

**Welcome (back) to the future.**

*February 18, 2019 (photo by Alyssa Goodman)*



Is time like space? What's pre-determined?



*January 27, 2023 (aerial photo by Alyssa Goodman)*



*January 29, 2023 (video by Alyssa Goodman)*

+

Our *future* together today—discuss time and space,  
now and then.

—

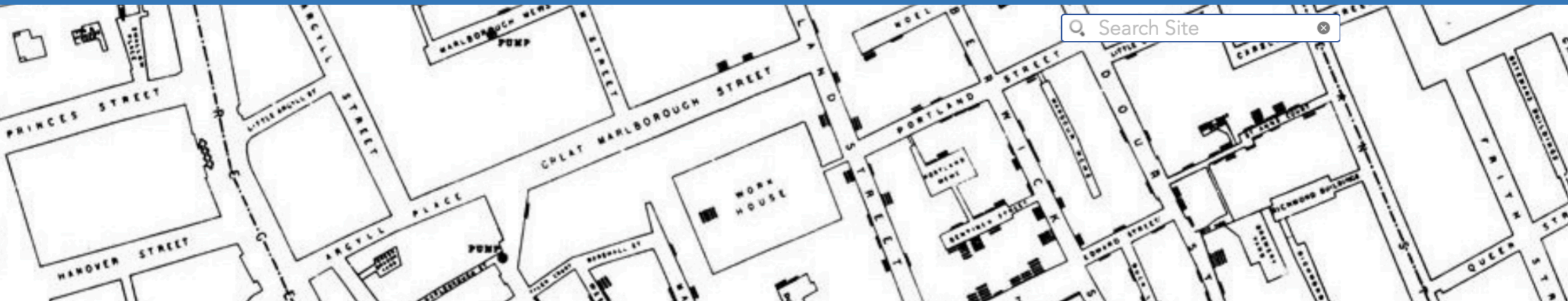
Our “*past*” — key information from last week...

# The Prediction Project

The Past and Present of the Future



HOME ABOUT MATERIALS COURSES TALKS WRITINGS PRESS FORUM



## Prediction Essentials

Take a look at the essential elements of the course, including the framework for predictive systems.



## Omens & Oracles

Gain insight into prediction as a human venture by studying the most ancient forms of prediction in Omens and Oracles.



## Rise of Theory

Learn how humanity moved from mystical divination practices to genuine, scientific theories to explain natural phenomena.



## Modern Prediction

Discover the cutting edge predictive methods and modeling from preminent experts across many fields.



## How it all fits together

Our project has four main sections, fitting together to offer a broad overview of how humanity has predicted its future throughout history



# The Prediction Project

## PREDICTIONX: THE PAST & PRESENT OF THE FUTURE



### ESSENTIALS

**Predictive Systems Framework**

**The "Padua Rainbow"**

**Understanding Uncertainty**

**Study Design**

**Timelines**

**Why predict?**



### Omens, Oracles & Prophecies

Mesopotamian Haruspicy

Roman Augury

Chinese Oracle Bones

Oracle of Delphi

Aztec Rituals

Egyptian Priests

Tarot

**The Diviner's Guide**

Turkish Tasseography

Maya Spacetime

Yoruba Ifa

Casting Lots

Greek Astronomy

Astrology

Comets of Doom

**cross-cultural conversations**



### THE RISE OF THEORY

Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece & Rome

Islamic Science

**The Path to Newton**

Indian Mathematics  
European Renaissance

The Royal Society

**Lost without Longitude (Navigation)**

Help, I'm Lost!

Tools of the Navigator



### MODERN PREDICTION

**Health**

- ▶ Epidemiology
- ▶ Personal Genomics
- ▶ Population Genetics

**John Snow & Cholera**  
Cholera Map

**Wealth**

- ▶ Climate & Wealth
- ▶ Behavioral Economics

**The Future of the Future**

- ▶ AI, Derek's Day
- ▶ Philosophy
- ▶ Uncertainty

**Earth**

- ▶ Climate & Energy
- ▶ Climate Policy
- ▶ Tent Tarot
- ▶ Earthquakes

**Space**

- ▶ Futures of our Universe
- ▶ SETI



Interactive Resource

▶ video(s)

Coming Soon

visit [predictionx.org](http://predictionx.org) for more information on the Prediction Project



Harvard College  
Program in General Education  
Explore. Expand. Engage.

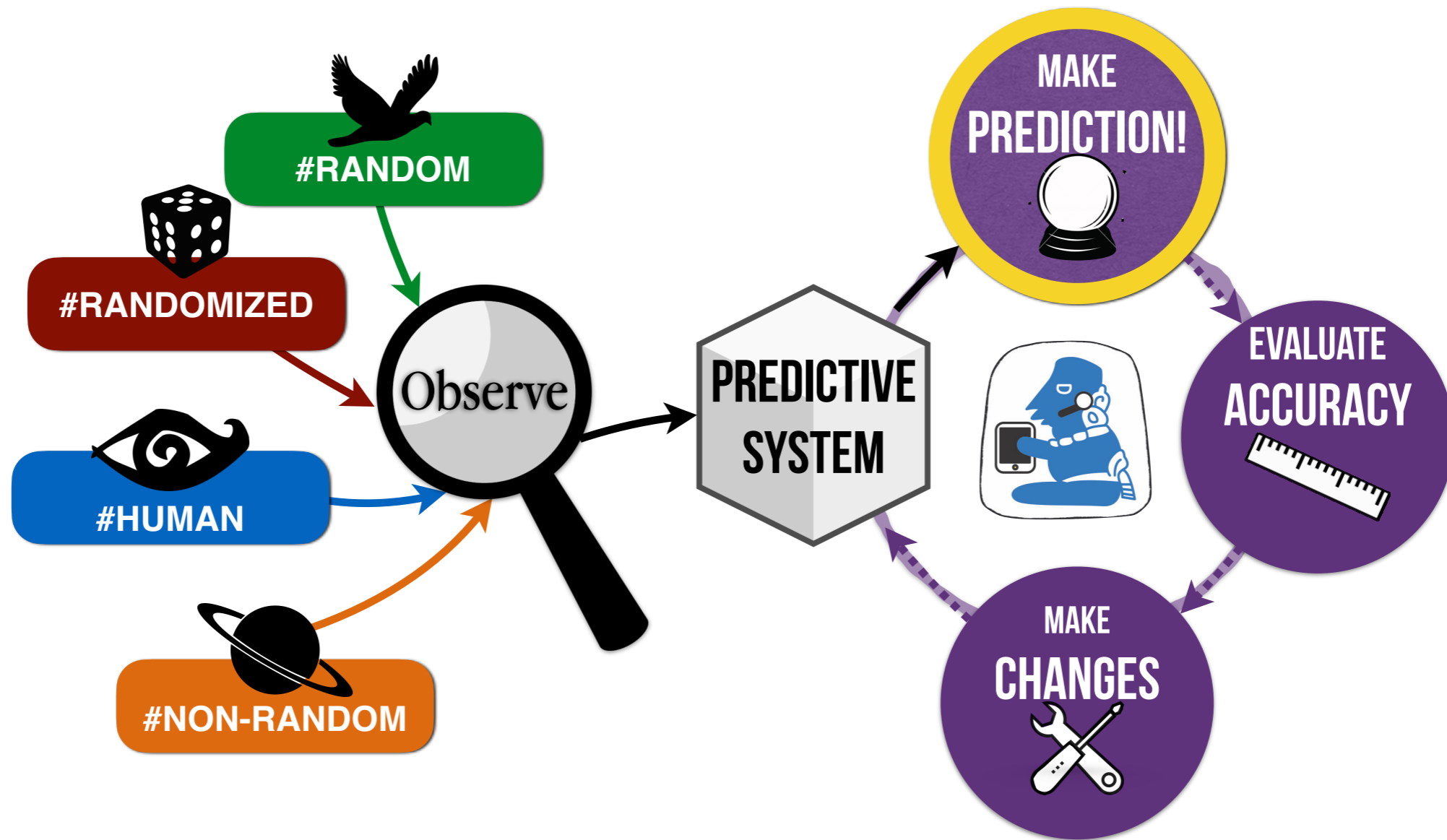
[predictionx.org](http://predictionx.org)



HarvardX



# Framework for Predictive Systems



<https://openclipart.org/>

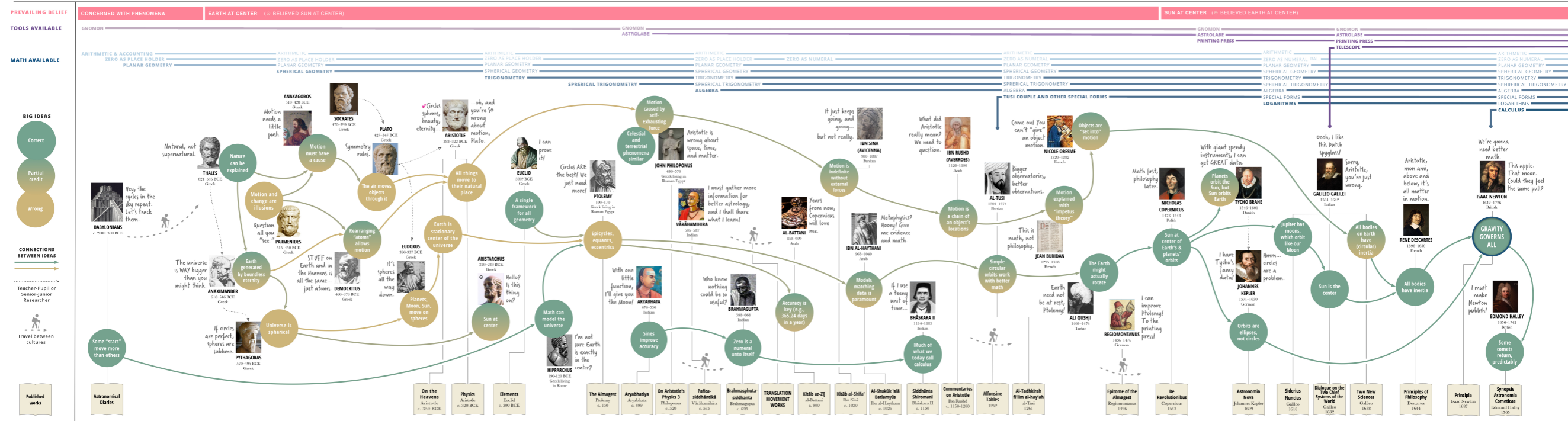
Please save [predictionx.org/framework](https://predictionx.org/framework) in your browser as a "handout."



