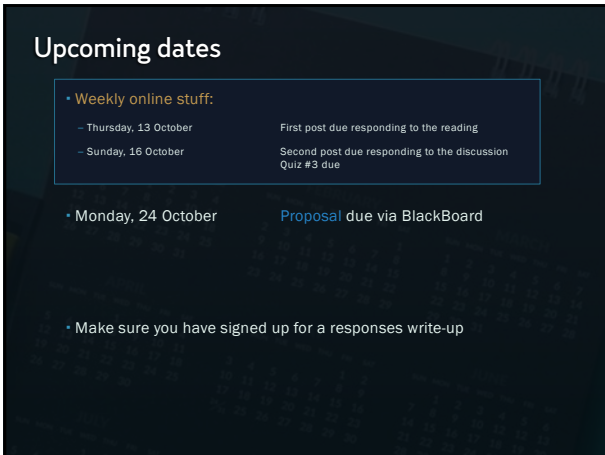


HISTORY OF
ANCIENT
RELIGION

Meeting 5 **Zoroastrians**

- The Proposal
- Iran
- Zoroaster/Zarathustra and the concept of dualism
- The role of magic in religion
- "The First Civilized Man"

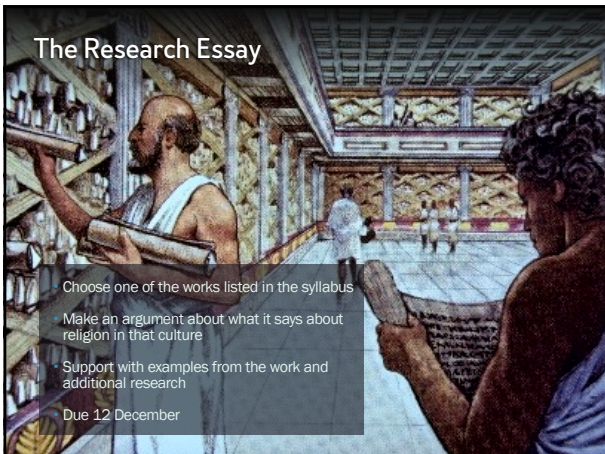
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Upcoming dates

- **Weekly online stuff:**
 - Thursday, 13 October First post due responding to the reading
 - Sunday, 16 October Second post due responding to the discussion Quiz #3 due
- Monday, 24 October **Proposal** due via BlackBoard
- Make sure you have signed up for a responses write-up

2



The Research Essay

Choose one of the works listed in the syllabus

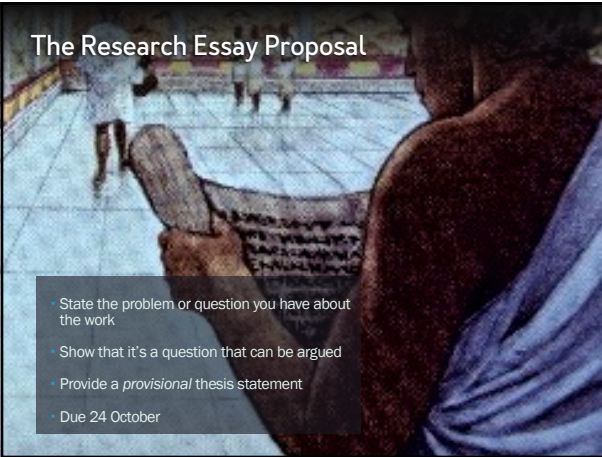
Make an argument about what it says about religion in that culture

Support with examples from the work and additional research

Due 12 December

3

The Research Essay Proposal




- State the problem or question you have about the work
- Show that it's a question that can be argued
- Provide a *provisional* thesis statement
- Due 24 October

4

Quiz #2 Recap: Hittites

- How were individuals in antiquity subject to multiple religions at once?
- How did the Hittites see the gods as being like mortals?
- What might lead to the political or military oppression of a cult?
- The religion of the Hittites involved:
 - (c) A pantheon of gods from many different cultures, including Hittite, Hattian, and Hurrian
- This week's reading was "Divination Among the Hittites". What do you think this reading suggests about how the Hittites related to their gods?

5



Iran

6



7

Persian Empires

- Achaemenid Empire 550 to 330 BCE
- Seleucid Empire 312 to 63 BCE
- Parthian Empire 247 BCE to 224 CE
- Sassanian Empire 224 to 651 CE

