



### The Origins of Civilization

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #2

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### Four things today

- Syllabus and course website (cont'd)
- Evidence
- The stone age
- The city-state

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### Grading

Your grade for the course will be determined from the following:

|                                                                                                                                              |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| • <b>Attendance, Responses, and Quizzes</b>                                                                                                  | 20% |
| Each week there will be                                                                                                                      |     |
| – attendance taken at class meetings,                                                                                                        | 5%  |
| – a required online post in response to a source, and                                                                                        | 5%  |
| – a short, 5-minute in-class quiz.                                                                                                           | 10% |
| Quizzes are based on the assigned readings for that class meeting.                                                                           |     |
| Note: In-class quizzes take place at the start of our class meetings and are not made up, so it is important to arrive on time and prepared. |     |
| • <b>Interpretive Essays (3)</b>                                                                                                             | 30% |
| – a 3-to-4 page essay on Gilgamesh,                                                                                                          | 10% |
| – a 3-to-4 page essay on Clouds, and                                                                                                         | 10% |
| – a 3-to-4 page essay on images of the ancient world.                                                                                        | 10% |
| • <b>Exams</b>                                                                                                                               | 50% |
| – an in-class 75-minute midterm exam, and                                                                                                    | 20% |
| – an end-of-term in-class final exam.                                                                                                        | 30% |

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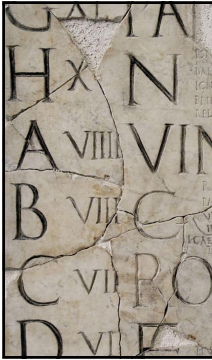
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## Meetings and Reading Assignments

**BEGINNINGS**



**1. Introduction and Themes**  
Tuesday, January 27

- Before the meeting, read *all* of the following:
  - pp 3-5, "Taming the Environment"
  - pp 9-10, "The Paleolithic Age (10,000,000-10,000 BC)"



**2. The Origins of Civilization**  
Thursday, January 29

- Before the meeting, read *all* of the following:
  - pp 13-14, "The Neolithic Revolution (8000-5000 BC)"
  - pp 24-26, "The Chalcolithic Period (5000-3000 BC)"

**THE BRONZE AGE**



**3. Mesopotamia**  
Saturday, February 3

- Before the meeting, read *all* of the following:
  - pp 30-34, "The Origins of Mesopotamian Civilizations (4000-3000 BC)"
  - pp 45-52, "The Rise of Sumerian Civilization"
  - Epilogue, Architecture
  - Epilogue, Tablet 1: The Creation of Humans

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## Approaching the course

- Come to class prepared
- Read critically
- Ask questions
- Take notes
- Discuss with each other
- Manage your time
- Use me as a resource

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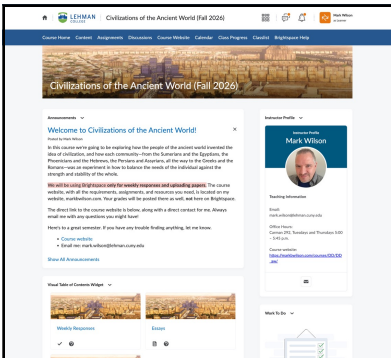
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## Brightspace

- Weekly Responses
- Uploading essays

Everything else is on the course website

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The course website  
[markbwilson.com/courses/DD/DD\\_aw/](http://markbwilson.com/courses/DD/DD_aw/)

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Questions about whatever

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website:  
**markbwilson.com**

email:  
**mark.wilson@lehman.cuny.edu**

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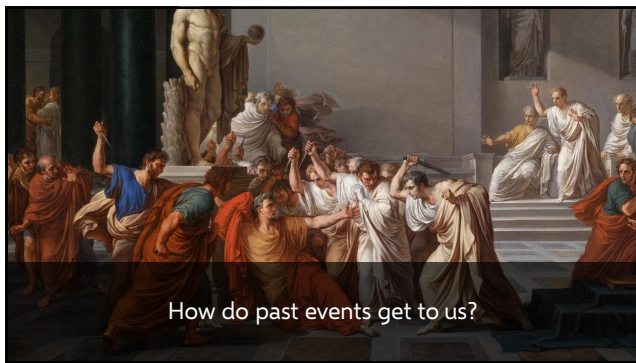
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### (1) Stories are passed on

- Written documents
- Oral history

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### (2) Things survive

- Archaeology

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### (2) Things survive

- Archaeology
- Material culture
  - tools, coins, household goods, etc.

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## (2) Things survive

- Archaeology
- Material culture
  - tools, coins, household goods, etc.
- Art

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## Example

- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- Survives as 4000-year-old baked clay tablets
- Both the tablets and the contents are artifacts

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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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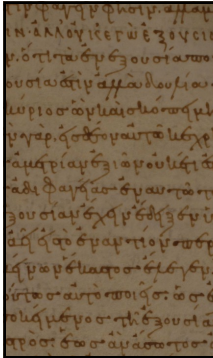
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### Problems with primary sources?

