ARCH 3650 – Origins of Civilization stimulates you think about the nature of humans and their cultures, their differences and similarities, and the possible explanations for those differences. Our inquiry will center about considering the patterns of change we see in the records of extinct cultures, ranging from those with “simple” modes of technology and social organization, and to those in different times and places, in large urban populations, characterized as “civilizations”. At the end of this semester of inquiry and discussion, I hope that we will have gained a better understanding of the patterns and processes of culture change, of the history of ancient and otherwise invisible cultures, and even an improved basis for looking at ourselves and the world around us.