

## ARC 231 OUTLINE

### Old World Cultures

#### Objectives

- Describe the basic contours of ancient human pre/history around the globe, with the relative timeframes for “historic” period(s) in different places; align with general contours of agrarian and urban developments in the ancient period
- Recognize monuments & archetypes; know their dates and conditions under which they were built
- Explain the development and spread of the world’s earliest religions; understand how architecture served the liturgical/practical needs of these faith traditions in various places
- Interpret ancient methods of construction in light of ecological factors
- Distinguish ancient building types and their representation of cultural values
- Differentiate aesthetic (decorative) and planning differences in traditional cultures

#### Historical Context (all BCE)

##### *Mesopotamia*

3500 –2300	Sumerian culture est.
2400	Cuneiform writing developed
1400-627	Assyrian empire flourishes
970-930	Construction of the Temple of Solomon

##### *India*

2800	Indus Valley civilization est.
2600	Est. of the two greatest cities in the Indus Valley (including Harappa)

##### *China*

7000	earliest evidence of agriculture
7000-5800	Jiahu culture (with “proto-writing”); pictographs recorded in cliffs at Damaidi by 5000
5500-4900	Peiligang culture with agriculture, buildings, pottery, burial of the dead
5000-3000	Villages of Yangshao culture centered on Yellow River Valley (cf. Banpo, Xi’an)
3000-2000	Longshan culture centered on Yellow River

#### Monuments

Yangshao houses  
Harappa  
Göbekli Tepe  
Ziggurat of Ur-Nanna  
Tower of Babel  
Sumerian sculpture

#### Terms

corbel	mudbrick	mudhif
wattle and daub	ziggurat	