

**Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology (Archaeology 3240:360) &
Ancient Near East (History 3400:307)**
Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Matney
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Meetings: MWF 8:50 - 9:40am
Classroom: Olin 101

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 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.

Van De Mieroop, Marc (2007) *A History of the Ancient Near East*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. 2nd edition. ISBN 1405149116.

Additional readings are listed in the syllabus; others will be assigned during the course of the semester.

The Rules

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.

Respecting the Classroom Environment

Disruptions during class time will not be tolerated. These behaviors detract from the learning environment in the classroom and are rude to your fellow students and instructor. There will be absolutely NO mobile phone use in the class. This means no phone calls and no text messaging. Personal correspondence should be conducted on your own time. If I see you using a mobile phone, including for text messaging, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the day. You will not be permitted to make up any work missed as a result. I understand that mobile phones are useful in emergency situations, so please make specific arrangements with me beforehand if you need to keep you cell phone on vibrate for emergency purposes.

Likewise, there will be no laptop computer use in the classroom. Laptop use for notetaking only will be allowed for those students with a medical need and you will need to arrange this with me beforehand. While using a laptop computer has the potential for enhancing student notetaking, most students in my experience use it to surf the internet, email friends, or work on non-course related materials during class. If you have tasks other than archaeology that you would rather be working on, please have the courtesy to the other students and me to do so outside of the classroom.

Any repeat offenders of these policies will be referred both to the Departmental Chairperson, and the appropriate Dean within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences for disciplinary actions.

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*.

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.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE THE READINGS PRIOR TO CLASS.

Week 1 (Jan 12-16)

- Topics: Course introduction and expectations
Geography and Natural Resources of the Ancient Near East
Nature of Archaeological and Historical Data
- Reading: Roaf, pp. 14-24; Van de Mieroop, pp. 1-10

Week 2 (Jan 19-23)

No class in observance of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, Jan. 19th

- Topics: Paleolithic Occupation of the Near East: *Homo erectus*, Neanderthals and Early Moderns
- Proto-Neolithic Cultures (11th – 8th MBC)
The Transition to Settled Village Life
- Reading: Alper (2003), pp. 83-87; Akkermans/Schwartz (2003), pp. 14-41; Bar-Yosef (1998), pp. 159-177.

Week 3 (Jan 26-30)

- Topics: Early Neolithic Cultures (7th – 6th MBC)
Neolithic “Religion”: Skull Cults, Fertility Figurines, Çatal Höyük
- Reading: Roaf, pp. 25-50; Özbek (2009), pp. 379-386; www.catalhoyuk.com

Week 4 (Feb 2-6)

- Topic: Late Neolithic Cultures (5th MBC)
The Agricultural “Revolution”: Explanatory Models of Change
Beginnings of Social Stratification
Introduction to Akins Collection + Museum Project description
- Reading: Van de Mieroop, ch. 1, pp. 11-16; Roaf, pp. 51-56; Levy (1995), pp. 226-243; McCorriston/Hole (1991), pp. 46-69.

Week 5 (Feb 9-13)

No class on Monday, Feb. 9th. Dr. Matney will be in Washington, DC for an NEH panel

- Topic: Chalcolithic Period (4th MBC)
The World’s First Cities and the “Uruk Expansion”
Urbanism: Theories on the Emergence of Cities
- Reading: Roaf, The Urban Explosion, pp. 58-77; Van de Mieroop, ch. 2, pp. 19-40; Rothman (2004), pp. 75-119.

Week 6 (Feb 16-20)

- Topics: Early Bronze Age (3rd MBC)
Material Culture and Written Evidence
Warring City-States and the Emergence of Empires
- Reading: Roaf, States in Conflict, pp. 78-95; Van de Mieroop, ch. 3, pp. 41-62.

Week 7 (Feb 23-27)

- Topic: Early Bronze Age (3rd MBC)
Case-Study: Everyday Life at Titriş Höyük, Turkey in the Late EBA
Mesopotamian Magic, Myth, and Religion
- Reading: Roaf, Charismatic Kings, pp. 96-107; Van de Mieroop, ch. 4, pp. 63-84.

Week 8 (Mar 2-6)

- Topic: Middle Bronze Age (**early 2nd MBC**)
 Old Babylonian, Old Assyrian and Old Hittite States
 Law Code of Hammurabi
 Amorites and Nomads in the Historical and Archaeological Record
- Reading: Roaf, Trade and Warfare, pp. 108-130; Van de Mieroop, ch. 5-6, pp. 85-126.

Week 9 (Mar 9-13)

Mid-term exam is scheduled for Friday, Mar 13

- Topic: Museum Project
- Reading: none

There are no class meetings the week of March 16-20 for spring break.

Week 10 (Mar 23-27)

- Topic: Late Bronze Age (**late 2nd MBC**)
 The Age of Internationalism
 LBA Peoples of Anatolia: Mitanni and the Hittites
- Reading: Roaf, Allies and Enemies, pp. 131-158; Van de Mieroop, ch. 7-8, pp. 127-170.

Week 11 (Mar 30-Apr 3)

- Topic: Late Bronze Age (**late 2nd MBC**)
 LBA Peoples of Mesopotamia: Kassites, Middle Assyrians, and Elamites
 The Old Testament in Archaeological Context
 The Sea Peoples & Collapse of Late Bronze Age civilization
- Reading: Van de Mieroop, ch. 9-10, pp. 171-206.

Week 12 (Apr 6-10)

- Topic: Iron Age (**early 1st MBC**)
 European Discovery of the Ancient Near East
 Iron Age Peoples of the East and West: Israel, Judah, Moab, Ammon, Phoenicians;
 Neo-Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians, Lydians, Aramaeans
- Reading: Roaf, Assyria and Its Rivals, pp. 158-175; Van de Mieroop, ch. 1; pp. 209-228.

