


Civilizations of the Ancient World
 MEETING 1
Introduction and Evidence

- Civilization
- The syllabus
- Themes for the course
- Evidence

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What is this course?


 Civilizations of the Ancient World
 HIS 246, cross-listed with LEH 354

Tuesdays and Thursdays
 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. in Carman 209

markwilson.com/courses/YY/YY_aw/

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Who am I?

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Carman 292

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.

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Four things today

- 1 Civilization
- 2 The syllabus
- 3 Themes for the course
- 4 Evidence

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Civilization

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Civilization



What is civilization? Why was it invented?

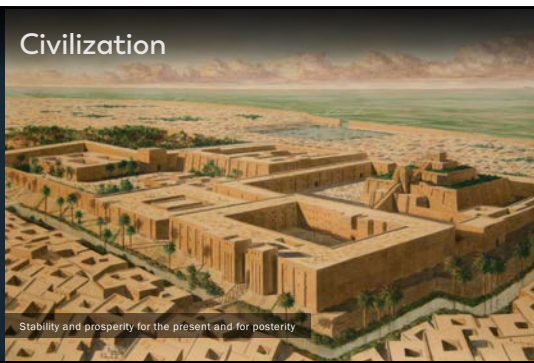
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Origins of civilization

- What do we need for civilization?
 - Agriculture (farming + pastoralism)
 - Not just subsistence farming but surplus production
 - Specialization of labor
 - Government
 - Religion
 - Long-distance trade
 - Metalworking
 - Writing
- What do people sacrifice in adopting civilization?
- Why did people choose civilization?

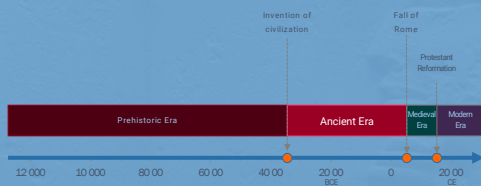
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Civilization