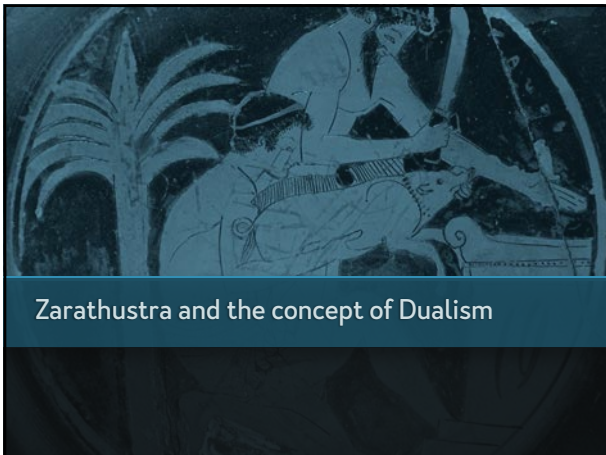
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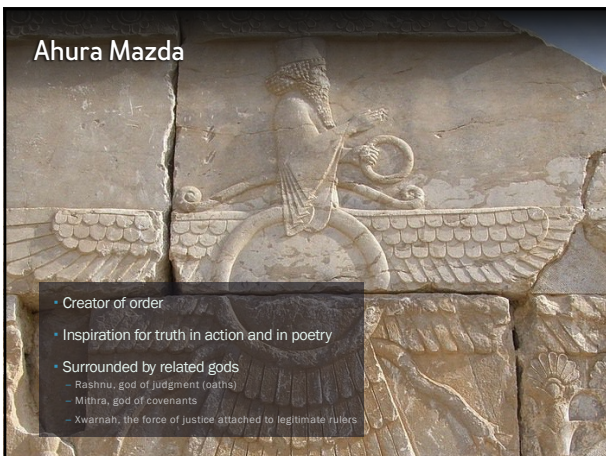
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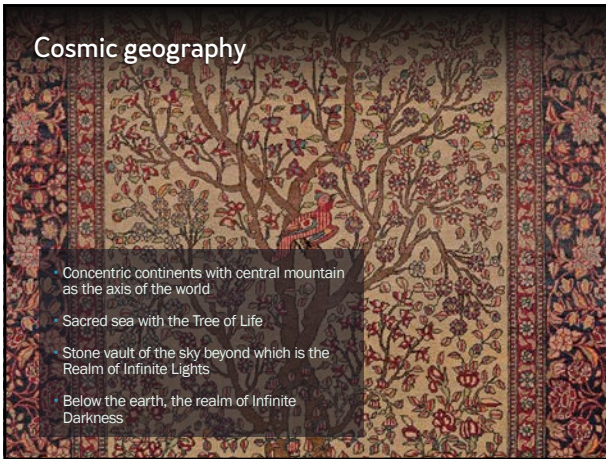
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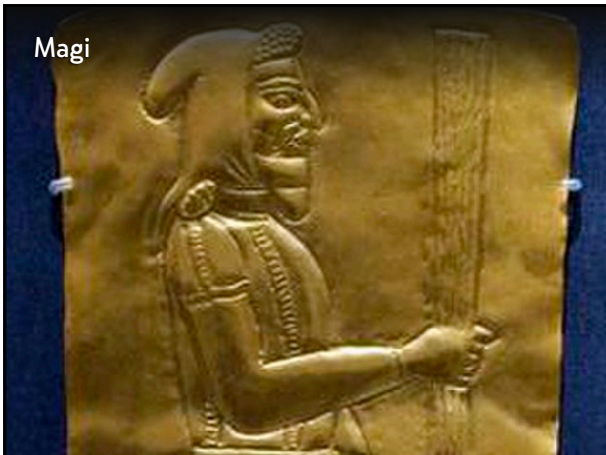
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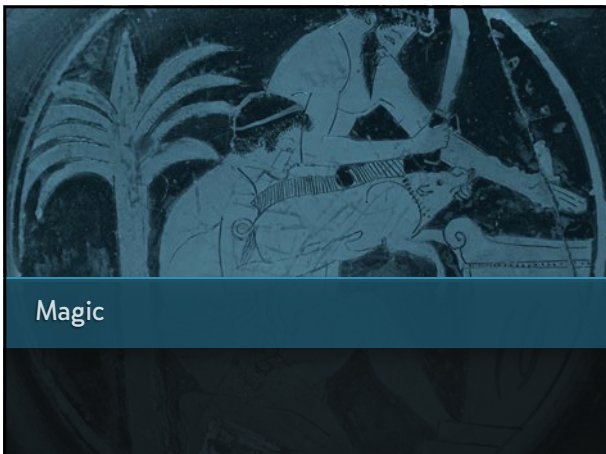
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16



17



18

"Magic" vs. "religion"

- Gods and heroes engage in magic-like acts
 - Solomon and the demons—magic ring, amulets
 - Moses's staff, memory charms, invisibility spells
 - Aphrodite gives love charm to Jason
 - Amulets to invoke Christian saints
 - Incantations similar to prayers
- Acceptable vs. unacceptable, pious vs. blasphemous
- Magic tends to refer to *other people's religion*
- Magic = the distant, the exotic, the hidden

19

Magician as "technician of the sacred"

- Special, secret knowledge on how to access the divine
- Ability to expand / innovate on existing ritual
- Perceived ability to coerce the divine to produce a result

20

Methodologies

- Expertise with words
 - Curses
 - Secret words
 - Narratives within spells
 - Eating words
- Images standing for real entity
- Essences (hair, blood, names)

21
