

This is a sample syllabus only.

The instructor may make changes to the syllabus in future courses.

War & Peace in Ancient Mesopotamia.

ANT 000, course no.

Times: TBA
Location: TBA
Instructor: Dr. Gregory Mumford
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“War & Peace in Ancient Mesopotamia” (ca. 10,000 - 323 BCE) begins with an introduction to the advent of farming, urban life, various crafts, writing, and other innovations in the region of the "Two Rivers," namely the Tigris and Euphrates' flood plain. It proceeds with the rise and fall of early state complex societies and empires in the Bronze and Iron Ages, and terminates in the Persian period. Although providing much focus on diverse issues dealing with war, alliances, diplomacy, treaties, and peace, this course also integrates a comprehensive background context and overview of other aspects of past societies in this region, including history, archaeology, language, literature, religion, architecture, art, material culture, and trade. The course material is introductory, with no specific prerequisite, but a prior enrolment in either ANTH.245 (Peoples of the Mediterranean), or ANTH.340 (Archaeology & History of Bible Lands), is helpful since these courses introduce past societies from contemporary, adjacent regions frequently in direct contact with Ancient Mesopotamia.

400-LEVEL COURSE REQUIREMENTS: i.e., undergraduates.

The course includes grades for attendance/participation (**10%**), a series of (*in-class*) written responses to several documentaries (**15%**), several in-class seminars and/or class presentations (**15%**), a mid-term and end-of-term examination (**30%** [*15% each, with pre-posted study guides*]), and a 10-12 page research paper (i.e., 2500-3000 words; **30%** [*with in-class and posted guidance*]). Of note, three to four gratis absences are provided for illness, official UAB events, and other legitimate reasons, while further absences will entail a deduction of 0.5% per missed class (albeit with an opportunity to make-up additional absences by submitting a 500-word summary for each missed lecture from the pertinent readings and/or power point presentations).

600-LEVEL COURSE REQUIREMENTS: i.e., graduates.

The course includes grades for attendance/participation (**10%**), a series of (*in-class*) written responses to several documentaries (**15%**), several in-class seminars and/or class essay research presentations (**15%**), and a 20-25 page research paper (i.e., 5000-6000 words; **60%** [*with in-class and posted guidance*]). Of note, three to four gratis absences are provided for illness, official UAB events, and other legitimate reasons, while further absences will entail a deduction of 0.5% per missed class (albeit with an opportunity to make-up additional absences by submitting a 500-word summary for each missed lecture from the pertinent readings and/or power point presentations).

OVERALL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course aims (1) to educate students in the broad archaeological, cultural, and related developments in Ancient Mesopotamia and selected adjacent regions, including various key issues, from 10,000 BCE to 332 BCE, with the addition of historical data in pertinent periods. The documentaries and written responses serve (2) to illustrate and reinforce selected time periods and topics, providing visual references, specialist views, and general narration. (3). The in-class seminars and (4) class member presentations are designed to provide students with more in-depth understanding regarding key concepts and subject materials, and experience in presenting one's essay research and results. The mid-term and end-of-term examinations, accompanied by pre-posted, focus-learning guides, should (5) aid students in focusing upon, comprehending, and memorizing the most salient data and broader trends that characterize each period's time span (within the Neolithic to 323 BCE area coverage), including society, architecture, material culture, technology, art, religion, and other aspects. The research essay enables students (6) to explore in more depth and in a more critical fashion a topic of interest not covered in sufficient detail in class, including guidance and feedback to assist in learning and refining the composition of college essays. This course also aims (7) to provide a sufficiently comprehensive overview as a "gateway" course to allow students to assess whether they wish to pursue more advanced studies regarding this cultural area, period, or a related aspect.

(1.a). *Required undergraduate and graduate course textbooks (*):

Please note: The course lectures will summarize the most pertinent portions of these materials, but to maximize one's learning and overall outcome from the course it is highly recommended that students read/study from these textbooks in conjunction with the power point lectures and the focus-learning study guides.

*Bertman, Stephan

2003 *Handbook to Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

ISBN-13: 978-019-518364-1 (paperback); ISBN-10: 0-19-518364-9. (Cost \$20 [new]).

*Van De Mieroop, Marc

2007 *A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000-323 BC* (second edition). Blackwell History of the Ancient World. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

ISBN-13: 978-1-4051-4911-2 (paperback); ISBN-10: 1-4051-4911-6 (Cost \$36 - \$44 [new]).

(1.b). Recommended undergraduate and graduate course reference works (in place of Bertman?):

Roaf, Michael

1990 *Cultural Atlas of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*. New York: Facts on File Inc. (**Still excellent**)

ISBN-13: 978-0816022182; ISBN-10: 0816022186 (hardcover, new = \$33). More difficult to obtain.

