



**CULTURAL CROSSROADS IN ANTIQUITY:
EGYPT, GREECE, AND PERSIA (BASED IN CHICAGO)
CLA 279
2010-11 -- Term 9
Professor Philip Venticinque**

By the time of Ramses II (1279-13 BCE), Egypt had become an economic and political power in the ancient Mediterranean. An increased international profile also brought Egypt into increased contact with other ancient powers through trade, diplomatic contact and war: the Hittite Kingdom in Asia Minor, Babylon in Mesopotamia, Persia to the west, and Greece across the sea. Focusing on the history of Egypt from the New Kingdom (ca. 1600 BCE) to the conquest of Alexander the Great (330 BCE) this course will examine the interactions between these empires, kingdoms, and city states of Egypt, Greece, and Persia. In addition to a discussion of the society, economy, and religion of Egypt, we will also examine the ways in which foreign rulers such as the Persian king Cambyses, Alexander the Great, and the Ptolemies used and manipulated ideologies and propaganda to solidify their claims to rule in Egypt, and the Egyptian responses to those foreign rulers. Other topics include contact between Greece and Persia, the Persian Wars, and the impact of economic ties with Egypt on Greek society. Readings for the course will include Egyptian, Greek and Persian literary and documentary sources in translation; we will also take advantage of the museum collections of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Field Museum to supplement these texts with material culture and art historical evidence.

This course will entail additional costs to cover accommodation, some group meals, a transit card, and excursions



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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