

ADAM T. SMITH (COORDINATOR)
OFFICE HOURS: TH. 1-4PM

WINTER QUARTER 2001
ANCIENT STUDIES 271
WEDNESDAY 1:30-4:20

[HTTP://HOME.UCHICAGO.EDU/~ATSMITH/PAGES/COURSES.HTML](http://home.uchicago.edu/~atsmith/pages/courses.html)

ANCIENT STUDIES SEMINAR POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE IN ANCIENT SOCIETIES

Arguably the dominant preoccupation orienting studies of early complex societies since at least the late 19th century has been the concern to elucidate the formation of political orders and the structure of governmental apparatus in the ancient world. Varying accounts of the historical antecedents of modern political systems, of the origins of complex governmental institutions and the roots of socio-political inequality, undergird the dominant traditions of Enlightenment political thought. Rousseau's assault on the legitimacy of kingly rule, Marx's critique of class interests, and contractarian senses of self-interested consent all presuppose an account of politics in early complex societies. Archaeological and historical inquiry has, for most of the last half-century, focused resolutely upon the problems posed by the State—what is it and from whence does it arise? Yet as an increasing number of critics have pointed out, this framework for discussion has left us rather unprepared to address the question of what civil authorities actually did in archaic polities. How did regimes form? By what means was legitimacy secured? How was sovereignty maintained? What ties amongst institutions constituted governance? This seminar will address questions of politics and governance in ancient societies through a comparative examination of several critical case studies from both the New and Old Worlds.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to write a comparative term paper that discusses analytically an aspect of politics and governance in two different cases. Paper topics should be discussed and cleared with the instructor by February 21st at the latest. Papers are due March 12, 2001 by 12pm. Draft versions of these papers will be read and critiqued up to March 5.

Texts

Readings for the class have been copied and will be made available through the Regenstein reserve readings desk. Students must complete the readings assigned for each class period and be prepared to discuss critically.

Outline of Lectures and Readings

Week 1. 1/3 *Introduction*

Week 2. 1/10 *Kingship and Governance in Ancient Egypt*
Peter Dorman (Oriental Institute):

Readings:

- Baines, John,
1995 "Kingship, Definition of Culture, Legitimation," in *Ancient Egyptian Kingship*, eds. David O'Connor and David Silverman. *Probleme der Ägyptologie* vol. 9, pp. 3-47. Leiden: Brill.
- Brewer, Douglas, and Emily Teeter,
1999 *Egypt and the Egyptians*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 69-83
- Leprohon, Ronald J.
1995 "Royal Ideology and State Administration in Pharaonic Egypt," in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, vol. 1, ed. Jack Sasson, pp. 273-87. New York: Scribner's.

Week 3. 1/17 *Law and Authority in Old Babylonian Mesopotamia*
Martha Roth (Oriental Institute)

Readings:

- Charpin, D.
1995 "The History of Ancient Mesopotamia: An Overview," in J. Sasson (ed.) *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, vol. 2, pp. 807-830. New York: Scribner's. [Read for general timeline, history of kings and battles, etc.]
- Greengus, S.
1995 "Legal and Social Institutions of Ancient Mesopotamia," in J. Sasson (ed.) *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, vol. 1, pp. 469-484. New York: Scribner's.
- Postgate, N
1995 "Royal Ideology and State Administration in Sumer and Akkad," in J. Sasson (ed.) *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, vol. 1, pp. 395-412. New York: Scribner's.
- Sasson, J.
1995 "King Hammuabi of Babylon" in J. Sasson (ed.) *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, vol. 2, pp. 901-916. New York: Scribner's.
- Roth, M.
2000 "Laws of Hammurabi" in Martha Roth, *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*, pp. 71-142 [pay a bit more attention to the prologue (76-81) and the epilogue (133-140)].

Week 4. 1/24 *Temple and State in Early Mesopotamia*
Nicholas Kouchoukos (Anthropology)

Readings:

Diakonoff, I., (ed.)

1991 *Early Antiquity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Read 'The city states of Sumer' and 'Early Despotisms in Mesopotamia', pp. 67-97.

Foster, B.

1981 A New Look at the Sumerian Temple State. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 24: 225-241.

Jakobsen, T.

1957 Early Political Developments in Mesopotamia. *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* 52: 91-140.

Westenholz, A.

1979 The Old Akkadian Empire in Contemporary Opinion. In M. Larsen, ed., *Power and Propaganda: A Symposium on Ancient Empires*. Copenhagen: Mesopotamia 7. pp. 107-23.

Week 5. 1/31 *Kingship & the Arts of Governance in the Ancient Andes*
Alan Kolata (Anthropology)

Readings:

Kolata, A.

1992 In the Realm of the Four Quarters. In *America in 1492: The World of the Indian Peoples Before the Arrival of Columbus*, edited by A. M. Josephy. Knopf, New York.

Kolata, A.

1996 Principles of Authority in the Native Andean State" In *Structure, Knowledge and Representation in the Andes*, Gary Urton, editor, *Journal of the Steward Anthropological Society* 24: 61-84.

