Teaching the Ancient World
Conference
November 22–23, 2009

This conference explores why the ancient world excites the public imagination and sits at the core of the liberal arts education. Leading historians and archaeologists will establish what it means to study this world globally by comparing regions as distant as Egypt and China, India and Europe, Mesopotamia and Central Asia. The ancient period, from prehistory to about 600 CE, provides a foundation for understanding much broader developments in world history that have shaped the present. This foundation may even help us gain a long-term, historical perspective on our own rapidly changing society. The conference articulates a distinctive view of the ancient world that will characterize NYU Abu Dhabi’s programs and will appeal to an audience of teachers, students, and the general public.
DAY 1
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2009

9:15 — 9:45
Registration & Coffee

9:45
Welcome & Introductions

PANEL 1: REGIONAL AND CULTURAL HISTORIES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
10:00 — 12:40
Marc Van de Mieroop
Columbia University
The Challenges in Teaching the Ancient Histories of Egypt and the Near East

Michael Puett
Harvard University
China in the Ancient World: Comparative Reflections

Andrew Monson
New York University
Reorienting Greco-Roman History

Kostis Smyrnis
New York University
Teaching Byzantine History (4th-15th Centuries)

12:40 — 1:00
Wrap-up Discussion

1:00 — 2:30
Lunch

PANEL 2: CROSS-CULTURAL AND COMPARATIVE HISTORIES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
2:30 — 4:30
Beate Pongratz-Leisten
New York University
Sacred Topography of Empire: Assyrian State Rituals

David Wengrow
University College London
Civilization: A Concept and its Place in Teaching the Ancient World

Jane Burbank & Fred Cooper
New York University
Empires and Political Imagination

4:30 — 4:50
Wrap-up Discussion

DAY 2
MONDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2009

9:30 — 10:00
Coffee

PANEL 3: THE ANCIENT WORLD IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM
10:00 — 12:40
Shireen Atreis
UAE University
The Pedagogy of Art History: Sources, Scopes, and Approaches to Learning

Walter Scheidel
Stanford University
Teaching Ancient World History as Comparative History

Ian Morris
Stanford University
Teaching Global Ancient History at Stanford University

Joy Connolly
New York University
Toward Global Studies: General Education at NYU

12:40 — 1:00
Wrap-up Discussion

1:00 — 2:30
Lunch

PANEL 4: THE ANCIENT WORLD BETWEEN AND ACROSS CULTURES
2:30 — 5:10
Jeffrey Szuchman
Zayed University
Teaching the Ancient World in the United Arab Emirates

Salima Ikram
American University Cairo
Pyramids, Princes, and Pottery: Teaching Ancient Egypt

David Levene
New York University
Teaching Incommensurate Antiquities: Rabbinic Chronology Versus History

Roger Bagnall
New York University
Ancient History in the Global Network University

5:10 — 5:30
Wrap-up Discussion

5:30
Coffee

PUBLIC LECTURE: MAPPING THE ANCIENT WORLD
6:30 — 8:30
Rita Wright
New York University
Immediately followed by Public Reception