Hunt, Norman B.

2004 *Historical Atlas of Mesopotamia*. New York. Checkmark Books (**an okay update to the prior title**).

ISBN-10: 0816057303; ISBN-13: 978-0816057306 (hardcover, new = \$44). More easily available.

(2). Required, additional, GRADUATE textbook:

Hamblin, W. J.

2006 *Warfare in the Ancient Near East to 1600 BC: Holy Warriors at the Dawn of History*. Warfare and History. London: Routledge. **Note:** Omits coverage on Late Bronze Age to Persian period warfare.

POTENTIAL ESSAY AIDS, i.e., other helpful reference works (= NOT required):

Ancient Near East:

Bang, Peter F. and Scheidel, Walter (eds.)

2013 *The Oxford Handbook of the State in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean*. Oxford Handbook series. New York: Oxford University Press.

Black, Jeremy and Green, Anthony

1992 *Gods, Demons and Symbols of Ancient Mesopotamia: An Illustrated Dictionary*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

- Bottero, Jean
1992 *Mesopotamia: Writing, Reasoning, and the Gods*. Translated by Z. Bahrani et. al. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Briant, Pierre
2002 *From Cyrus to Alexander: A History of the Persian Empire*. Translated by Peter T. Daniels. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns.
- Bryce, Trevor (ed.)
2009 *The Routledge Handbook of the Peoples and Places of Ancient Western Asia: The Near East from the Early Bronze Age to the Fall of the Persian Empire*. London: Routledge / Taylor & Francis Group.
- Crawford, Harriet
1991 *Sumer and the Sumerians*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dalley, Stephanie
1989 *Myths from Mesopotamia: Creation, the Flood, Gilgamesh, and Others*. Oxford World Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Healy, Mark and McBride, Angus
1991 *The Ancient Assyrians*. Osprey: Military Elite Series, no.39. London: Osprey Publishing Ltd.
- Hoyland, Robert G.
2001 *Arabia and the Arabs from the Bronze Age to the Coming of Islam*. London: Routledge.
- Kovacs, Maureen Gallery
1989 *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Kramer, Samuel Noel
1981 *History Begins at Sumer: Thirty-Nine Firsts in Man's Recorded History*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press (Second edition).
- Kuhr, Amelie
1995 *The Ancient Near East c.3000-330 BC, Volumes 1-2*. Routledge History of the Ancient World. London: Routledge.
- McCall, Henrietta
1990 *Mesopotamian Myths. The Legendary Past*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Moorey, P. R. S.
1994 *Ancient Mesopotamian Materials and Industries: The Archaeological Evidence*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Pollock, Susan
1999 *Ancient Mesopotamia: The Eden that Never Was*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Postgate, J. N.
1992 *Early Mesopotamia: Society and Culture at the Dawn of History*. New York: Routledge.
- Potts, D. T.
1999 *The Archaeology of Elam: Formation and Transformation of an Ancient Iranian State*. Cambridge World Archaeology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Potts, D. T.
1997 *Mesopotamian Civilization: The Material Foundations*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Reade, Julian
1991 *Mesopotamia*. British Museum. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Richard, Suzanne (ed.)
2003 *Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns.
- Roth, Martha T.
1995 *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*. Atlanta: Scholars Press.
- Roux, Georges
1992 *Ancient Iraq*. London: Penguin Books.
- Saggs, H. W. F.
1995 *Babylonians. Peoples of the Past*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
- Saggs, H. W. F.
1984 *The Might That Was Assyria*. Great Civilizations Series. London: Sidgwick and Jackson.
- Sasson, Jack M. (ed.)
1995 *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East, Volumes I-IV*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

- Schmandt-Besserat, Denise
1992 *How Writing Came About*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Snell, Daniel C. (ed.)
2005 *A Companion to the Ancient Near East*. Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Snell, Daniel C.
1997 *Life in the Ancient Near East: 3100-332 B.C.E.* New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Van de Mieroop, Marc
1999 *Cuneiform Texts and the Writing of History*. Approaching the Ancient World. London: Routledge.
- Van de Mieroop, Marc
1997 *The Ancient Mesopotamian City*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Vidal, Jordi (ed.)
2010 *Studies on War in the Ancient Near East: Collected Essays on Military History*. Alter Orient und Altes Testament Band 372. Munster: Ugarit-Vorlag.
- Wilkinson, T. J.
2003 *Archaeological Landscapes of the Near East*. Tuscon: University of Austin Press.
- Wise, Terrence
1981 *Ancient Armies of the Middle East*. Osprey: Men-at-Arms series 109. London: Osprey Publishing Ltd.

