

THE ANCIENT CITY
Anthropology 3510
Fall 2019

Week 4 Readings: Some Discussion Questions

1. What material patterns define Indus Valley urbanism in the following categories (a) settlement plan/layout; (b) housing and workshops, (c) monumentality, (d) infrastructure (e.g., water systems), and (e) art and artifacts?
2. What do these material patterns imply about Indus Valley urban lifeways, including economy, political organization (is there a STATE?), and religion/cosmology?
3. How do Indus Valley cities compare to Mesopotamian cities in terms of layout and lifeways? What are similarities and differences?
4. What general story have we pieced together about the rise and fall of Indus Valley cities?
5. What most impresses you about Indus Valley urbanism, and why?
6. How do Chinese cities compare with Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley in terms of planning (i.e., basic principles and features), where key institutions are located (e.g., markets), and the power of individuals (e.g., kings, commoners) to shape the city as they see fit?
7. Who is Qin Shihuangdi and why is he important to the study of Chinese urbanism?
8. What is lidar technology and how is it revolutionizing the study of ancient cities?
9. Angkor, Angkor Wat, and Angkor Thom are different things, yet they are often confused with each other. What are they and how do they interrelate?
10. What has Lidar technology revealed about the characteristics of urban planning (“urban morphology”) at Angkor, and the development of this city over time?