**WEEK 4: WRITING/DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT**

CIVILIZATION AND THE LAW

All human societies have rules about how people should interact with one another. Simple forager/hunting bands had them, so did large-scale civilizations of the ancient world, so do modern nation-states like America. This week were going to be looking at the rules established for one of those ancient civilizations, the mid-second millennium BCE Babylonian empire. Specifically, we will be looking specifically at a legal code established by most famous of Babylonian king, Hammurabi. This code is often referred to as the world’s first written legal code. In fact, it’s wasn’t really but we don’t need to go into the debate over that.

Instead, your writing/discussion assignment for this week to read the excerpts of the code I have provided (you don’t need to read them word for word, and law for law but get the gist of it).

Then answer these two sets of questions:

1) Where does Hammurabi say that these laws originate? From him? Or from some other authority? What is that authority and why does Hammurabi cite that authority as the basis of law?

2) While these laws cover some of the same topics that laws in modern America cover—the judicial process, property crime, violent crime, etc…--note at least two of the basic differences with our own legal system and laws?

**Please submit a 100-200 word answer via Blackboard by the beginning of class on Tuesday, February 16.**

Be prepared to discuss your answer in class.