# The "Padua Rainbow" & The Path to Newton



## The Path to Newton



© Harvard University, created by Alyssa Goodman, Jais Brohinsky, Drew Lichtenstein & Katie Peek, re-use is allowed, with attribution, version 1, 2019

\*or, Experiment\*

# Prediction: Week 2

Welcome “back”

Time & Space ( Venice)

*What’s is time? (Discussion)*

Roman Augury

Breath on a Mirror

[ WWT Celestial Mechanics Primer ]

Ancient Mesopotamia

Extispicy, by Declan Maloney

discussions of Diviner’s guide systems

[expertise, Framework, era]

choosing a System for the Fair

table  
research

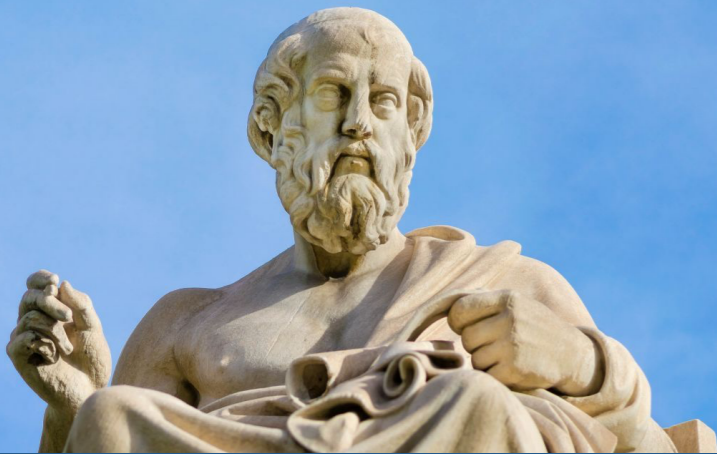
consult w/students & staff

[Cross-cultural Conversations Intro]

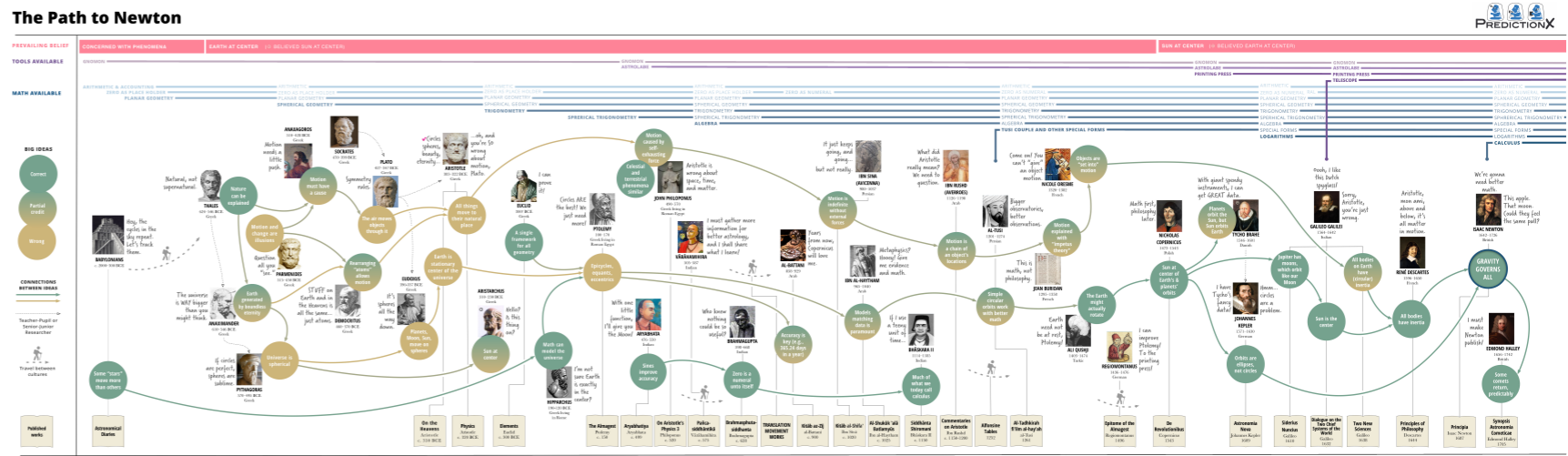
SECTION PREVIEW: Student Predictions  
( from Journals)

# What is time?

(to be discussed, soon, at tables, using Canvas “Discussion”)



Path To Newton



Full Document Both Full Map

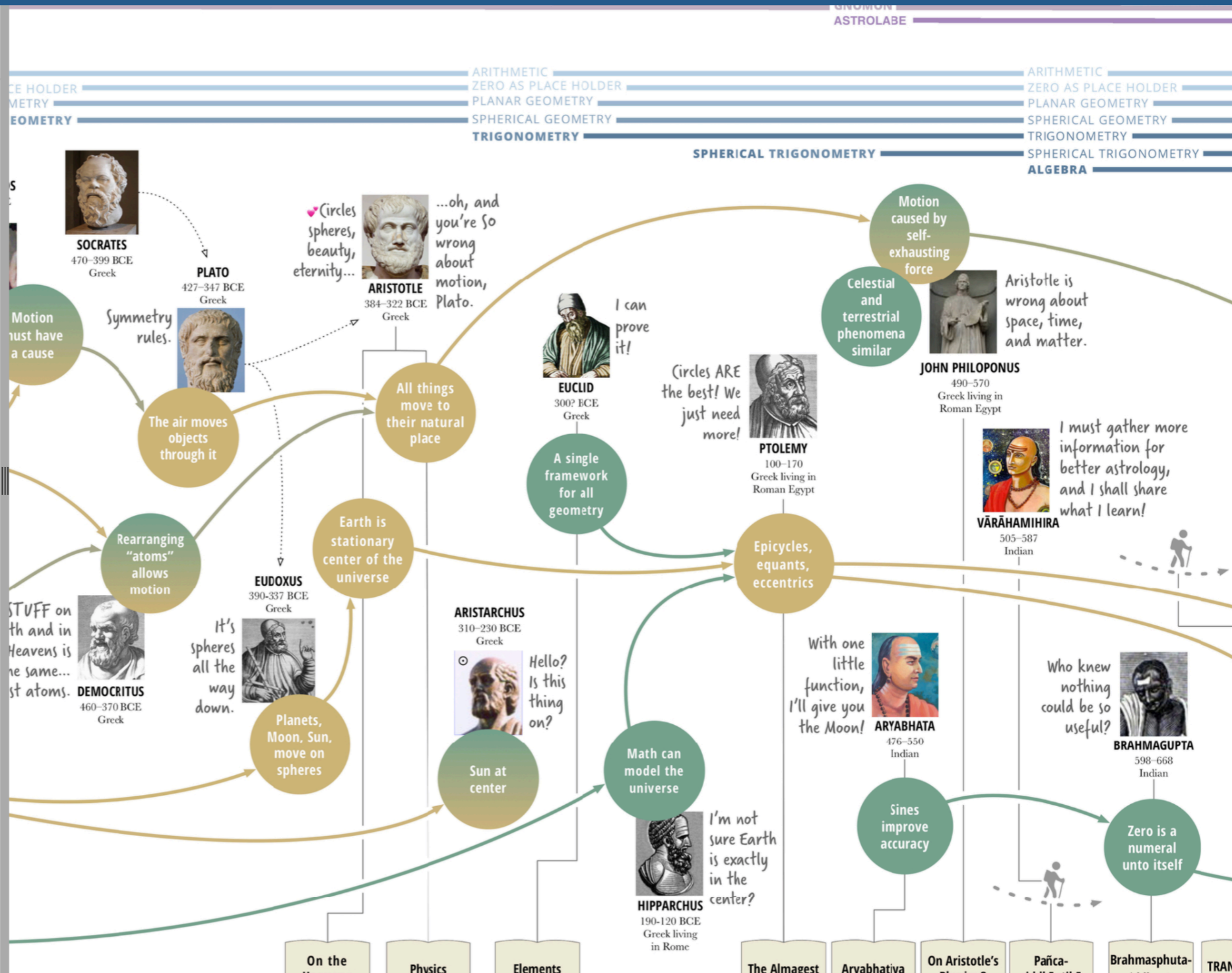
path-to.org

The air moves objects through it

## Plato (~427 - ~347 BCE) - Symmetry rules.

According to Plato, an object is moved through a medium (for example, air or water) by the medium itself. In his *Timaeus*, Plato claimed that an object is passive, and that the medium surrounding an object is the active agent responsible for movement. Plato's greatest student, Aristotle, strongly disagreed. (Worry not, though, Plato and Aristotle, and so many who came after, agreed completely that symmetry and beauty are essential parts of the Universe, and of understanding it.)

Consider the example of an arrow shot from a bow, which is often used to demonstrate ideas about theories of motion. In Plato's view, as the arrow and bowstring move through the air, they set the air in motion so that as soon as the arrow leaves the hand of the archer, the air (medium) continues to *move* the arrow (object). Plato argued that the air created a circular thrust, or mutual replacement, in which the air at the tip of the arrowhead moved to the back of the fletching and took the space that would otherwise be left empty by the arrow's passing. The air from the front that replaced the air in back thus propelled the arrow forward. Though Plato *did not explain why* the arrow would cause a circular motion of the air (as opposed to, say, pushing the air forward in front of it), such a movement of the medium prevented a(n abhorred) void or vacuum from forming behind the object. Since vacuums were considered, at least by Plato

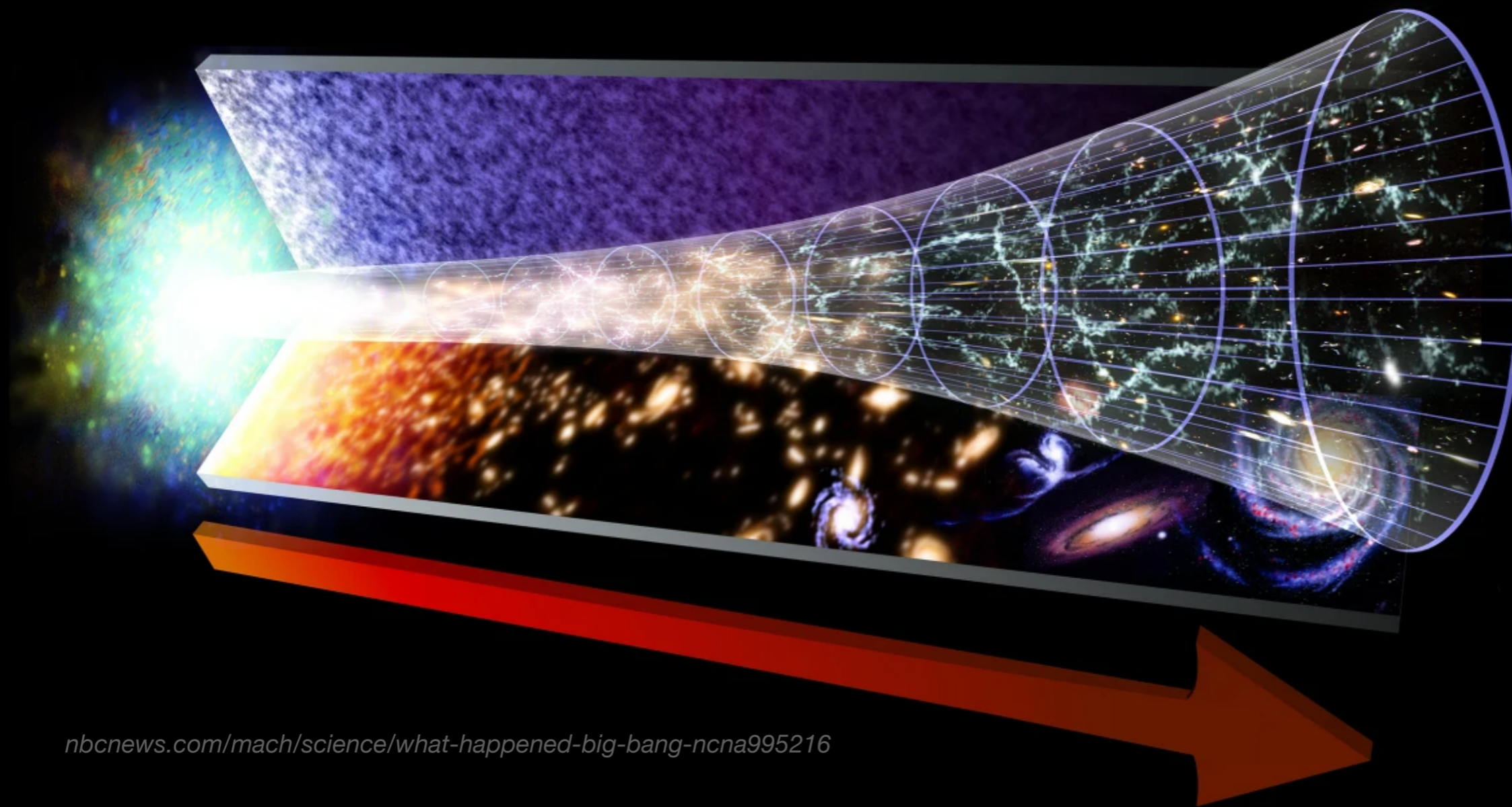




## PLATO, ON TIME: “A MOVING IMAGE OF ETERNITY”

When the father and creator saw the creature which he had made moving and living, the created image of the eternal gods, he rejoiced, and in his joy determined to make the copy still more like the original, and as this was an eternal living being, he sought to make the universe eternal, so far as might be. Now the nature of the ideal being was everlasting, but to bestow this attribute in its fullness upon a creature was impossible. Wherefore he resolved to have a moving image of eternity, and when he set in order the heaven, he made this image eternal but moving according to number, while eternity itself rests in unity, **and this image we call time**. For there were no days and nights and months and years before the heaven was created, but when he constructed the heaven he created them also. They are all parts of time, and the past and future are created species of time, which we unconsciously but wrongly transfer to eternal being, for we say that it 'was,' or 'is,' or 'will be,' but the truth is that 'is' alone is properly attributed to it, and that 'was' and 'will be' are only to be spoken of becoming in time, for they are motions, but that which is **immovably the same forever** cannot become older or younger by time, nor can it be said that it came into being in the past, or has come into being now, or will come into being in the future, nor is it subject at all to any of those states which affect moving and sensible things and of which generation is the cause. These are the forms of **time**, which **imitates eternity** and revolves according to a law of number. Moreover, when we say that what has become is become and what becomes is becoming, and that **what will become is about to become and that the nonexistent is nonexistent – all these are inaccurate modes of expression**. But perhaps this whole subject will be more suitably discussed on some other occasion (*Timaeus* 37c-38b).