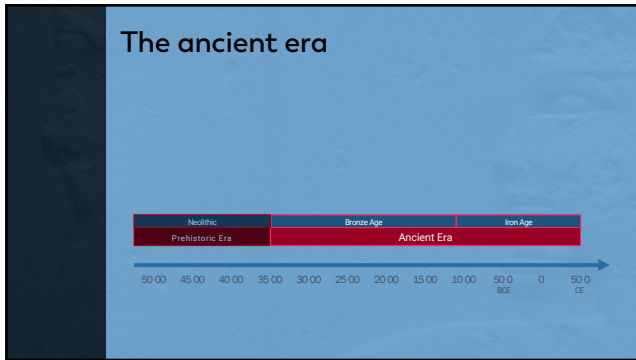


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The ancient era



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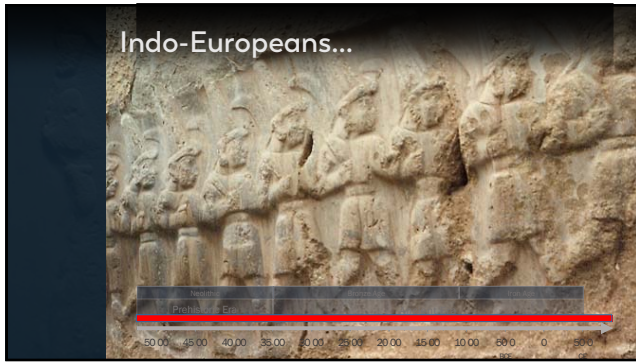
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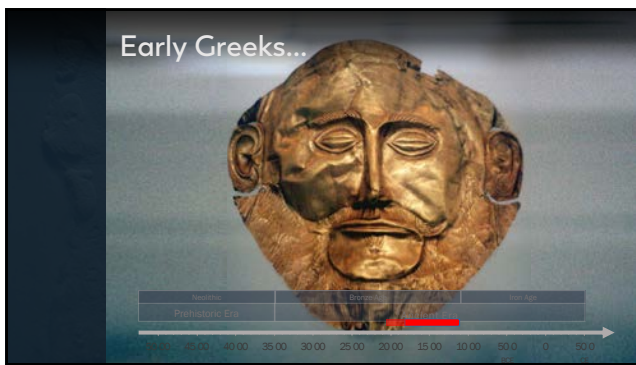
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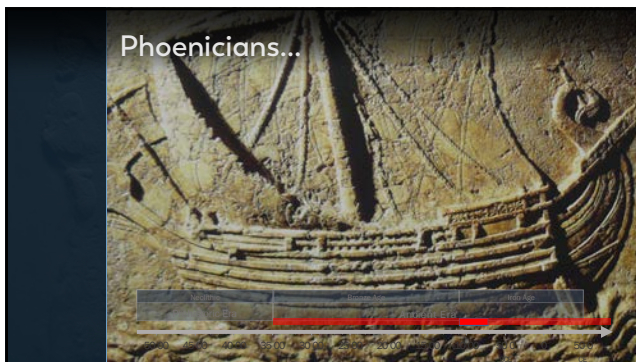
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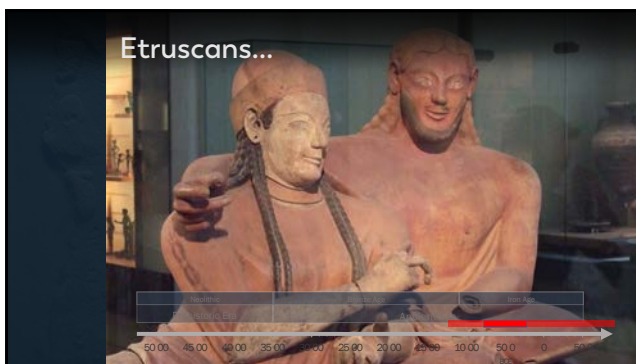
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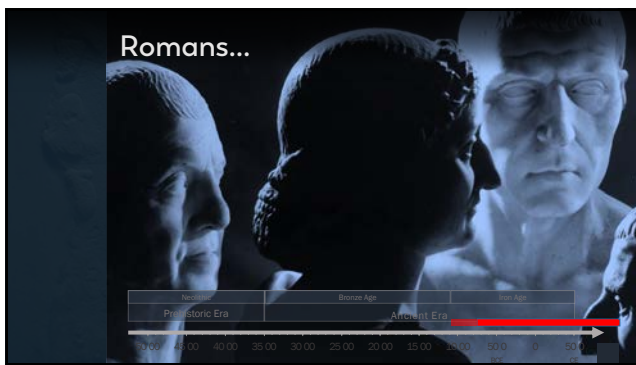
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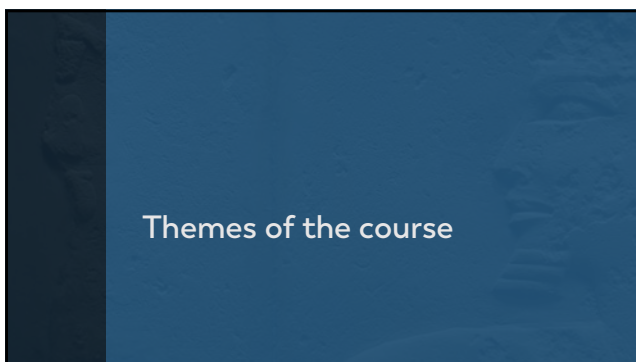
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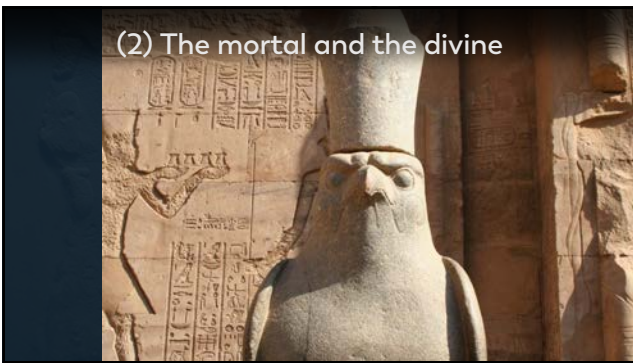
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(1) The individual and the community