Week 13 (Apr 13-17)

- Topic: Iron Age (**early 1st MBC**)
 Foundation of Empire: The Rise of Assyria
 Case-Study: Excavations at the Late Assyrian city of Tushhan (Ziyaret Tepe)
- Reading: Roaf, Assyria Triumphant, pp. 176-197; Van de Mieroop, ch. 12-13, pp. 229-269.

Week 14 (Apr 20-24)

No class on Wednesday, Apr. 22th or Friday, Apr. 24th. Dr. Matney will be in Atlanta for the SAA meetings.

- Topic: Iron Age (**early 1st MBC**)
 The Fall of Nineveh and the Neo-Babylonian Dynasty
- Reading: Roaf, The Last Empires, pp. 198-203; Van de Mieroop, ch. 14, pp. 270-285.

Week 15 (Apr 27-May 1)

- Topic: Iron Age (**late 1st MBC**)
 Historical Overview of the Persian Conquest and the Achaemenid kings
 Persepolis, Pasargade, and Persian Material Culture
 Alexander, Greeks, and the End of the Ancient Near East
- Reading: Van de Mieroop, ch. 15, pp. 286-301; Roaf, pp. 203-223.

FINAL EXAM – as scheduled for final exam week

FULL REFERENCES FOR REQUIRED ARTICLES

- Akkermans, P. and G. Schwartz
2003 “Hunter-Gatherers at the End of the Ice Age” In, *The Archaeology of Syria: From the Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (ca. 16,000-300 BC)*. pp. 14-41.
- Alper, J.
2003 “Rethinking Neanderthals” *Smithsonian* (June): 83-87
- Bar-Yosef, O.
1998 “The Natufian Culture in the Levant, Threshold to the Origins of Agriculture” *Evolutionary Anthropology* 6(5): 159-177.
- Levy, T.
1995 “Cult, Metallurgy and Rank Societies – Chalcolithic Period (ca. 4500 - 3500 BC)” In, T. Levy, ed., *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. New York: Facts on File. pp. 226-244.
- McCorriston, J. and F. Hole
1991 “The Ecology of Seasonal Stress and the Origins of Agriculture in the Near East” *American Anthropologist* 93(1): 46-69.
- Özbek, M.
2009 “Remodeled human skulls in Köşk Höyük (Neolithic Age, Anatolia): a new appraisal in view of recent discoveries” *Journal of Archaeological Science* 36: 379-386.
- Rothman, M.
2004 “Studying the Development of Complex Societies” *Journal of Archaeological Research* 12(1): 75-119.

Near Eastern Archaeology

Some basic references

Adam, R. McC.

1981 *Heartland of Cities: Surveys of Ancient Settlement and Land Use on the Central Floodplain of the Euphrates*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Aharoni, Y.

1982 *The Archaeology of the Land of Israel*. Philadelphia: Winster Press.

Akkermans, P.M.M.G. and G. M. Schwartz

2003 *The Archaeology of Syria: From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (ca. 16,000 – 300 BC)*. Cambridge World Archaeology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Amiet, P.

1980 *Art of the Ancient Near East*. New York.

Cambridge Ancient History.

Chavalas, M., ed.

2007 *The Ancient Near East: Historical Sources in Translation*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Crawford, H.

2004 *Sumer and the Sumerians*. Second edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dolukhanov, P.

1994 *Environment and Ethnicity in the Ancient Middle East*. Worldwide Archaeology Series 7. Aldershot: Averbury Press.

Ehrich, R. W., ed.

1992 *Chronologies in Old World Archaeology*. 2 volumes. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 3rd edition.

Frankfort, H.

1970 *The Art and Architecture of the Ancient Orient*. Baltimore: Harmondsworth.

Jacobsen, T.

1976 *The Treasures of Darkness: A History of Mesopotamian Religion*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Kramer, S. N.

1963 *The Sumerians: Their History, Culture and Character*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Kenyon, K.

1979 *Archaeology in the Holy Land*. London: Ernest Benn Limited. 4th edition.

Kuhrt, A.

1995 *The Ancient Near East. 3000 – 330 BC*. 2 volumes. London: Routledge.

Lloyd, S.

1978 *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia*. London: Thames and Hudson

Maisels, C. K.

1993 *The Emergence of Civilization: From Hunting and Gathering to Agriculture, Cities, and the State in the Near East*. London: Routledge.

- Mellaart, J.
1975 *The Neolithic of the Near East*. London: Thames and Hudson.
- New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*
- Nissen, H. J.
1988 *The Early History of the Ancient Near East*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Oates, J. and D. Oates
1976 *The Rise of Civilization*. Oxford.
- Oates, J.
1979 *Babylon*. London: Thames and Hudson.
- Oppenheim, A. L.
1977 *Ancient Mesopotamia: Portrait of a Dead Civilization*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East*
- Pollock, S.
1999 *Ancient Mesopotamia: The Eden That Never Was*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Postgate, J. N.
1994 *Early Mesopotamia: Society and Economy at the Dawn of History*. London: Routledge.
- Potts, D.
1997 *Mesopotamian Civilization: The Material Foundations*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Redman, C.
1978 *The Rise of Civilization: From Farmers to Urban Society in the Ancient Near East*. San Francisco: Freeman.
- Roaf, M.
1990 *Cultural Atlas of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*. New York: Facts on File.
- Roux, G.
1980 *Ancient Iraq*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.
- Van De Mieroop, Marc
2007 *A History of the Ancient Near East*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. 2nd edition.
- Woolley, L.
1965 *The Sumerians*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.