*See also: [plato.stanford.edu/entries/time/#ReduPlatRespTime](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/time/#ReduPlatRespTime)*




[nbcnews.com/mach/science/what-happened-big-bang-ncna995216](http://nbcnews.com/mach/science/what-happened-big-bang-ncna995216)

The expansion of the Universe takes place in 4 dimensions (“spacetime”).

# What is time?

(to be discussed at your tables, please add notes in Canvas discussion)



**Alyssa Goodman** AUTHOR  
Feb 1 1:17pm

What is time?

[Reply](#)

# The Prediction Project

## PREDICTIONX: THE PAST & PRESENT OF THE FUTURE



### ESSENTIALS

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**Understanding Uncertainty**

**Study Design**

**Timelines**



### Omens, Oracles & Prophecies

#### DIVINER'S GUIDE: TABLE OF CONTENTS

ASTROLOGY	MAYA SPACETIME
AZTEC RITUALS	ORACLE BONES
CASTING LOTS	ORACLE OF DELPHI
COMETS	ROMAN AUGURY
EGYPTIAN STATUE	TAROT
HARUSPICY	TASSEOGRAPHY
IFA	

**Why predict?**

**conversations**



### THE RISE OF THEORY

Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece & Rome  
Islamic Science

**The Path to Newton**

▶ Indian Mathematics  
European Renaissance

*The Royal Society*

**Lost without Longitude (Navigation)**

▶ *Help, I'm Lost!*  
Tools of the Navigator

**John Snow & Cholera**  
▶ Cholera Map



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- ▶ Epidemiology
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- ▶ Population Genetics

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Interactive Resource

▶ video(s)

Coming Soon

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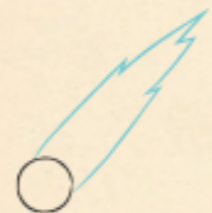
ASTROLOGY



AZTEC  
RITUALS



CASTING  
LOTS



COMETS



EGYPTIAN  
STATUE



HARUSPICY



IFA



MAYA  
SPACETIME



ORACLE  
BONES



ORACLE  
OF DELPHI



ROMAN  
AUGURY



TAROT



TASSEOGRAPHY

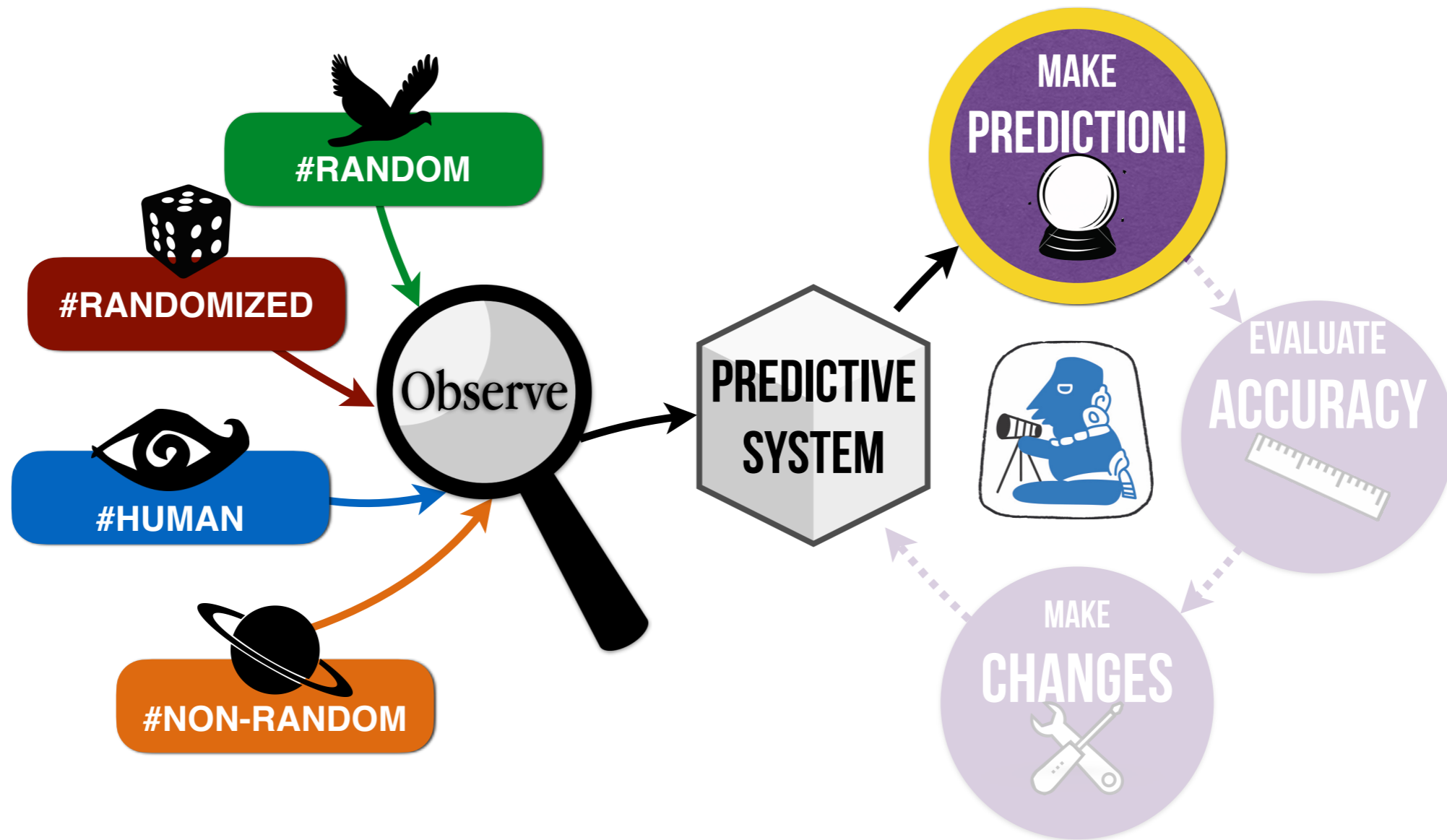


# ROMAN AUGURY

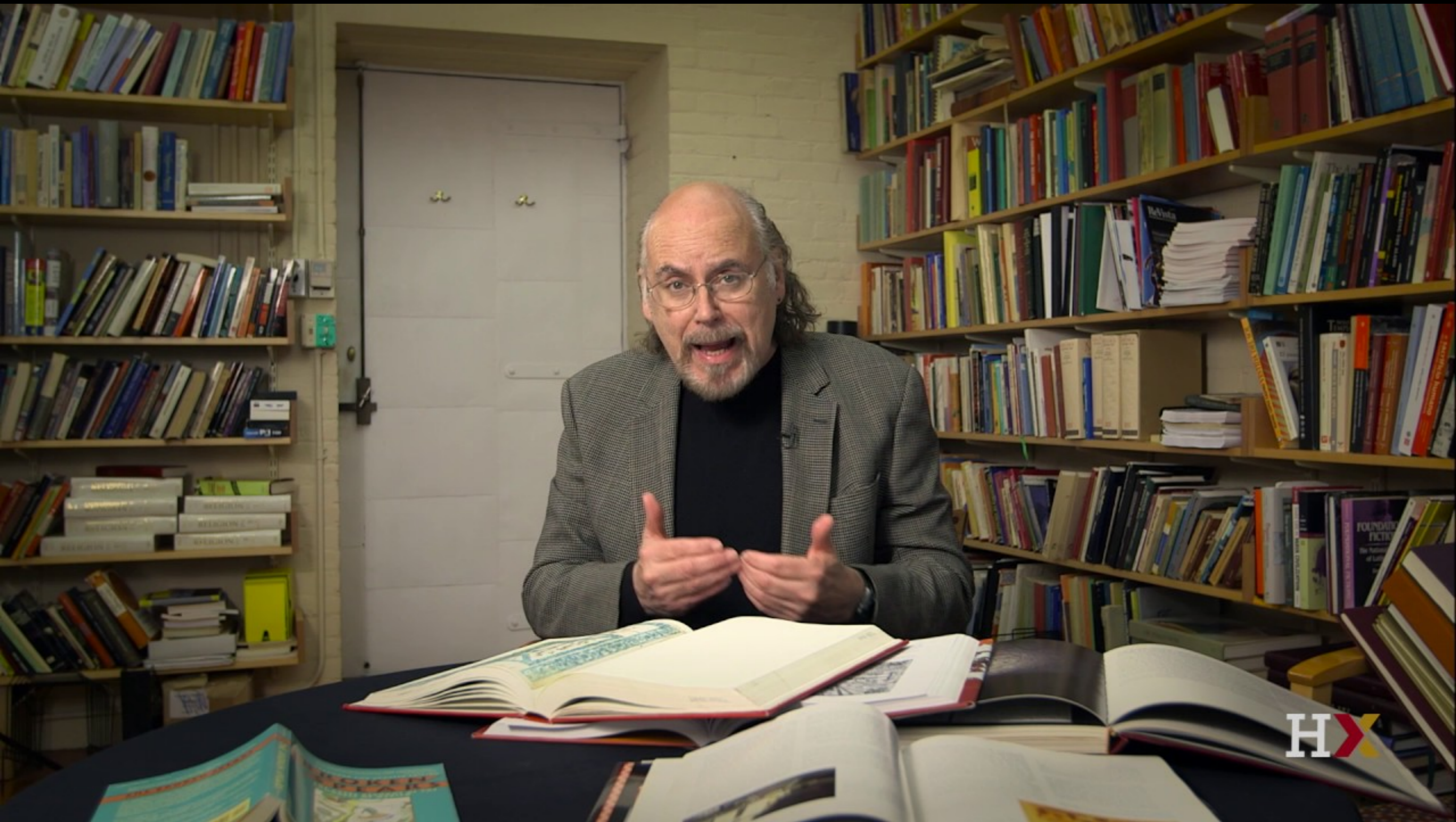
*"Senior political officials of the Roman state had to take auspices before any major political event like elections." —Emma Dench*



(see “Roman Bird Augury” video on edX)



We too could once *see* the future...?



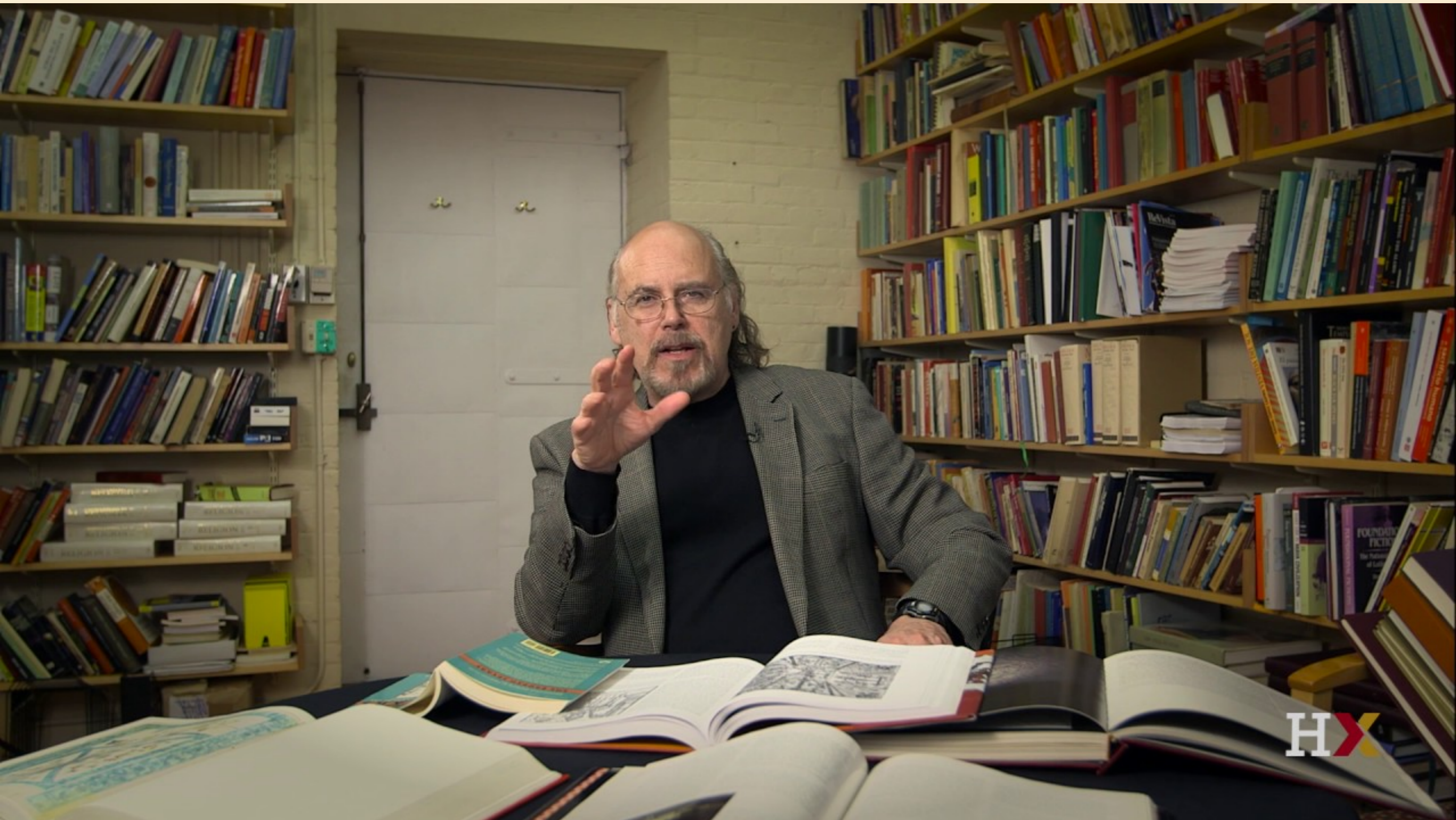
...now we need *hints from Nature*





AZTEC  
RITUALS

*“As though a breath on a mirror”* —David Carrasco



(see “Aztec Mirrors” video on edX)

[Course](#)[Discussion](#)[Progress](#)[HarvardX on YouTube](#)[PredictionX Map](#)[Acknowledgements](#)[Instructor](#)

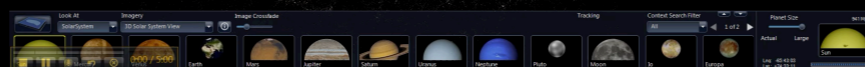
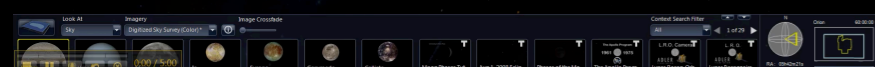
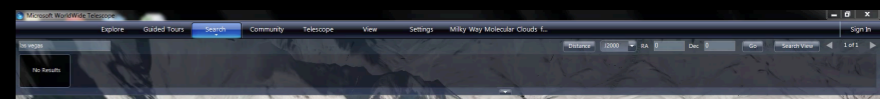
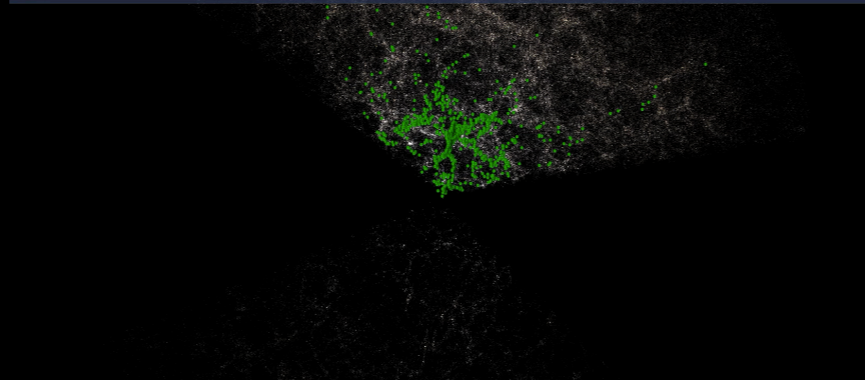
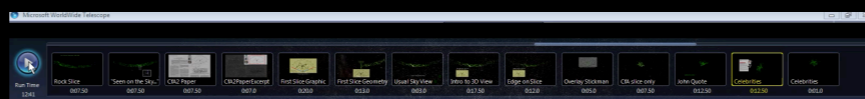
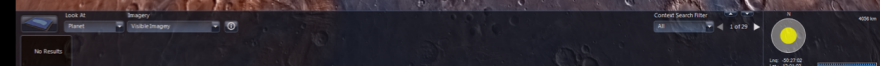
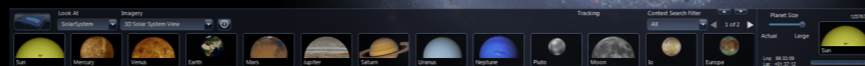
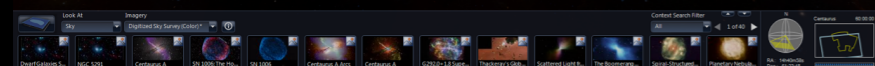
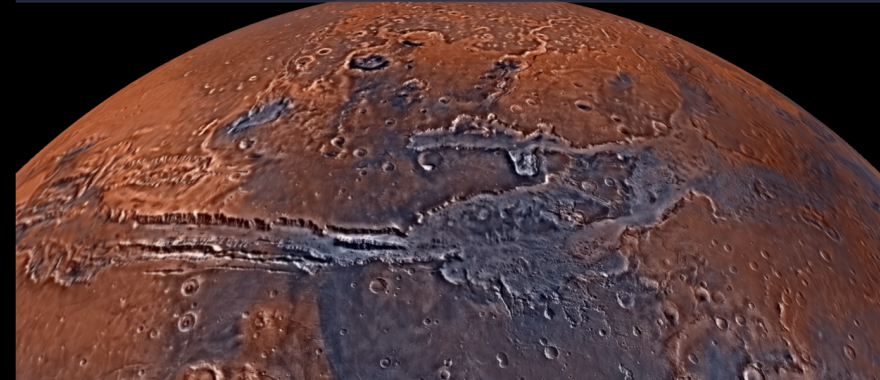
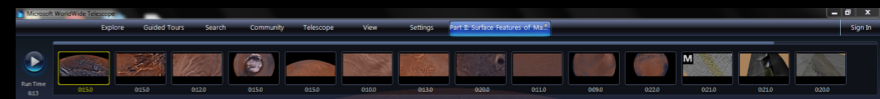
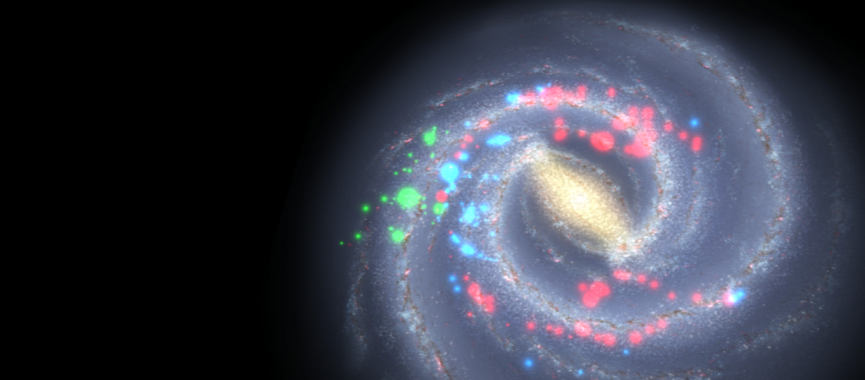
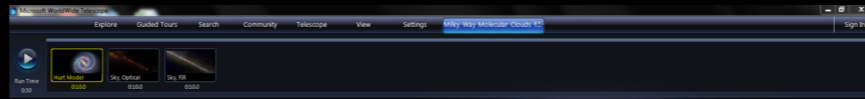
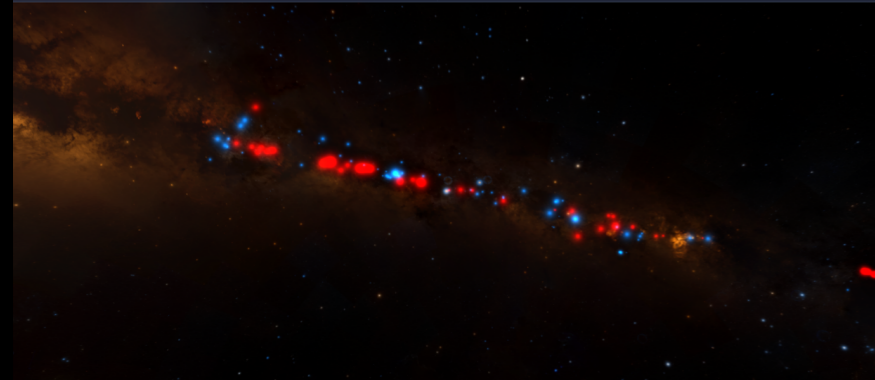
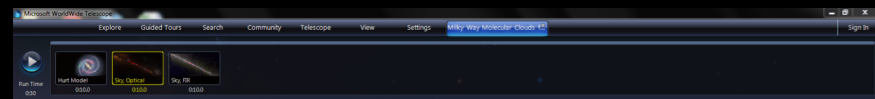
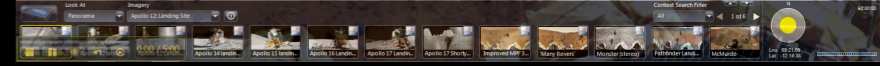
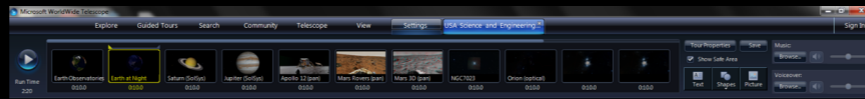
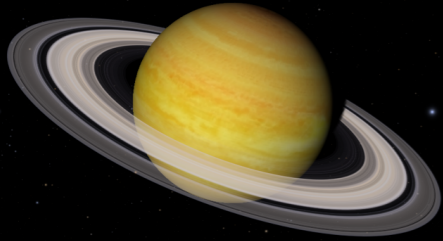
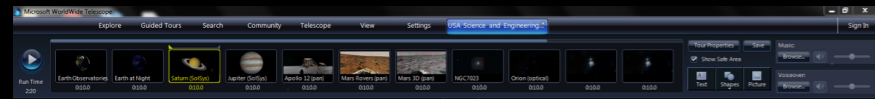
## Contributing Content Experts

*(Please "Meet the Expert" on each page of the Diviner's Guide for bios)*

- **Astrology:** Kathleen Medina, practitioner
- **Aztec Rituals:** David Carrasco, Professor, Harvard Divinity School
- **Casting Lots:** Laura Nasrallah, Professor, Harvard Divinity School
- **Comets:** John Overholt, Curator, Houghton Library, Harvard University; Owen Gingerich, Professor, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences; and Sara Schechner, Curator of the Collection of Historical Science Instruments at Harvard University
- **Egyptian Statue:** Peter Der Manuelian, Professor, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- **Haruspicy:** Piotr Steinkeller, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Science
- **Ifa:** Jacob Olupona, Professor, Harvard Divinity School
- **Maya Spacetime:** Dylan Clark, University of North Carolina (Asheville)
- **Oracle Bones:** Rowan Flad, Professor, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- **Oracle of Delphi & Roman Augury:** Emma Dench, Professor, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- **Tarot:** Colin Fredericks, practitioner; James Leonard, independent performance artist
- **Tasseography:** Cengiz Cemaloglu, practitioner



# Quick intro to Celestial Motions & WorldWide Telescope



visit [worldwidetelescope.org](http://worldwidetelescope.org) to follow along





MAYA  
SPACETIME

“Astronomical events were the physical manifestations of gods.”—Dylan Clark

**The Prediction Project**  
The Past and Present of the Future

f t y i e

HOME ABOUT MATERIALS COURSES TALKS WRITINGS PRESS FORUM

Astrology Aztec Rituals Casting Lots Comets Egyptian Statue Ha

### Maya Spacetime

**How to seek a prediction:** Visit a priest/calendar expert

**(Sample) Equipment:** Mayan Calendar

**Personnel:** Priests trained in interpreting the meaning of dates

[Note: this short description of Maya Spacetime is supplemented by [a longer essay](#) provided by Harvard expert Prof. Dylan Clark.]

The Maya Civilization of southern Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and western Honduras developed as early as 2000 BCE, but the major kingdoms rose and fell between 300 BCE and 1250 CE, though even the Classic Maya (c.250-900 CE) cities were never part of a unified empire like the 15th century Aztecs. Rather, Maya kingdoms formed alliances and regional city-states that competed and cooperated with each other over the course of nearly three millennia.

In Maya belief, supernatural beings had the power to intervene in human affairs on earth, only certain humans were able to interact directly with the upper and lower spirit worlds and forces, and these individuals were either royalty who served as intermediaries between gods and humans or specially trained priests and other ritual specialists with the appropriate knowledge, tools, and ancestry.

*hints from*

Note: All Omens & Oracles Materials are on edX, and also at PredictionX.org.  
(Also, see the origin of the PredictionX logo, in the Madrid Codex)



# The Barutu

(Ancient Mesopotamia)

# Newton's *Principia*

(the real one from 1687)

# Finkel's *Ark Before Noah*

(I ♥ Cuneiform)

## Bārûtu

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Bārûtu**, the "art of the diviner," is a monumental ancient Mesopotamian compendium of the science of extispicy or sacrificial omens stretching over around a hundred cuneiform tablets which was assembled in the Neo-Assyrian/Babylonian period based upon earlier recensions.<sup>[1]:46</sup> At the Assyrian court, the term extended to encompass sacrificial prayers and rituals, commentaries and organ models.<sup>[2]:619–620</sup> The *ikribu* was the name of collections of incantations to accompany the extispicy. The *bārûtu*'s extant predecessors date back to Old Babylonian times with the liver models from Mari (pictured right) and where the order of the exta were largely fixed.

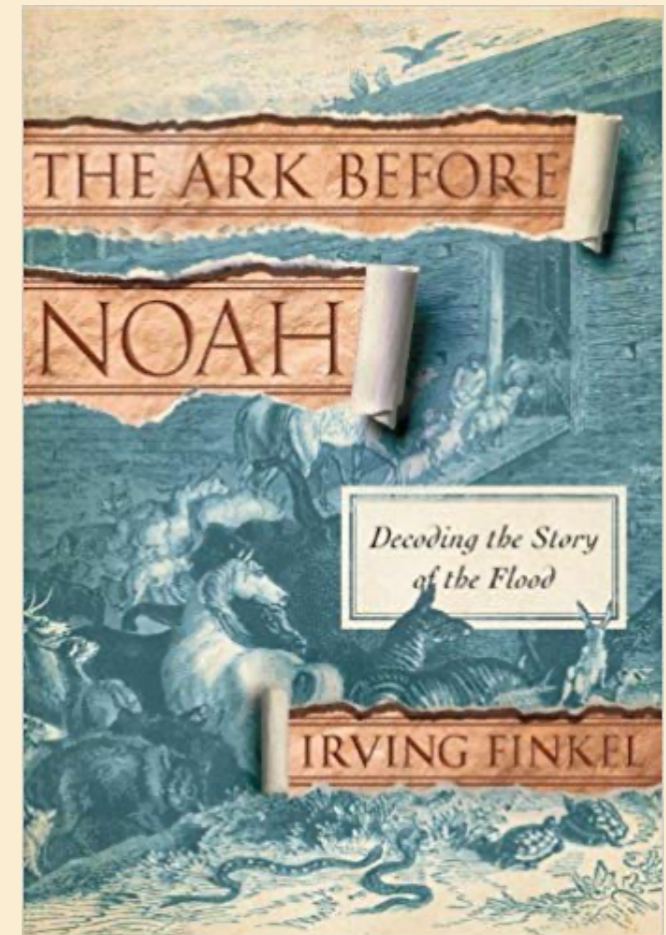
The task of the *bārû*, or diviner, was summarized as *lipit qāti hiniq immeri naqē niqē nēpešti bārûti*, "the 'touch of hand', the restriction<sup>?</sup> of the sheep, the offering of the sacrifice, the performance of extispicy."<sup>[3]:23</sup> This required elaborate ritual purity, achieved through washing hands and mouth, donning fresh clothing, placing tamarisk and cedar into the diviner's ears, anointing and fumigation with sulfur<sup>[3]:29</sup> – all measures to avoid the outcome of the apodosis *lā ellu niqâ ilput*, "an unclean person has touched the sacrifice." The autopsy then proceeded in a counter-clockwise direction, beginning with the liver, the lungs, then the breastbone, vertebrae, ribs, colon and finally the heart.

### Contents [hide]

- 1 The text
  - 1.1 The parts of the *bārûtu*
  - 1.2 The copyists
- 2 References

### The text [edit]

The work is particularly difficult to interpret due to the extensive use of graphemes, but included an estimated 8,000 omens.<sup>[2]:620</sup> These were the accumulation of a millennium and a half of observations of political, social and private events and the divinatory signs that accompanied them but bereft of their chronological context or other identifying marker and stylistically posed in the form of a prediction. Occasionally, an attribution is made to a king, but it is generally archaic:



Phenomenon

Observation

Data

Rule

Theory

Explanation

Prediction



TAROT

*“Seeing” what we already know,  
with artist James Leonard.*

### The Tent of Casually Observed Phenologies



see video clip from 6:16 - ~11:30

# Prediction: Week 2

Welcome “back”

Time & Space ( Venice)

*What’s is time? (Discussion)*

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Breath on a Mirror

[ WWT Celestial Mechanics Primer]

Ancient Mesopotamia

Extispicy, by Declan Maloney

discussions of Diviner’s guide systems

[expertise, Framework, era]

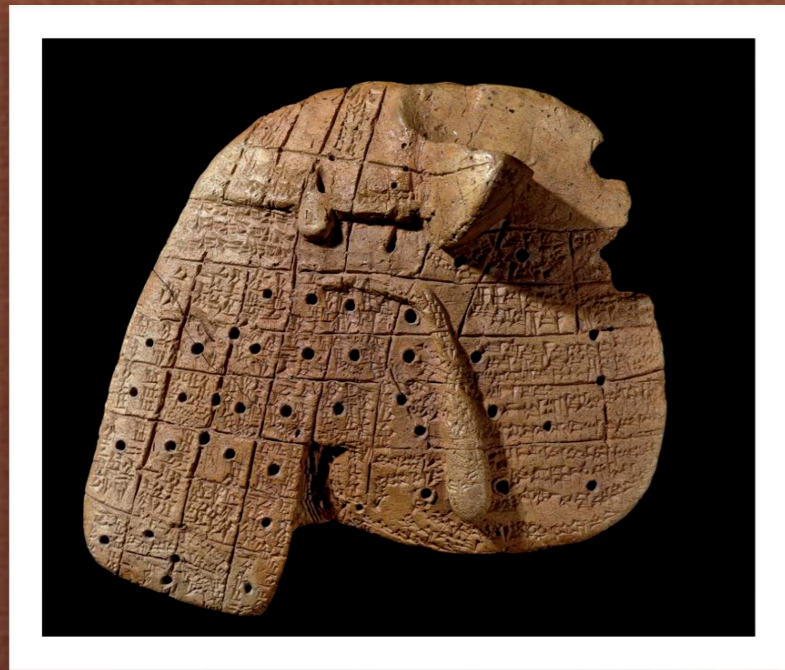
choosing a System for the Fair

table  
research

consult w/students & staff

[Cross-cultural Conversations Intro]

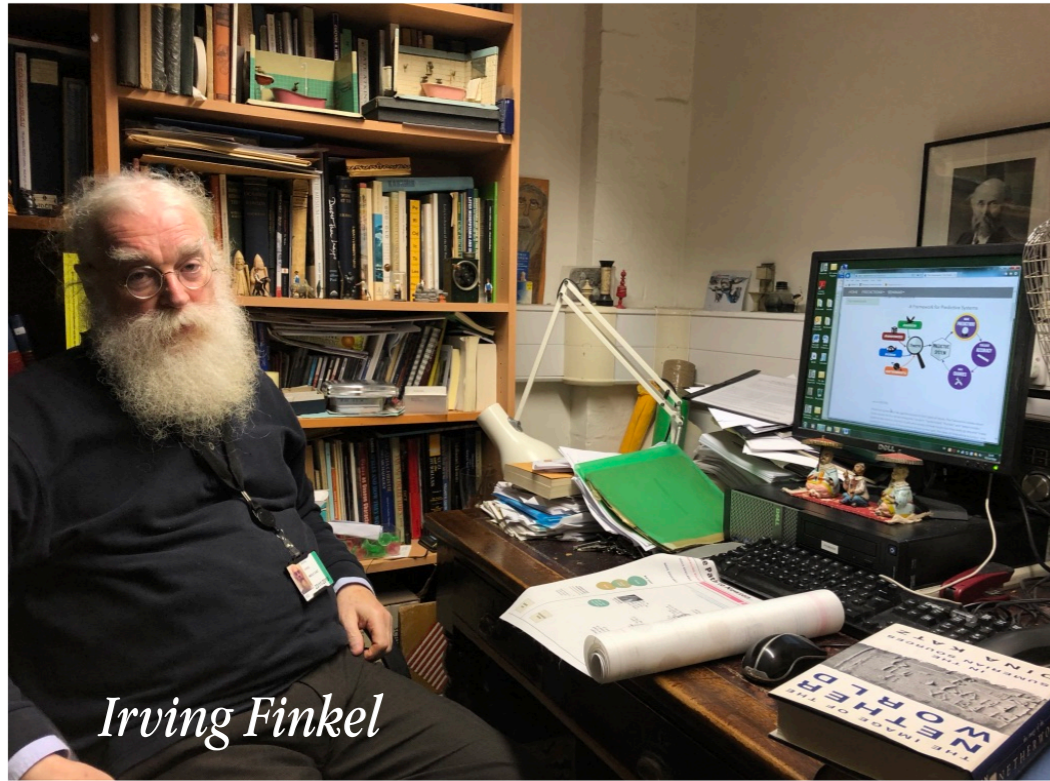
SECTION PREVIEW: Student Predictions  
( from Journals)



**Ancient Mesopotamia**

**Extispicy, by Declan Maloney**





I am Ashurbanipal  
king of the world,  
king of Assyria

The BP exhibition  
8 November 2018 -  
24 February 2019  
Sponsored by  
BP

American Friends of the  
British Museum  
Walter and Leonore Annenberg  
Asahi Shimbun

BP  
The British Museum Company  
The Clore Foundation and  
The Vivien Duffield Foundation

# “I am Ashurbanipal, King of the World, King of Assyria”



Will my unfaithful brother escape?  
Learned textbooks explained how the divination system worked in general. Reports detail the specific questions asked, features observed in sacrificial animals and answers reported by diviners (7):

“Now Ashurbanipal, King of Assyria... has heard: “Shamash-shumu-ukin is fleeing to Elam.” Is the rumor true? Five unfavorable features in the divination: it is unfavorable. Month Tishri, 15th day, eponym year of Sagab. Reported by Dari-shamu and Dannaya.”  
Nineveh, 651 BC  
Clay  
British Museum



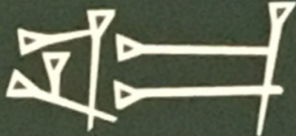











Assyrian experts examine a sacrificed sheep to find the divine answer to an important royal question.



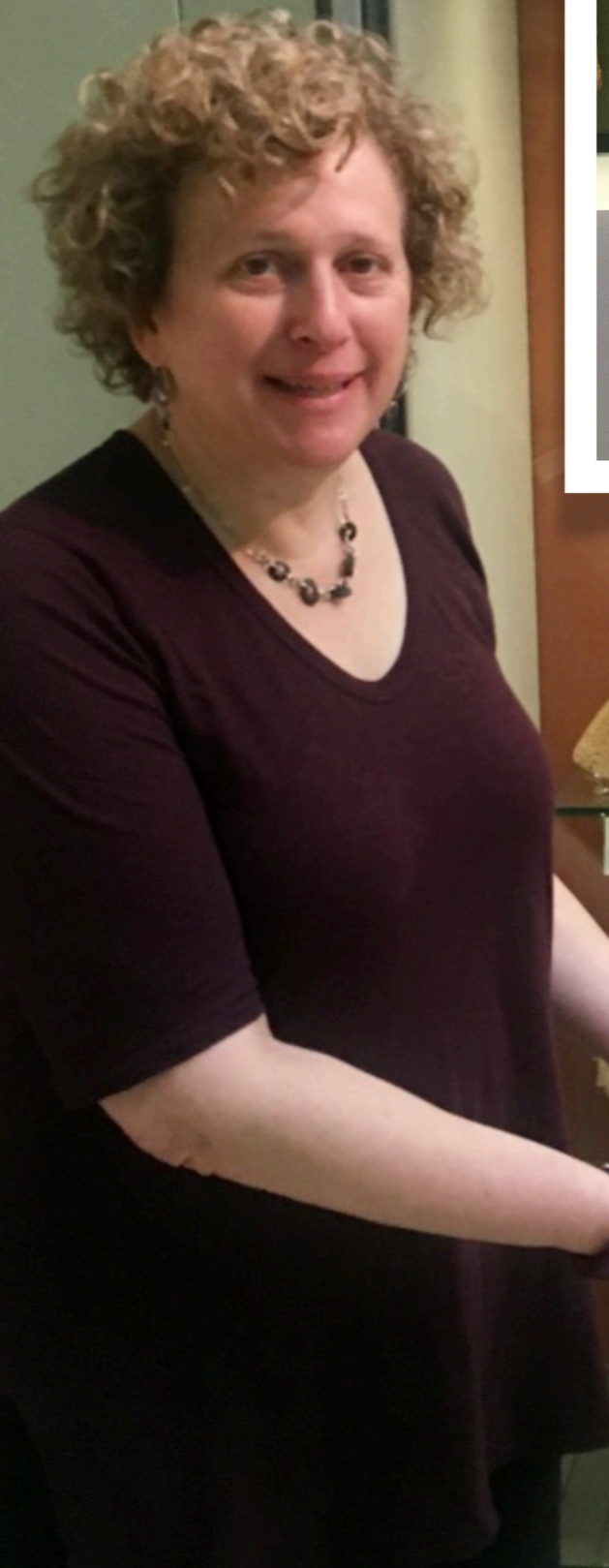
Understanding the will of the gods was the central pillar of Mesopotamian scholarship. Ashurbanipal would have checked the omens before taking any important decision. The most common technique was to sacrifice a sheep and examine its internal organs. This lung-shaped tablet (2) was an ancient teaching tool. Other techniques sought meaning from dreams (2), rain (3), and sex (4).

The omens were not always positive. Special magic and rituals were used to avert negative predictions. Scribes drew up lists of spells to counter all sorts of misfortunes (5). The Assyrians practiced a remarkable ritual. If a king's life was thought to be at risk, a substitute would replace him on the throne for up to 100 days (6). When the danger had passed, the king could take back the throne and the substitute would then be executed and given a royal burial.  
860-830 BC  
British Museum

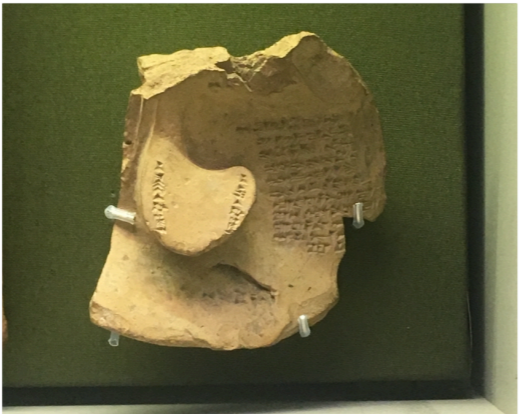
About 3000 BC	About 2400 BC	About 2000 BC	About 700 BC	
				<i>sag</i> head
				<i>ninda</i> food
				<i>gu</i> to eat

The evolution of signs from pictographs to cuneiform





22



Inscribed model of a sheep's lung for training apprentices to interpret ominous signs.

ME Rm.620



*If ... (the child) has a lion's ear, there will be a harsh king in the land.*

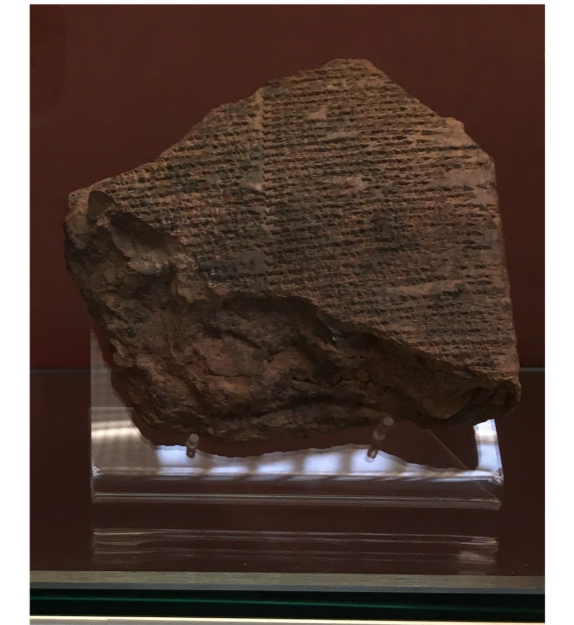
Omens from strange births  
ME K.2007

The 61st tablet of a series of omens about city life. There were 120 in all.

ME K.116

A sophisticated map of the stars and their alignments.

ME K.8538



Dream omens  
Probably from Sippar  
96951

## Substitute King Ritual



*The man who was given as the king's substitute shall die, and the bad omens will not affect that king.*

Ritual for the substitute king  
ME K.2600

*... treated with wine, washed with water and anointed with oil...*

Letter about the substitute king and queen  
ME K.112

## Ashurbanipal's Autobiography (668 BC)

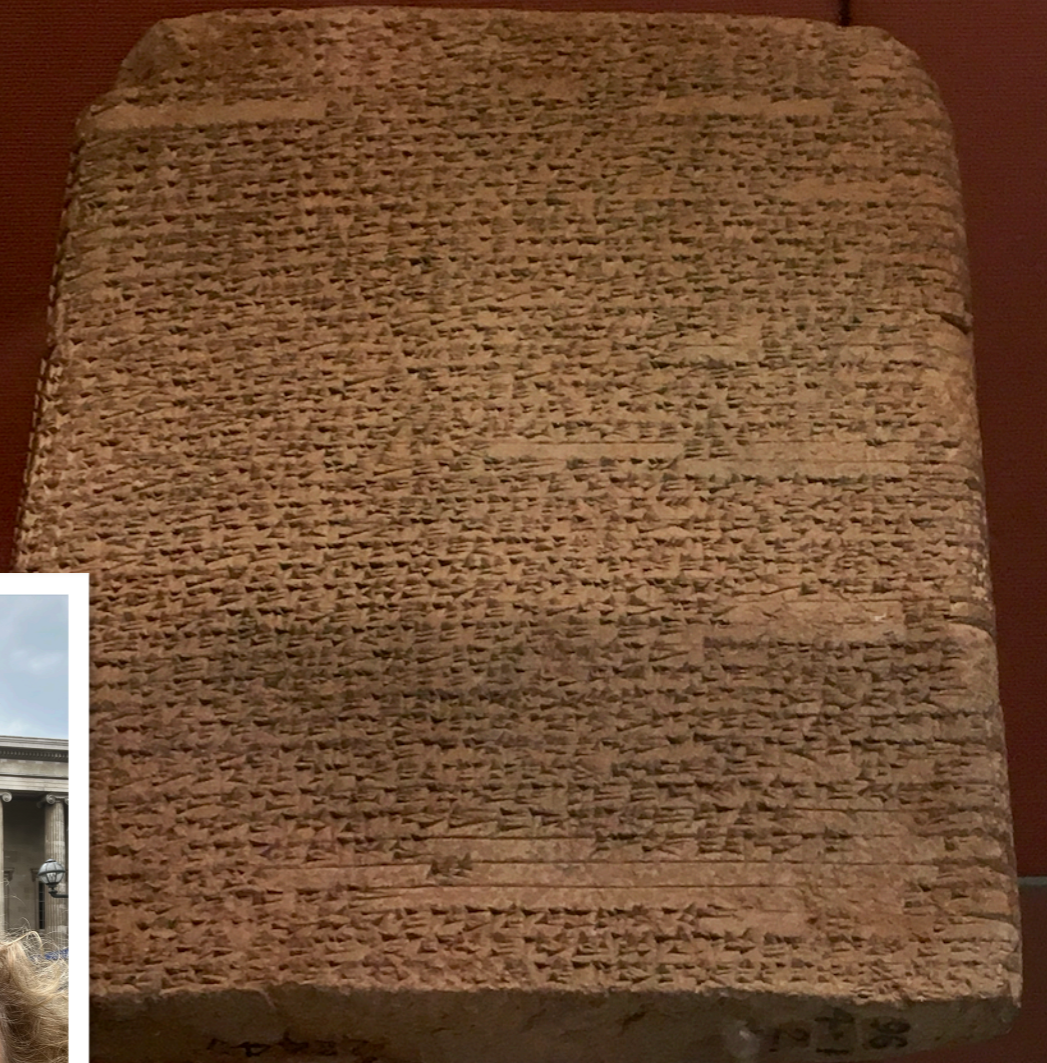


*You shall rule over the kings of the lands; you shall show them their frontiers and set the courses they take!*

Oracle, 674–672 BC  
ME K.883

*I learnt... the hidden secret of all the scribal art. I can recognise celestial and terrestrial omens and discuss them in the assembly of scholars.*

Autobiography of Ashurbanipal, 668 BC  
ME K.2694



**Bird omens**

These are omens drawn from the appearance and behaviour of birds.

ME 113915

Omens from patterns created by oil dropped in water

These omens were mainly about domestic matters.

ME 22447



# MESOPOTAMIA

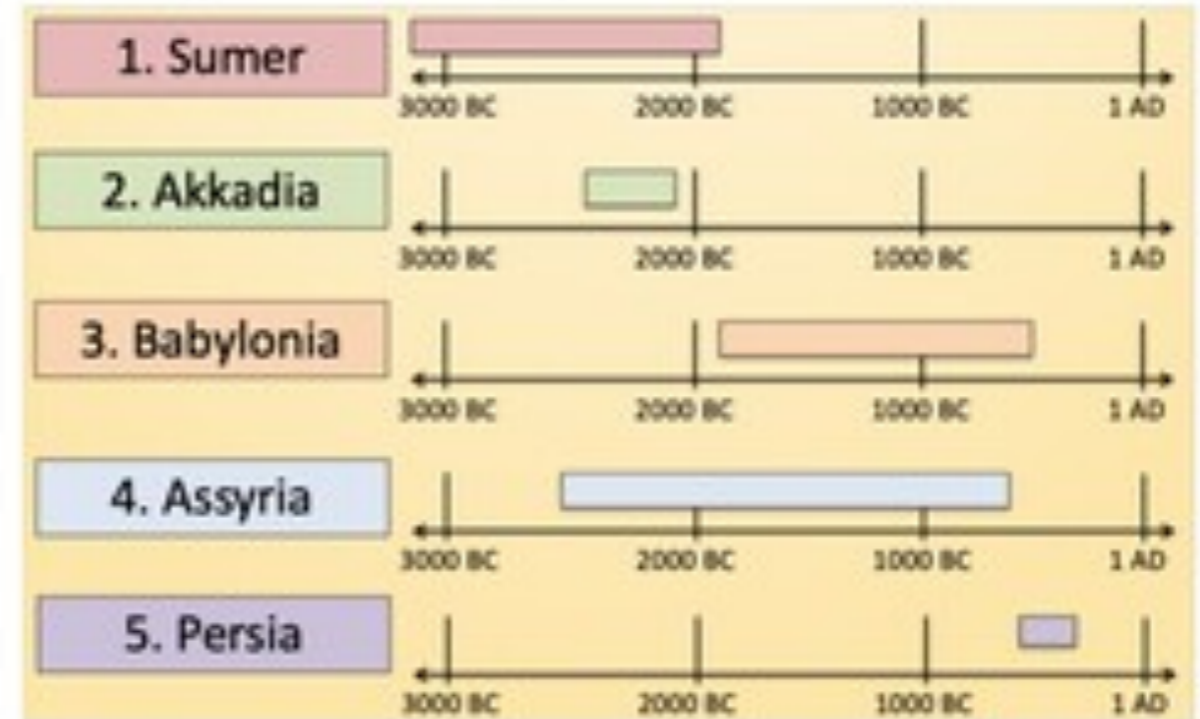
## THE HEARTLANDS



© LOOKLEX 2006



## Major Civilizations in Mesopotamia



## Timeline of Major Mesopotamian Civilizations:



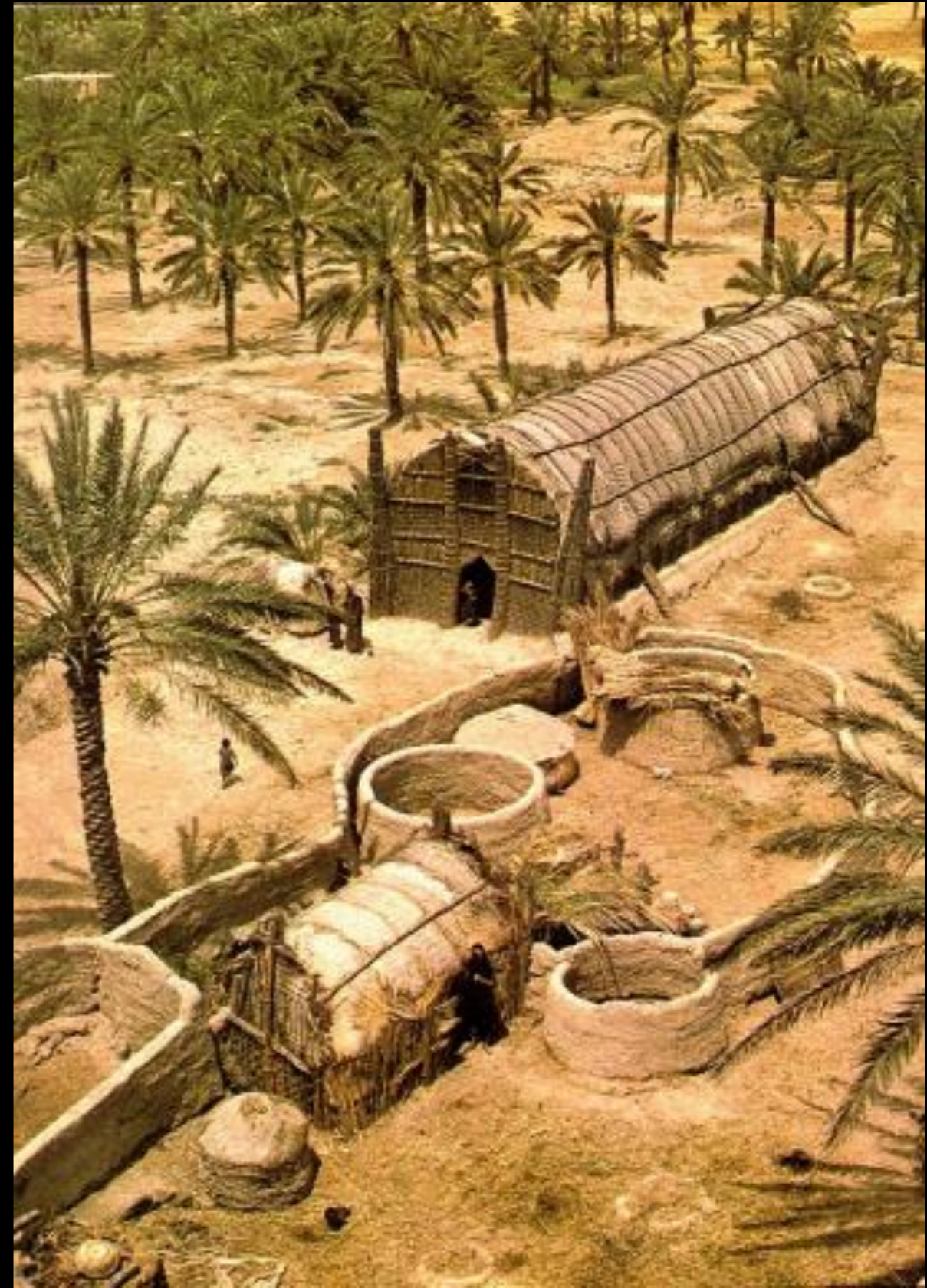
1. Sumer ~ 3500 - 1900 BC
2. Akkadia ~ 2334 - 2155 BC
3. Babylonia ~ 1900 - 539 BC
4. Assyria ~ 2500 - 605 BC
5. Persia ~ 550 - 334 BC



# Why Mesopotamia?









**The Sumerians**  
**(c. 5,500 – 2000 BCE)**



**The Akkadians**  
**(c. 2,500 – 2000 BCE)**



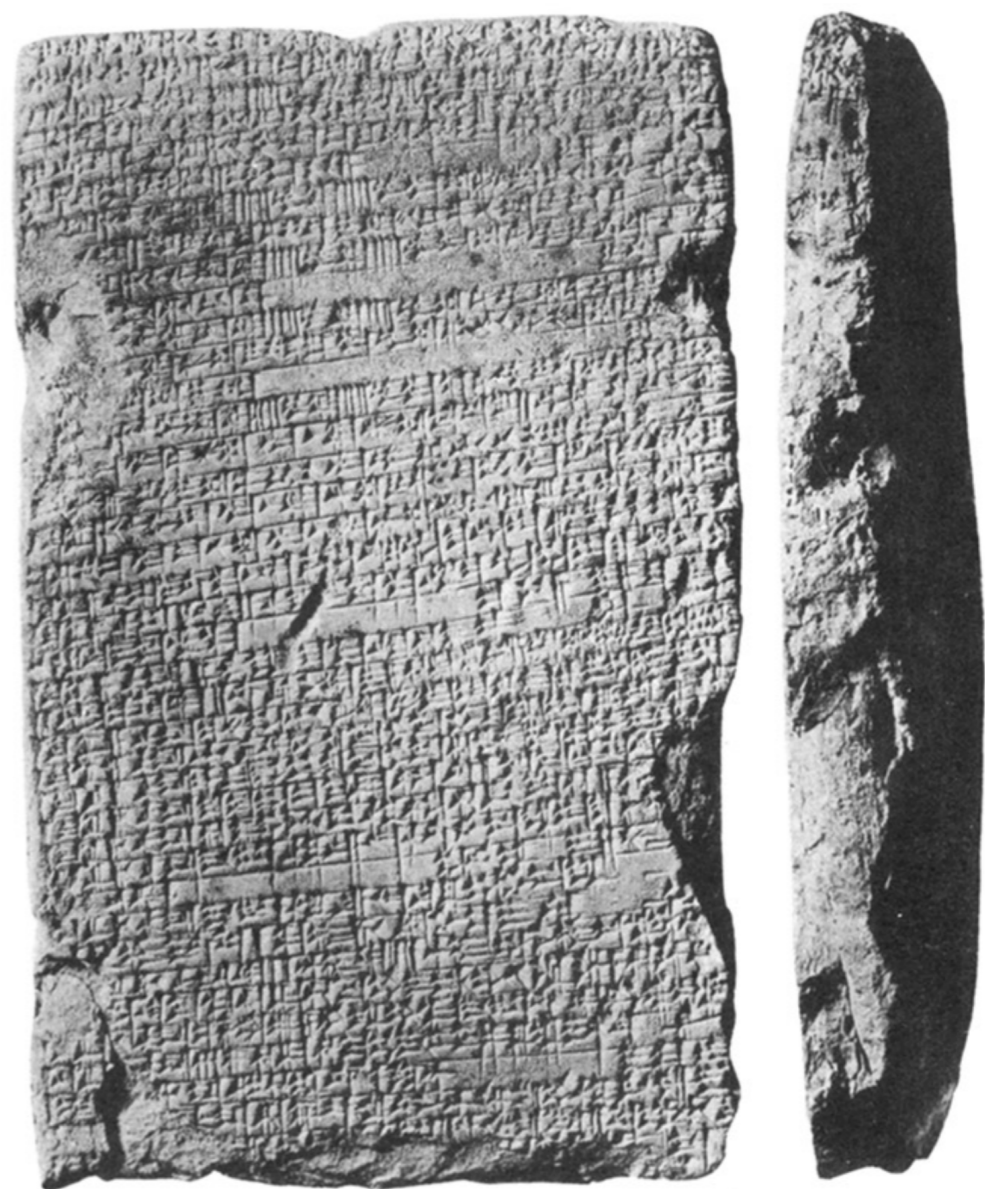




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# Prediction: Week 2

Welcome “back”

Time & Space ( Venice)

*What’s is time? (Discussion)*

Roman Augury

Breath on a Mirror

[ WWT Celestial Mechanics Primer]

Ancient Mesopotamia

Extispicy, by Declan Maloney

discussions of Diviner’s guide systems

[expertise, Framework, era]

choosing a System for the Fair

table  
research

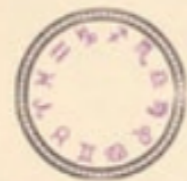
consult w/students & staff

[Cross-cultural Conversations Intro]

SECTION PREVIEW: Student Predictions  
( from Journals)

# Diviner's Guide

## DIVINER'S GUIDE: TABLE OF CONTENTS



ASTROLOGY



MAYA  
SPACETIME



AZTEC  
RITUALS



ORACLE  
BONES



CASTING  
LOTS



ORACLE

discussions of Diviner's guide systems

[expertise, Framework, era]



EGYPTIAN  
STATUE



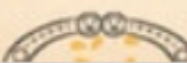
ROMAN  
AUGURY



HARUSPICY



TAROT



IFA



TASSEOGRAPHY

# Reminder: What's a "prediction"?

(motivational discussion questions from the GenEd 1112 syllabus)

*"Prediction" is a very common word in English, but what does it mean?*

How far is this "future"?

Is testability required? How about past data?

Is a prediction always part of a decision?

How is a decision different from a prediction?

Who really knows and doesn't know the future?

Why do we want to know? How can we know?

How does prediction manifest in your everyday life? In society?

Today? In the past? In the future?

# Reminder: What's a "prediction"? (v2 of Week 1 poll)

what-s-a-prediction-v2-results

## Response

attempting the impossible, often falsely

Predictions are a projection of our subconscious humanity

An educated guess about the future

Using a pool of gathered information to give a potential outcome or reality

using past events to make more informed choices about the future

A guess about the future

a claim about the future that is grounded in evidence from the present/past and can be tested in the future

Suggestion about the future based on an observation from the present/past

something that either alters a person's behavior or their perception of it

a statement about the future, potentially testable

data-driven distribution of potential events

refining systems designed to reveal future events

Not a definition: we talked about predictions affecting outcomes

Informed and reasonable idea (guess?) about what will come to pass

predictions are like poetry

Using present information to foretell the future

events forecasting

An evidence-based forecast of something in the future

A photograph of a Venetian canal scene. On the right, a large, ornate, light-colored building with classical architectural details like columns and arches stands prominently. To its right is a yellow building with dark shutters. In the foreground, several dark, ornate posts are in the water. The background is hazy and foggy, with a bright sun or light source on the left side of the frame, creating a soft glow. The overall atmosphere is misty and historical.

Reminder, also...

Do we really *want* to know?

How well *can* we know?

Do we *already* know?



Alyssa Goodman




AUTHOR

Feb 1 2:33pm

## Diviner's Guide Systems Discussion

Please include the name of your group's chosen system & then enter your comments.