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(2) The mortal and the divine



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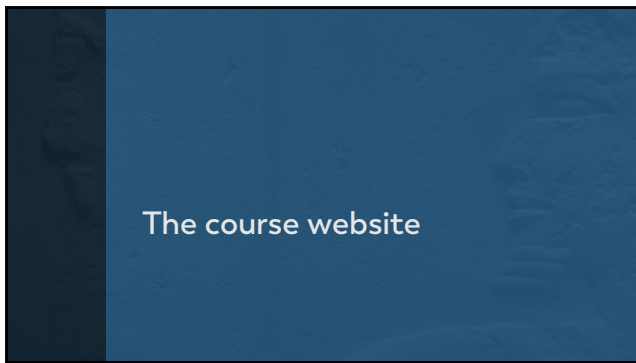
(3) The male and the female



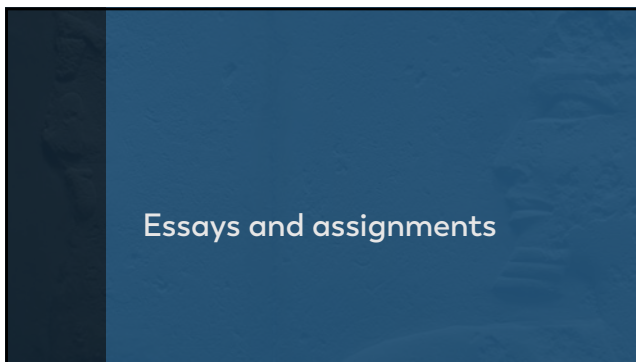
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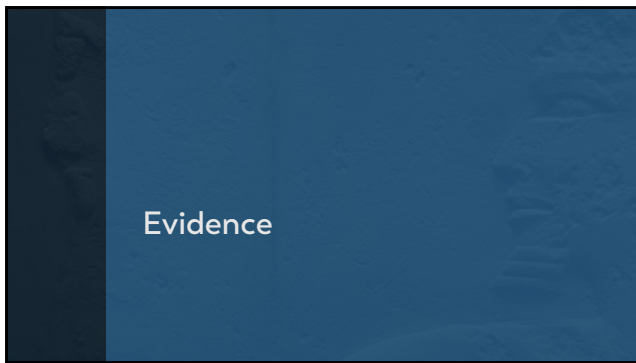


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Components of the course grade

• Quizzes	15%
• Essays	
▪ Essay #1: <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	10%
▪ Essay #2: <i>Clouds</i>	10%
▪ Essay #3: Representations and Images	10%
• Exams	
▪ Midterm	20%
▪ Final Exam	35%

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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

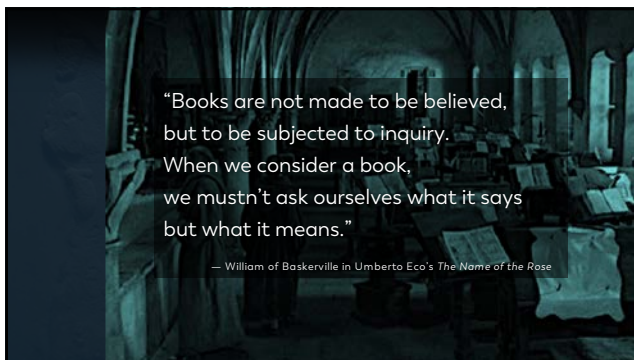
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Problems with primary sources?

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

CONCLUSION:
There are no facts in history

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“Books are not made to be believed, but to be subjected to inquiry. When we consider a book, we mustn't ask ourselves what it says but what it means.”

— William of Baskerville in Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*

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