Arth 301-302. Empire and History
Assyria, Persia and Rome

Spring 2003
Undergraduate Seminar
Wednesdays 2-5 pm
Course homepage: <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~harmansa/Empire.html>

Instructor: Prof. Holly Pittman
(hpittman@sas.upenn.edu; office: 898-3251;
office hours: Thursdays 3:30-5 pm by appointment-sign-up at Art History office-)
Teaching Assistant: Ömür Harmansah
(harmansa@sas.upenn.edu; office hours: Friday 10-12 by appointment)
Collaborating: Xin Wu
(wuxin@sas.upenn.edu)

Books on Reserve for general reference


Weekly schedule and required readings
(in progress)


Lecture and discussion on empires: development, types, and their various aspects.
Introduction to the three empires of the course: Assyria, Persia and Rome

Readings: [On reserve at Fine Arts library Reserve Desk, also available on line on Course Blackboard under Course Documents: You will have to
be signed up for the course to have access to the blackboard page for this course.]


**Week 3. January 29. History and Historical Consciousness**

Lecture and discussion on empire and history; the use of history and historical narratives in the imperially sponsored art, the art of persuasion. The question of the pictorial narrative in the representation of history and the ideology of historical past. Historicity and historical consciousness as a social/cultural practice. The presentation and reception of history through the making of commemorative art in the form of publicized visual spectacles. Reproduction of social power, definition of cultural identities, imperial vs. local.

**Readings:**


Owens, Craig; "Representation, appropriation and power," in *Beyond recognition: Representation, power and culture*. S. Bryson et. al. (eds.),


**Week 4. February 5.** Presentation of monuments: Omur Harmansah and Wu Xin

Assyrian palace relief programs: Sennacherib-Assurbanipal reliefs
Persian urban and palatial programs: Pasargadae, Persepolis and its relief programs.
Roman Empire and its monuments in Rome: Temple of Apollo Medicus and its setting/program, Ara Pacis Augustae, Column of Trajan.

**Week 5. February 12.** Assyrian empire: discussion.


**Readings:**


**Week 6. February 19.** Persian empire: discussion.

**Readings:**


**Week 7. February 26.** Roman empire.

**Readings:**


**Week 8. March 5.** General discussion on empire history and the three empires.

**Spring break March 7-17**

- Student presentations and discussion forms the structure of the second half of the semester: each week's session will have a theme under which related projects will be grouped.
Each week three presentations of student projects on particular monuments: Each presentation will be ½ hour, while the remainder of time will be given to discussion. Presentations should be well-timed, they cannot go over.

Assyria:
Persia:
Rome:

*Week 10. March 26.* Text and image: their relationship.
Assyria:
Persia:
Rome:

*Week 11. April 2.* The structure of visual narratives.
Assyria:
Persia:
Rome:

Assyria:
Persia:
Rome:

*Week 13. April 16.* Reception: Who responds how
Assyria:
Persia:
Rome: