

## **Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology** **Ancient Near East**

Department of Classical Studies, Anthropology & Archaeology  
Spring 2006

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Matney  
Office: Olin 241, 972-6892, matney@uakron.edu  
Office Hours: TTh 11:00-12:00am

Meetings: TTh 9:15-10:30am  
Classroom: Olin 101  
Course Nos.: 3200:407/507 (CSAA)  
3400:307 (History)

### **Course Description**

This course provides students with an overview of the prehistory and early historical periods of the ancient Near East. Considerable attention is given to the fundamental transitions which occurred in this region and which created the foundations for later Western Civilization. In particular, we will examine: (1) the first emergence of settled village life, hierarchical social organization and the domestication of plants and animals during the Neolithic period; (2) the rise of urban centers, temple and palace elites and writing; (3) the emergence and spread of the states and subsequent militaristic empires which became the dominant political force in the ancient Near East for several millennia. This course examines both archaeological and historical evidence with a heavy emphasis on material culture, primary archaeological and historical data and the process of scholarly interpretation.

### **General Teaching Objectives**

This course has three fundamental objectives:

1. Help students learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view;
2. Teach students fundamental principles, generalizations and theories;
3. Teach students factual knowledge.

### **Required Textbooks**

Roaf, Michael (1990) *Cultural Atlas of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*. New York: Facts on File. ISBN 0816022186.

Kuhrt, Amélie (1995) *The Ancient Near East, c. 3000-330 BC*. Routledge History of the Ancient World Series. London: Routledge. ISBN 0415167639 and 0415167647. (2 volumes)

Balter, Michael (2005) *The Goddess and the Bull. Çatalhöyük: An Archaeological Journey to the Dawn of Civilization*. New York: Free Press. ISBN 0743243609.

Additional readings will be assigned during the course of the semester.

### Notes on Registration, Enrollment & Dropping Classes

Students who do not appear on the University's official class list by Friday of the second week will not be permitted to participate (attend class, take exams or receive credit). This is official University policy.

### Disabilities Accommodation

If you require accommodation you should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at 972-7928, as well as make arrangements with me during the first week of the semester.

### Requirements & Grading

Your grade in this course is determined by your scores on three written exams (each worth 100 points, for a total of 300 points) and a research project. The points allotted for the research project are as follows:

- Artifact description & project bibliography (Feb. 14)	20 points
- Annotated bibliography (Mar. 21)	60 points
- Paper outline (Apr. 4)	20 points
- Written research paper (May 4)	100 points

### Point System

Your grade is based on a 500 point scale. The following point scale is used to determine your grade.

A	465-500 points	C	365-384 points
A-	450-464 points	C-	350-364 points
B+	435-449 points	D+	335-349 points
B	415-434 points	D	300-334 points
B-	400-414 points	F	299 & fewer points
C+	385-399 points		

Class participation can add or subtract from your final grade *outside* of the point system. For students who consistently make positive contributions to class discussion and who come to class well prepared, I may raise their grade by a half-grade (e.g., from a B to a B+). Likewise, students who are disruptive in class, are poorly prepared for discussions or have an excessive number of absences will have their grade reduced by a half-grade (e.g., from a C to a C-). These adjustments are made solely at the discretion of the instructor.

Extra credit. There will occasionally be opportunities for students to earn extra credit points by attending outside lectures, visiting relevant museum exhibits, etc. These opportunities will be announced in class and usually require a short written report to be produced. Waiting for extra credit opportunities is not a good strategy and you should concentrate your efforts on preparing for the exams and working on your research project.

### **Attendance policy**

Attendance in class is required as part of university and departmental policy. It also makes common sense as you will be expected to know the material covered in class meetings and discussions, not just what is in the textbook.

### **Late work policy**

Late work is not accepted. An excused absence is given only if you can present me with an appropriate written excuse from your doctor for emergency purposes. In other words, please do not schedule to have your teeth cleaned during my class hours, but if you or your children are sick enough to require emergency medical treatment, you will not be penalized for missed assignments. Please talk to me at least two weeks in advance to arrange for any other type absence (e.g., weddings, etc.). There are no exceptions to this rule.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of information, wording, organization, or ideas from another person. Whether the original source is public (e.g., a newspaper, book, or journal article the internet) or private (e.g., a classmate's paper), you need to indicate your indebtedness to it. Where you repeat the exact language of your source, you must treat the borrowed material as a quotation and place it within quotation marks with an appropriate citation at the end. However, by merely changing a few words or the word order or by paraphrasing, you do not avoid plagiarism. In all cases, you should cite your source. There is nothing wrong in acknowledging an intellectual debt to someone. (This statement is adapted from a handout by the Department of English at Trenton State College).

In this course, the penalty for plagiarism on an exam or other assignment is an automatic grade of zero for that exam or assignment. Extensive plagiarism will result in a course grade of "F" and the filing of charges of Academic Misconduct with University authorities. For further information on the University's policies, see the "Academic Dishonesty" section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin*.

### **Graduate Credit**

Students who have enrolled for graduate credit (i.e., as a 500-level course) will be given additional work during the semester. Each graduate student will be scheduled to present a 45 minute lecture to the class describing some aspect of the course material. The lecture will be followed by a discussion moderated by the graduate student. The details and timing of this lecture will be worked out at the beginning of the semester in consultation with the instructor.

### **Changes to the Syllabus**

This syllabus does not represent a formal contract. I will make every effort to cover all the material listed below, but I reserve the right to make changes, as necessary, to this syllabus at any time. Students are responsible for tracking any changes in the syllabus that are announced in class.

## Syllabus

*IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE THE READINGS PRIOR TO CLASS.*

### **Tuesday, January 17**

Topic: Course introduction

Reading: none

### **Thursday, January 19**

Topic: The Nature of Archaeological and Historical Evidence for the Ancient Near East

Reading: Balter, Introduction, ch. 1-2 (pp. 1-35)

### **Tuesday, January 24**

Topic: Geography and Resources of the Ancient Near East

Reading: Roaf, pp. 14-23; Kuhrt, Introduction (pp. 1-15)

### **Thursday, January 26**

Topic: Paleolithic Occupation of the Near East: *Homo erectus*, Neanderthals and Early Moderns

Reading: Balter, ch. 3-5 (pp. 36-90)

### **Tuesday, January 31**

Topic: Proto-Neolithic: The Transition to Settled Village Life

Reading: Roaf, pp. 24-41; Balter, ch. 6-7 (pp. 91-133)

### **Thursday, February 2**

Topics: The Agricultural “Revolution”: Explanatory Models of Change

Reading: Balter, ch. 8-10 (pp. 134-195)

### **Tuesday, February 7**

Topics: Early Neolithic Cultures in Anatolia and Northern Mesopotamia

Reading: Roaf, Towards Civilization (pp. 42-56); Balter, ch. 11-12 (pp. 196-235)

### **Thursday, February 9**

Topic: Beginnings of Social Stratification: Halaf and Ubaid Cultures in Mesopotamia

Reading: Balter, ch. 13-15 (pp. 236-291)

### **Tuesday, February 14**

Topics: Neolithic “Religion”: Skull Cults, Fertility Figurines, Çatal Höyük

Reading: Balter, ch. 16-17, Epilogue (pp. 292-337)

Artifact description & project bibliographies are due at the beginning of class on Feb. 14

### **Thursday, February 16**

EXAM 1 (in class)

### **Tuesday, February 21**

There is no class in observance of President’s Day

### **Thursday, February 23**

Topic: The World’s First Cities and the “Uruk Expansion”

Reading: Roaf, The Urban Explosion (pp. 58-77)

### **Tuesday, February 28**

Topic: The Early Bronze Age and the Rise of the City-States

Reading: Roaf, States in Conflict (pp. 78-95); Kuhrt, pp. 19-43

**Thursday, March 2**

Topic: Early States in Early Dynastic Egypt and Agade/Ur III Mesopotamia

Reading: Roaf, Charismatic Kings (pp. 96-107); Kuhrt, pp. 44-73; pp. 118-134

**Tuesday, March 7**

Topic: Early Bronze Age: Material Culture and Written Evidence

Reading: Kuhrt, pp. 135-160

**Thursday, March 9**

Topic: Case-Study: Everyday Life at Tiriş Höyük, Turkey in the Late EBA

Reading: none

**Tuesday, March 14**

EXAM 2 (in class)

**Thursday, March 16**

Topic: Middle Bronze Age in Mesopotamia: Old Babylonian and Old Assyrian Periods

Reading: Roaf, Trade and Warfare (pp. 108-130); Kuhrt, pp. 74-117

**Tuesday, March 21**

Topic: Egypt in the Middle Kingdom and the Arrival of the Hyksos

Reading: Kuhrt, pp. 161-182

Annotated Bibliographies are due at the beginning of class on March 21

**Thursday, March 23**

Topic: Late Bronze Age: The Age of Internationalism

Reading: Roaf, Allies and Enemies (pp. 131-157); Kuhrt, pp. 332-381

**There are no class meetings the week of March 27-31 for spring break.**

**Tuesday, April 4**

Topic: Peoples of the Levant : Hurrians, Mitanni, Ugarit, Aramaeans, Phoenicians, Israel and Judah

Reading: Roaf, p. 158; Kuhrt, pp. 283-331; 385-472

Paper Outline is due at the beginning of class on April 4

**Thursday, April 6**

Topic: Anatolia and the Hittite Empire

Reading: Kuhrt, pp. 225-282

**Tuesday, April 11**

Topic: Egypt in the New Kingdom

Reading: Kuhrt, pp. 185-224; also skim pp. 623-646

**Thursday, April 13**

Topic: Anatolia in the Iron Age: Urartu, Phrygia, Lydia

Reading: Kuhrt, pp. 547-572

**Tuesday, April 18**

Topic: Foundation of Empire: The Rise of the Neo-Assyrian Kings

Reading: Roaf, pp. 158-175; Kuhrt, pp. 473-500; pp. 573-588

**Thursday, April 20**

Topic: Neo-Assyrian Empire: Material Culture and Written Evidence

Reading: Roaf, Assyrian Triumphant (pp. 176-197); Kuhrt, pp. 501-539

**Tuesday, April 25**

Topic: Case-Study: Excavations at the Late Assyrian city of Tushhan (Ziyaret Tepe)

Reading: none

**Thursday, April 27**

No class meeting today. Dr. Matney is in Chicago. You should work on your research projects.

**Tuesday, May 2**

Topic: The Fall of Nineveh and the Neo-Babylonian Dynasty

Reading: Roaf, pp. 198-201; Kuhrt, pp. 540-546; pp. 589-622

**Thursday, May 4**

Topic: Postscript: The Persians, Medes, Greeks and the Beginning of Classical Civilization

Reading: Roaf, pp. 202-223; Kuhrt, pp. 647-702

Research Project is due at the beginning of class on May 4

EXAM 3 – as scheduled for final exam week