

CORE-UA 514: Ancient Israel (Fall 2020; Remote)
Paper #3: Museum Artifact and Exhibit Worksheet

General Description

For this assignment, you will begin work toward your final project for this class. There are two main objectives for this assignment:

1. To select a topic or theme for your virtual exhibit and begin learning more about that topic
2. To practice browsing online museum collections and gathering data about an artifact related to your theme

For the first part of this assignment you will select a topic related to ancient Israel that you would like to spend more time learning about. There are 3 parts to this section of the assignment.

1. **By class time on 11/18**, you should have the following ready to discuss with classmates:
 - a. your topic selected along with a 2–3 sentence description of that topic, and
 - b. a list of 3–5 academic secondary sources where you would go for more information about your topic.
 - c. You will also spend some time looking through and learning how to search online museum collections. You should select **one** artifact that is related to your topic and fill out [this google form](#) answering basic questions about that artifact. The questions on this form are similar to ones that you will have to answer for each artifact in your virtual exhibit. Filling out this form is meant to be a first pass at gathering the kind of data and performing the kind of analysis you will need to do for your final project.

During our Zoom meeting, you will be discussing your project topics and preliminary finds with classmates in breakout rooms. There will be a broader discussion of the final project and its requirements at the end of the class meeting.

A sample 2-3 sentence description for the topic of sacrifice: *In ancient Israel, sacrifice was a part of normal religious practice. People brought things like animals, grains, and produce to local temples, bamot, and in some cases perhaps made pilgrimages to larger regional temples. They had many reasons for bringing these offerings to sacred places including purification, thanksgiving, petition, dedications, and according to some texts, they brought offerings so that they could eat some of the animal's meat.*

2. **By the due date of 11/20**, you will write a **1–2 page summary** of your chosen topic that explains what it is and why it is important for the study of ancient Israel. When you are writing this summary, pretend that you are introducing this topic to a friend, roommate, or family member who has never studied ancient Israel. You will have to explain basic background information about ancient Israel, as well as how your topic fits into the broader picture of life in ancient Israel. Why is this topic interesting? What can it tell us about life in ancient Israel? Your summary should include information from at least 2 academic secondary sources. If you are not sure if your secondary source qualifies as academic, please check with your TA or professor.