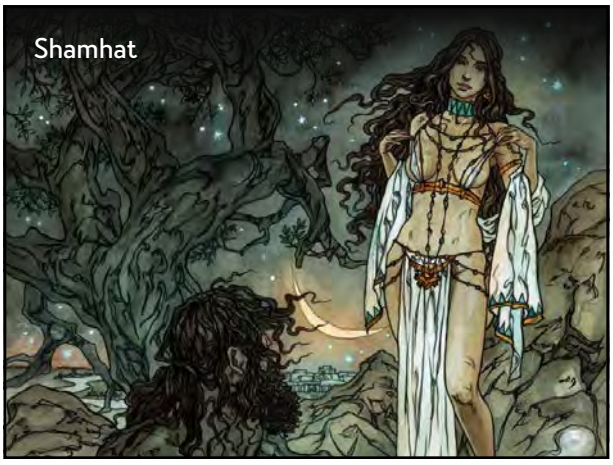
39


Selections from The Epic of Gilgamesh

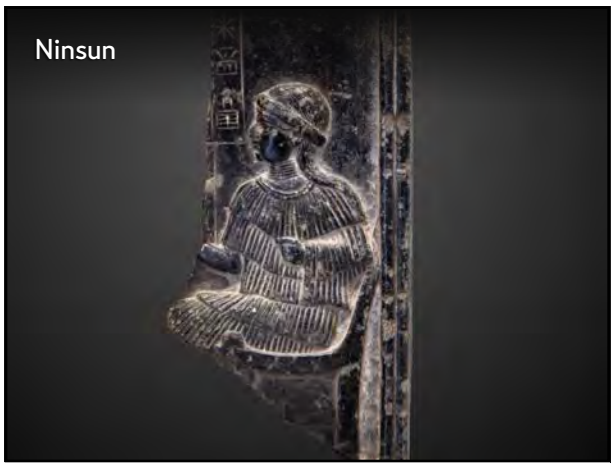
41

King Gilgamesh

42


Shamhat

43



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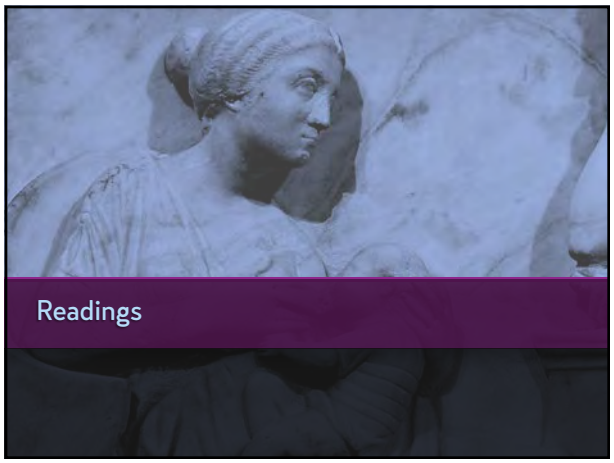


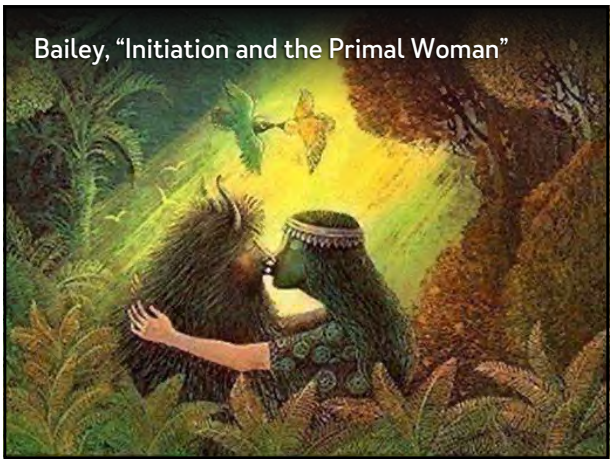
46

Abusch, "Ishtar's Proposal and Gilgamesh's Refusal"

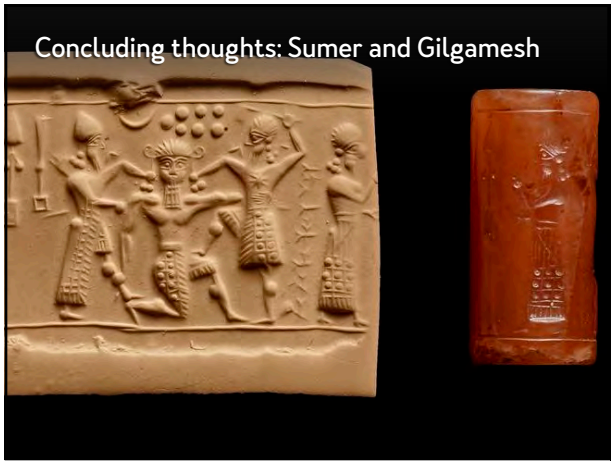
47

Harris, "Inanna-Ishtar as Paradox"

48


Bailey, "Initiation and the Primal Woman"

49


Concluding thoughts: Sumer and Gilgamesh

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Rome, 2nd century CE

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