

[NOTE: These review questions are a representative selection created for OCW users.]

## **SPRING 2012: 4.605**

# **A GLOBAL HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE**

### Review Questions from Lectures for Mid-Term Exam

#### **Lecture 1: First Societies (8 Feb)**

What was the cultural package of the first societies that left Africa?

What is the significance of Blombos cave, and where was it located?

What was the significance of ochre for first societies?

...etc...

#### **Lecture 2: The Gravettians and the Hunting Tradition of the North (13 Feb)**

Who were the Gravettians and what was significant about their society?

What was the cultural package of the northern hunting tradition?

What were the characteristics and significance of Venus figurines?

What was the significance of Dolní Vestonice?

...etc...

#### **Lecture 3: The Holocene and the Agro-Pastoral Emergence (15 Feb)**

What was the holocene, and what were its consequences in terms of cultural developments?

What were the characteristics of riverine cultures?

What was the significance of the Haida?

...etc...

#### **Lecture 4: Grain, Animals, and the Village World (21 Feb)**

How is the Maasai hut laid out? How was it made?

Compare the cosmology diagram of Haida houses and villages with those of the Maasai.

Where was the Fertile Crescent and what was unique about its location?

What were the earliest ritual centers? What were their design characteristics?

*...etc...*

### **Lecture 5: Cities, Gods and Empires (22 Feb)**

What were the first cities and where did they originate?

What was the role of the temple in Mesopotamian cities? What was its economy?

Describe the economic and cultural consequences of grain specialization in Mesopotamian society.

What was the geography of the copper trade?

*...etc...*

### **Lecture 6: Pits, Granaries and Boats: The Sacred Section (27 Feb)**

What was significant about the location of Banpo?

What are the advantages of a pit house and how is it built?

What is meant by the riverine pit house tradition? How did it migrate?

Describe the differences between millet and rice cultivation and their effects on Asian culture.

Where did elevated granaries originate and how are they laid out?

*...etc...*

### **Lecture 7: 1500 BCE After the Cataclysm: Knossos and Karnak (29 Feb)**

What were the major civilizations of the Eurasian interaction zone around 2500 BCE?

What was the economic and geographical significance of Mari?

How was the Mari palace laid out and what activities took place there?

How did climate change affect the Indus civilization?

Describe the power shift between West Asia and the East Mediterranean after 1500 BCE.

How was the palace at Knossos laid out and what was architecturally significant about it?

Compare the economy of Minoan palace centers with that of Mesopotamian cities.

...etc...

### **Lecture 8: Iron and the New World Order (5 March)**

What was the Festival of the Beautiful Valley and how did it work?

How is Hatshepsut's Tomb organized and how does it relate to the landscape?

What was the significance of frankincense?

Economically, how were Saba and Judea linked?

Saba is known for an important engineering feat—what was it?

What did the Temple of Solomon contain and how was it built?

If the Mesopotamians and Egyptians did not produce iron around 800 BCE, who did?

...etc...

### **Lecture 9: 500 BCE: Persia and Greece (7 March)**

What was significant about the Palace of Sargon and how it was located?

What kind of infrastructure did the Persians build?

What was the territorial significance of Persepolis?

Describe the architectural and social aspects of the Apadana.

Compare Persepolis and Dur Sharrukin as two different models of ideology, trade, and wealth.

...etc...

### **Lecture 10: Fire, Water and Chariots (12 March)**

How were Greek cities related to each other politically and economically?

Describe the urban role of the Athenian *agora*.

Identify the following terms: *stylobate*, *echinus*, *frieze*, *metope*, *capital*, *entablature*, *pediment*.

What is the difference between a tetrastyle and a tetrastyle in antis?

...etc...

### **Lecture 11: Buddhism: Out of India (14 March)**

What was the significance of Buddha in relation to previous religious figures?

Describe the basic elements of a *stupa*.

What is a *chattra* and what is its purpose?

What is an *aobao* and who makes them?

What is a *chaitya-grihas*?

...etc...

### **Lecture 12: Chang'an (19 March)**

What is the concept of *Shangdi*?

What is the Mandate from Heaven (*Tiananmen*) and what is the emperor's role in fulfilling it?

Describe some of the infrastructural and territorial projects of Qin Shi Huang (The First Emperor).

How was Chang'an (Xianyang) located within the cosmological diagram of Chinese territory?

What was unique about how Chinese capitals were located and maintained from dynasty to dynasty?

Describe what is inside the mound of the Tomb of the First Emperor.

...etc...

**Lecture 13: Rome (21 March)**

What was the relationship between the Gauls and the Romans?

Why did the Romans seek to integrate the Gauls into their empire?

Bibracte was located in what modern-day country? How was it sited and protected?

How did Rome originate as a city and how was it originally laid out?

Describe the basic elements of the Roman Forum.

What was the importance of the *Umbilicus Urbis Romae*?

What is the plan of a Roman *basilica* and what took place there?

...etc...

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