Week 6. 2/7 *Who Governed in Classical Athens?*
Jonathan Hall (Classics)

Readings:

The Old Oligarch

1986 The Athenian Constitution. In *The University of Chicago's Readings in Western Civilization*, edited by A. W. H. Adkins and P. White, pp. 47-56.

University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Ober, Josiah

1989 *Mass and Elite in Democratic Athens*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, pp. 3-52.

Finley, M.I.

1981 The Freedom of the Citizen in the Greek World. In *Economy and Society in Ancient Greece*, edited B. D. Shaw and R. P. Saller. Penguin, Harmondsworth, pp. 77-94.

Week 7. 2/14 *Is Kingship about Kings?: Gender, Kinship, and Royal Power in Classic Maya Society* Cynthia Robin (Anthropology, Northwestern)

Readings:

Sharer, Robert

1996 *Daily Life in Maya Civilization*, Westport: Greenwood Press. Pages 1-2, 12-13, 21-23, 135-150

Silverblatt, Irene.

1988 Women in States. *Annual Reviews of Anthropology* 17:427-60. (focus the attention of your reading on pages 427-432 and 444-455; this means that you can skim or omit the section entitled "Revitalizing Questions: Women and the State" on pages 432-444).

Sharer, Robert

1994 *The Ancient Maya*, Stanford: Stanford University Press. "Yaxchilán" pp. 237-252

Robin, Cynthia.

2001 Kin and Gender in Classic Maya Society: A Case Study from Yaxchilán, Mexico. In *New Directions in Anthropological Kinship*, ed. Linda Stone, pp. 204-228. Boulder: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Week 8. 2/21 *Changing views of South Asian states: the example of "medieval" South India* Kathleen Morrison (Anthropology)

Readings:

Marx, K.

1978 On Imperialism in India. In *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. R.C. Tucker, pp. 653-64.

Morrison, K. D

1994 States of Theory and States of Asia: Regional Perspectives on States in Asia, *Asian Perspectives*, 33(2):183-96.

Shulman, D.

1985 *The King and the Clown in South Indian Myth and Poetry*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-40. (pp. 15+ are the critical ones)

Kulke, H.

1995 Introduction: the study of the state in Pre-modern India. In *The State in India 100-1700*, ed. H. Kulke, Oxford, pp. 1-47

Stein, B.

1985 Vijayanagara and the Transition to Patrimonial Systems. In *Vijayanagara: City and Empire*, ed. A.L. Dallapiccola, Franz Steiner Verlag, pp. 73-87.

Eaton, R.

2000 The Articulation of Islamic Space in the Medieval Deccan. In *Essays on Islam and Indian History*, Oxford, pp. 159-75.

Wagoner, P.

1993 The Coronation and education of Krishnaraya. In *Tidings of the King: a translation and ethnohistorical analysis of the Rayavacakamu*, Hawaii, pp. 87-97.

Week 9. 2/28 *Complexity in East Asia*
Anne Underhill (Field Museum)

Readings:

Chang, K.-c.

1980 *Shang Civilization*. Yale University Press, New Haven. Read pp. 90-124.

Keightley, D. N.

1999 The Shang: China's First Historical Dynasty. In *The Cambridge History of Ancient China: From the Origins of Civilization to 221 B.C.*, edited by E. L. Shaughnessy and M. Loewe, pp. 232-291. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Read only pages 255-291.

Murowchick, R. E. (editor)

1994 *China: Ancient Culture, Modern Land*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla. Maps and timelines only.

Rawson, J.

1996 The Ritual Bronze Vessels of the Shang and the Zhou. In *Mysteries of ancient China : new discoveries from the early dynasties*, edited by J. Rawson, pp. 248-261. 1st ed. G. Braziller, New York.

Trigger, B. G.

1999 Shang Political Organization: A Comparative Approach. *Journal of East Asian Archaeology* 1:43-62.

Week 10. 3/7 *Politics, Power, and Governance in Iron Age "Celtic" Europe*
Michael Dietler (Anthropology)

Readings:

Collis, J.

1995 States Without Centres? The middle La Tène Period in Temperate Europe. In *Celtic Chieftdom, Celtic State: The Evolution of Complex Social Systems in Prehistoric Europe*, B. Arnold and D.B. Gibson (eds.), pp. 75-80. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Crumley, C.

1987 Celtic Settlement Before the Conquest: The Dialectics of Landscape and Power. In *Regional Dynamics: Burgundian Landscapes in Historical Perspective*, ed. by C. Crumley & W. Marquardt, pp. 403-430.

Dietler, M.

1999 Rituals of commensality and the politics of state formation in the "princely" societies of Early Iron Age Europe. In *Les Princes de la Protohistoire et l'Émergence de l'État*, P. Ruby (ed.), pp. 135-152. Naples: Cahiers du Centre Jean Bérard, Institut Français de Naples 17 - Collection de l'École Française de Rome 252.

Dietler, M.

1995 Early 'Celtic' socio-political relations: ideological representation and social competition in dynamic comparative perspective. In *Celtic Chieftdom, Celtic State: The Evolution of Complex Social Systems in Prehistoric Europe*, B. Arnold and D.B. Gibson (eds.), pp. 64-71. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Term Papers Due: March 12, 2001