Arabia and the Gulf: i.e., Mesopotamian trade relations:

- Breton, Jean-Francoise
1998 *Arabia Felix from the Time of the Queen of Sheba: Eighth Century B.C. to first Century A.D.* Translated by Albert LaFarge. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press.
- Crawford, Harriet
1998 *Dilmun and its Gulf Neighbours*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Franke, Ute and Gierlich, Joachim (eds.)
2011 *Roads of Arabia: The Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia*. Translated by L. Schilcher & M. Marx. Berlin: Museum of Islamic Art.
- Gunter, Ann C. (ed.)
2005 *Caravan Kingdoms: Yemen and the Ancient Incense Trade*. Washington: Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.
- Hourani, George F.
1995 *Arab Seafaring in the Indian Ocean in Ancient and Early Medieval Times (expanded edition)*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Al-Khalifa, Sheikha Haya Ali and Rice, Michael (eds.)
1986 *Bahrain Through the Ages: The Archaeology*. London: KPI.
- Magee, Peter
2014 *The Archaeology of Prehistoric Arabia: Adaptation and Social Formation from the Neolithic to the Iron Age*. Cambridge World Archaeology series. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- de Maigret, Alessandro
2002 *Arabia Felix: An Exploration of the Archaeological History of Yemen*. Translated by Rebeca Thompson. London: Stacey International.
- National Council of Tourism and Antiquities
n.d. *Antiquities from the United Arab Emirates*. United Arab Emirates: The National Council of Tourism & Antiquities. Dubai: UAE: The National Council of Tourism & Antiquities.
- Peacock, David and Williams, David
2007 *Food for the Gods: New Light on the Ancient Incense Trade*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.
- Potts, D. T. (ed.)
1988 *Araby The Blest: Studies in Arabian Archaeology*. The Carstens Niebuhr Institute of Ancient Near Eastern Studies Publications 7. Copenhagen: Museum Tusculanum Press.
- Schippmann, Klaus
2001 *Ancient South Arabia: From the Queen of Sheba to the Advent of Islam*. Translated by A. Brown. Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers.

Simpson, St. John (ed.)

2002 *Queen of Sheba: Treasures from Ancient Yemen*. London: The British Museum Press.

Indus Valley civilization: i.e., Mesopotamian trade relations:

Aichin, Bridget and Allchin, Raymond

1982 *The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan*. Cambridge World Archaeology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

McIntosh, Jane R.

2008 *The Ancient Indus Valley: New Perspectives*. Understanding Ancient Civilizations Series. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

Possehl, Gregory L.

2002 *The Indus Civilization: A Contemporary Perspective*. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press.

Undergraduate course requirements and clarifications:

Successful completion of the course requires fulfilment of the following categories: **TOTAL = 100%**

1. **Attendance / participation (0.5% per class):** using a sign-in/attendance sheet. **TOTAL = 10%**
i.e., three to four gratis absences for illness, required UAB events, etc., *minus 0.5% per added absence*; an absence on a documentary day can be made-up [with permission]; making up absences from lectures requires a summary.

2. **Documentaries (3-5% each):** 3-5 in-class responses, answering a set of sequential questions, for each documentary (usually with a brief reflection question component); web-linked+shown in class; documentary question sheets will be posted online and handed out in-class at beginning of doc-viewing **TOTAL = 15%**

3. **Two tests (15% each):** study guidance will be provided at least 1 week prior to each test, including a few brief summaries of the main points from each topic area. **TOTAL = 30%**

Please note: Most of the power point lectures provide a summary as well (at the end of each ppt.).

4. **A 10-12 page paper/written assignment (value 30%):** Any aspect of Ancient Mesopotamia, such as war, peace, art, architecture, religion, literature, trade, history, a specific event, etc., during one or more of the periods composing the course's time span: ca. 10,000–323 BCE (more details & guidance to follow separately).

Word count: i.e., 2500 – 3000 words. **TOTAL = 30%**

5. **In-class presentation (& seminars):** Reporting to class members regarding one's research findings in a brief, formal presentation of 5-10 minutes each, as both topic overviews and training/practice sessions for an invaluable skill set applicable to many professions. Several in-class discussions may also form part of this overall grade. **TOTAL = 15%**

Please note: For each class day absence, 0.5% is deducted from the attendance component. Everyone will be allowed three to four gratis "sick" days (including class no.1). Any additional documented "sick" / absence days can be made up by submitting a 1-2 page summary (= 500 words) from the power point presentation and/or text readings for the missed day. **Remember to sign/initial the roster each class day.**

Absenteeism: Any absence requires an official note; I generally recommend dropping the course for extensive illness/absences, but see the instructor first for advice regarding any difficulties with the course, attendance, etc.

Late assignments: All assignments are due by 5:00 pm on the designated dates with an assigned penalty for late materials (I often grant extensions, but simply require an advance/timely request for an extension).