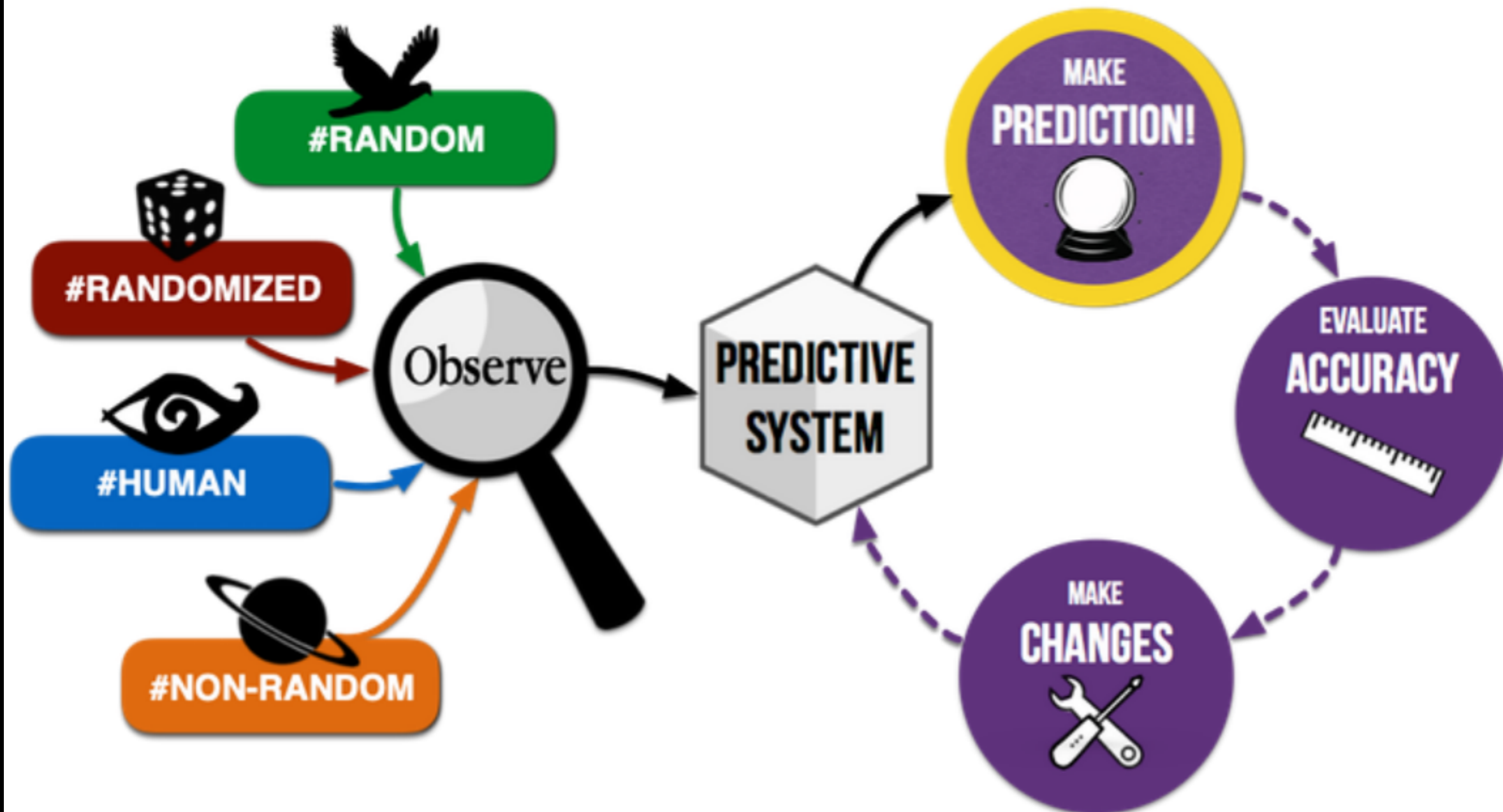
Reply

DIVINER'S GUIDE: TABLE OF CONTENTS			
	ASTROLOGY		MAYA SPACETIME
	AZTEC RITUALS		ORACLE BONES
	CASTING LOTS		ORACLE OF DELPHI
	COMETS		ROMAN AUGURY
	EGYPTIAN STATUE		TAROT
	HARUSPICY		TASSEOGRAPHY
	IFA		



# Framework Distribution

## A Framework for Predictive Systems



# Prediction: Week 2

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SECTION PREVIEW: Student Predictions  
( from Journals)

# Coming Next Week: PREDICTIVE SYSTEMS FAIR

Detailed Instructions available on Canvas



**#RANDOM**

**#HUMAN**

**#RANDOMIZED**

**#NON-RANDOM**

**When & where did this system come from?**

**Did it change over time?**

**Is this system still used? If so, by whom?**

## **PREDICTIVE SYSTEMS FAIR**

*Sample inquiries...*

**How accurate?**

**Does that matter?**

**Do you need much training to use the system?**

**Would you use this system in your life today?**

**For important issues?**

**For fun?**

# Please open Canvas “Assignments” now...



## PREDICTIVE SYSTEMS FAIR

### Week 3

- Reading for Week 3 (can be done after Prediction Fair, or before)  
Due Feb 10 at 3pm
- edX Omens, Oracles & Prophecies (Convos)  
Due Feb 8 at 3pm | 40 pts
- Presenting a Divinatory System  
Due Feb 12 at 3pm | 140 pts

## Presenting a Divinatory System

Start Assignment

Due Feb 12 by 3pm Points 140 Submitting a website url

As we discussed in class, you should choose a divinatory system *outside* of the realm of (what today we would call) "science" to present to your classmates at our Divination Systems Fair, on 8 February 2023, during class time. The Wikipedia page on "[Methods of Divination](#)" offers a good list of options, but you can go beyond that with any system *not* of your own invention (that comes later in the course!). You need to choose a system for which you will be able to cite reputable sources in your description of it. We'll use this "[Divination Fair 2023](#)" [Google Doc](#) for signups, during Week 2. Try not to choose exactly the same system as anyone else. And, yes, it's alright to expand upon one of the systems in the edX Diviner's Guide if that's of particular interest.

### More specifically--here's what you need to do:

1. **Choose your system**, and enter it in the list on the "[Divination Fair 2023](#)" [Google Doc](#)
2. If it turns out the system you chose in class isn't a good option given the other numbered items below, you can change your mind by editing your entry on the "[Divination Fair 2023](#)" [Google Doc](#)
3. **Research your system** using any resources you can find, including books, websites, videos, etc. Be sure to keep track of your sources, as we will ask you to cite them (see below).
4. Create an **online description** (e.g. using a Google Doc you create ) that resembles a page from the edX Diviner's guide. We have created this [template](#) for your convenience, showing exactly what we'd like you to do. Make sure to include #hashtags referring back to the [Framework for Predictive Systems](#), as in the template. **Add the link to your online description** to the same "[Divination Fair 2023](#)" [Google Doc](#) you used to choose your system--other students may want to refer to it there during the Fair.
5. Assemble any materials you need to **demonstrate** your system. If you need to make facsimile materials, that's fine. If you can only show a video of what would be needed, that is also fine. You do NOT need to actually make predictions during the Fair: you need only show the tools and explain how the system works. We do not expect you to be an expert in using the system--instead you should learn and be prepared to **explain how, when, where, and why it was and/or is used.**
6. **For the fair**, make sure you have the materials you need for your demonstration. **Visual aids (images, props) will be appreciated, and costumes are optional.** If you need supplies and the cost is a problem, please let Prof. Goodman know, at least a few days in advance, with a Canvas message, and she may be able to help.
7. About a dozen or so students, in small groups, will experience your system over the course of the fair, so be prepared to explain it more than once!

This assignment will be reviewed via anonymous peer review by your classmates, and those reviews will inform the grade given by your TF. The total number of units (points) available is 140. The "submission" here should be the URL for the (Google Doc) description of your Divinatory System.



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

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- Featured content
- Current events
- Random article
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- Download as PDF
- Printable version

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- Português
- Suomi

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# Methods of divination

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the numerous varieties of divination. For divination as a whole, see [Divination](#).*

This article **has an unclear citation style**. The references used may be made clearer with a different or consistent style of [citation](#) and [footnoting](#). (December 2013) ([Learn how and when to remove this template message](#))

**Methods of divination** can be found around the world, and many cultures practice the same methods under different names. During the [Middle Ages](#), scholars coined terms for many of these methods—some of which had hitherto been unnamed—in [Medieval Latin](#), very often utilizing the suffix *-mantia* when the art seemed more mystical (ultimately from [Ancient Greek](#) μαντεία, *manteía*, 'prophecy' or 'the power to prophesy') and the suffix *-scopia* when the art seemed more scientific (ultimately from Greek σκοπεῖν, *skopeîn*, 'to observe'). Names like *drimimantia*, *nigromantia*, and *horoscopia* arose, along with other [pseudosciences](#) such as [phrenology](#) and [physiognomy](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

Some forms of divination are much older than the Middle Ages, like [haruspication](#), while others (such as [megapolisomancy](#) or coffee-based [tasseomancy](#)) originated in the 20th and 21st centuries.

The chapter "How Panurge consulteth with Herr Trippa" of *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, a parody on occult treatises of [Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa](#), contains a list of over two dozen "mancies", described as "common knowledge".<sup>[2]</sup>

Part of a series on the

## Paranormal

<b>Main articles</b>	<a href="#">[show]</a>
<b>Skepticism</b>	<a href="#">[show]</a>
<b>Related</b>	<a href="#">[show]</a>
<b>Parapsychology</b>	<a href="#">[show]</a>

V · T · E

# en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methods\_of\_divination

A [\[edit\]](#)

- **abacomancy** /ˈæbəkoʊmænsi/ (also **amathomancy**): by dust ([Hebrew](#) *ʾābāq*, dust + [Greek](#) *manteía*, prophecy)
- **acultomancy** /əˈkʌltoʊmænsi/ (also **acutomancy**): by needles (from *acutomancy* below, influenced by [Latin](#) *acus*, needle, or *aculeus*, prickle or thorn)
- **acutomancy** /əˈkjuːtoʊmænsi/ → see [ACULTOMANCY](#) (Latin *acus* [*acut-*], needle + [Greek](#) *manteía*, prophecy)
- **adromancy** /ˈædroʊmænsi/ → see [ALOMANCY](#) (from *idromancy* below, influenced by *alomancy*)
- **adryomancy** → see [HYDROMANCY](#) (metathesis of *hydromancy*)
- **aeromancy** /ˈɛəroʊmænsi/: by atmospheric conditions ([Greek](#) *āēr*, air + *manteía*, prophecy)
- **agalmatomancy** /əˈɡɑːlmətoʊmænsi/:<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> by statues ([Greek](#) *ágalma* [*agálmatos*], statue + *manteía*, prophecy)
- **aichmomancy** /ˈɛkmoʊmænsi/: by sharp objects ([Greek](#) *aikhmē*, spearhead + *manteía*, prophecy)
- **ailuromancy**/**aeluromancy** → see [THERIOMANCY](#)
- **alectormancy**/**alectromancy** /əˈlɛktroʊmænsi/: by [rooster](#) sacrifice ([Greek](#) *alektor*, rooster + *manteía*, prophecy)
- **alectryomancy**/**alectoromancy**: by rooster divination → see [THERIOMANCY](#)
- **aleuromancy**<sup>1</sup> /əˈljuəroʊmænsi/: by flour; see also [CHARTOMANCY](#) ([Greek](#) *áleuron*, [meal](#) + *manteía*, prophecy)
- **alomancy**/**Halomancy** /ˈæloʊmænsi/ (also **adromancy**): by salt ([Greek](#) *háls*, salt + *manteía*, prophecy)
- **alphitomancy** /ælfitoʊmænsi/: by barley ([Greek](#) *alphis* [*alphit-*], barley + *manteía*, prophecy)
- **alveromancy** /ælˈviəroʊmænsi/:<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> by sounds
- **amathomancy** /ˈæməθoʊmænsi/ → see [ABACOMANCY](#) by sand ([Greek](#) *amathos*, sandy soil + *manteía*, prophecy)



An arithmancer from *Atalanta Fugiens* (1618), by Michael Maier



# Prediction: Week 2

Welcome “back”

Time & Space ( Venice)

*What’s is time? (Discussion)*

Roman Augury

Breath on a Mirror

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consult w/students & staff

[Cross-cultural Conversations Intro]

**SECTION PREVIEW: Student Predictions  
( from Journals)**



# SECTION PREVIEW

## INSTRUCTIONS to STUDENTS

- Enter examples from your *Prediction Journals* here, under the categories provided--or make a new category if you must, and add it to the Table of Contents.
- **If your prediction falls in more than one category, you may enter it more than once.**
- Try to summarize each entry to three lines or less
- DO not use your real name (although you may use a pseudonym to identify your entries)

***[tinyurl.com/gened1112predictions](https://tinyurl.com/gened1112predictions)***

[Sports](#)

[Health](#)

[Weather](#)

[Politics](#)

[Family](#)

[Food](#)

[Life Plan](#)

[Harvard-specific](#)

[Course-choice specific](#)

[Additional Category 1 copy/paste this heading as needed](#)  ["Refresh" the Table of Contents](#)