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

CONCLUSION:  
There are no facts in history

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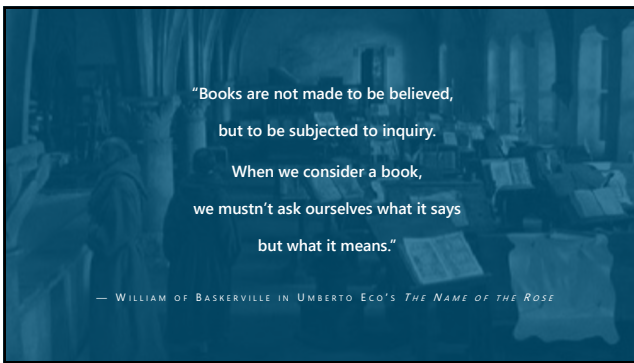
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"Books are not made to be believed,  
but to be subjected to inquiry.  
When we consider a book,  
we mustn't ask ourselves what it says  
but what it means."  
— WILLIAM OF BASKERVILLE IN UMBERTO ECO'S *THE NAME OF THE ROSE*

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### Example

- Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, 79 CE
- Account by Pliny the Younger
- Nothing is ever written for no reason

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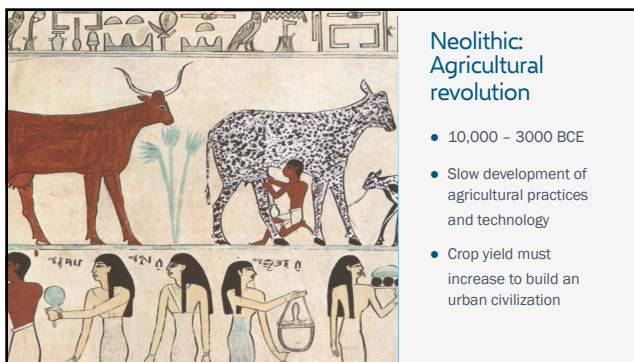
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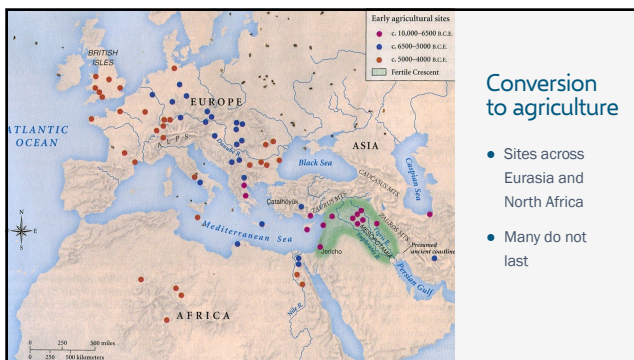
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Catalhöyük, 7500–5700 BCE

### Neolithic sites

- Homes clustered together in a "proto-city"
- No planning, centralized rule, or specialized labor
- Inhabitants farm surrounding lands by day and then return

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## The city-state

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### The city-state

1. Economically independent
  - Urban center—skilled labor and manufacturing
  - Surrounding farmlands—part of central market and identity
2. Politically autonomous
3. Monumental building
4. Patron deity

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### City-state culture

- Shared...
  - Culture
  - Heritage
  - Language
  - Religion
- Rivalry for limited resources



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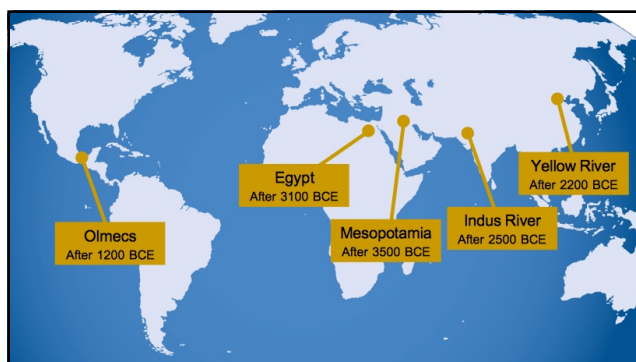
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### Civilization as social revolution

- Complex social structures
  - Division of labor
  - Class
  - Forms of government
  - Citizen and noncitizen
- The responsibilities of the citizen
  - The individual is subordinated to the community
- The responsibilities of gender
  - Male: public/present; Female: private/future

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Forms of government

- Democracy δῆμος 'people' + κράτος 'power'
- Republic RES PUBLICA 'public matters'
- Oligarchy ὀλίγος 'few' + ἄρχων 'leader'
- Autocracy αὐτός 'self' + κράτος 'power'
  - Tyranny τύραννος 'lord and master'
  - Monarchy μόνος 'alone' + ἄρχων 'leader'
  - Dynasty δυνάμει 'to be able, strong enough'
- Theocracy θεός 'deity' + κράτος 'power'

- Citizen CIVITAS 'city-dweller'
- Constitution CONSTITUTIO 'settled, agreed upon'
- Empire IMPERIUM 'power to command, compel'

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Priest-Kings and God-Kings

PRIEST-KINGS

Most city states (Sumer, Babylon)

Gods

Priest king acts on behalf of the people to interact with gods

Mortals

GOD-KINGS

Egypt

Gods

God-king acts on behalf of the people to interact with the people

Mortals

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