Plagiarism will result in at least a ZERO (“0”) on a given assignment, for the course, and possibly further academic and related penalties imposed by the College of Arts and Science/UAB. Consult the UAB handbook regarding the academic code of conduct. In essence, plagiarism constitutes representing someone else’s work (be it published or unpublished) as one’s own work, which may range from minor infractions through to full replication of another person’s work. Minor infractions are often simple misunderstandings and can be easily remedied (see essay guide); major infractions will not be tolerated. Students will be asked to submit both a physical paper and an electronic version via “**Turn-it-in**” on Canvas (the latter medium checks a growing data base, with internet access, for plagiarism).

SEE STUDENT UAB HANDBOOK for definitions of “plagiarism”: *i.e.*, it means essentially submitting any work, or large portions of any work, that is actually *not* your own work (*i.e.*, words), and without crediting the original source. In brief, one should re-word another person’s/persons’ words/arguments into one’s own words and credit the source from which one obtained the data (*e.g.*, using footnotes, endnotes, and/or parenthetical referencing/citations with the author’s name(s), date of publication, page(s) for the data, and a full reference in the bibliography). You cannot “*double dip*” either, meaning you can only submit *one assignment once* (at UAB); you cannot re-submit the same assignment to another instructor/course (this also counts as “0” / ZERO).

Grade range: **Fail** = 0-59%; **D** = 60-69%; **C** = 70-79%; **B** = 80-89%; **A** = 90-100%

PENULTIMATE (still being finalized for actual initial semester)

SYLLABUS:

PLEASE NOTE: The syllabus is subject to adjustment (the course is being designed & taught for the first time)

WEEK-1: Introduction.

- (a). Introduction to the course;
- (b). Geographical background;

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 1-10.

WEEK-2: Prehistory (10,000 – 3000 BCE).

- (a). Mostly northern Mesopotamia: Neolithic period (Aceramic; Hassuna; Samara; and Halaf cultures);
- (b) S-N Mesopotamia: Uruk culture and Ubaid culture

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 10-16, 19-40.

WEEK-3: Early Bronze Age (3000 – 2000 BCE), part-1.

- (a). Southern Mesopotamia: Early Dynastic Sumer (Ur);
- (b). Northern Mesopotamia: Ninevite 5 period.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 41-61.

WEEK-4: Early Bronze Age (3000 – 2000 BCE), part-2.

(a-b). S-N Mesopotamia: Akkadian period (3rd Dynasty of Ur).

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 63-84.

WEEK-5: Middle Bronze Age (2000 – 1550 BCE), part-1.

(a-b). Southern Mesopotamia (Isin-Larsa to Old Babylonian);

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 85-105.

WEEK-6: Middle Bronze Age (2000 – 1550 BCE), part-2.

(a-b). Northern Mesopotamia (Old Assyrian period)

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 106-25.

WEEK-7: Late Bronze Age (1550 – 1200 BCE), part-1.

(a-b). Southern Mesopotamia: Kassite (Middle Babylonian period)

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 129-48.

MID-TERM EXAM = Prehistory to Middle Bronze Age.

WEEK-8: Late Bronze Age (1550 – 1200 BCE), part-2.

(a-b). Northern Mesopotamia: Mittani and Middle Assyria

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 149-70, 171-89.

WEEK-9: Iron Age / Late Babylonian & Assyrian periods, part-1 (1200 – 605 BCE).

(a). Southern Mesopotamia (Late Babylonian period)

(b). Northern Mesopotamia (Late Assyrian period)

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 190-206.

WEEK-10: Iron Age / Late Babylonian & Assyrian periods, part-2 (1200 – 605 BCE).

(a-b). S-N Mesopotamia: Late Assyria & its domination of Babylonia (i.e., Assyrian Empire).

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 209-228.

WEEK-11: Iron Age / Late Babylonian & Assyrian periods, part-3 (1200 – 605 BCE).

(a-b). S-N Mesopotamia: Late Assyria & its domination of Babylonia (i.e., Assyrian Empire).

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 229-45.

WEEK-12: Iron Age / Late Babylonian & Assyrian periods, part-4 (1200 – 605 BCE).

(a-b). S-N Mesopotamia: Late Assyria & its domination of Babylonia (i.e., Assyrian Empire).

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 247-68.

WEEK-13: Iron Age / Neo-Babylonian period (605 – 540 BCE).

(a-b). S-N Mesopotamia: Late/Neo-Babylonian Empire.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 270-85.

WEEK-14: Iron Age / Persian period (540 – 323 BCE).

(a-b). S-N Mesopotamia: Persian Empire.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, 2007. *A History of the Ancient Near East*, pp. 286-301.

WEEK-15: Flexible scheduling ... (presentations; seminars; etc.).

END-OF-TERM TERM EXAM = Late Bronze Age to Persian period.
