

History 2211: The Ancient Near East
Autumn 2015
MWF 9:10-10:05am, Campbell Hall 213

Instructor:

Kyle Tadlock

Dulles Hall 009

Office Hours: 10:15-11:30am MWF (appointments preferred)

E-mail: tadlock.6@osu.edu

Course Description: An overview of the cultures and societies of the ancient Near East from prehistory until the invasion of Alexander the Great.

GE Requirements Fulfilled: Historical Study

Enrollment:

“All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the semester. No requests to add the course will be approved by the Chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.”

Instructor’s Goals for the Course:

The goal of this course is for students to learn about the civilizations of the ancient Near East and their cultures and societies. Students will also gain some understanding of “how history is made,” that is, what the process is that historians go through in order to reconstruct the past. This will be accomplished through and discussion of primary source materials on a weekly basis. Finally, the exams and essays are intended to display student’s critical thinking and writing skills.

Departmental Goal and Learning Outcomes:

Students evaluate significant cultural phenomena and ideas in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; and interpretation and evaluation.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students construct an integrated perspective on history and the factors that shape human activity.
2. Students display knowledge about the origins and nature of contemporary issues and develop a foundation for future comparative understanding.
3. Students think, speak, and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

Required Book: William H. Stiebing Jr.’s *Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture*, 2nd. Edition. ISBN: 9780321422972. This book has been in second edition since 2009, and so

should be easy to find used. Also for this reason, the first edition is **not** acceptable. This is the only required book for the course, all other content will be uploaded to Carmen.

Academic Dishonesty: It is your responsibility, as a student of this University, to avoid any kind of academic misconduct. In this class we want specifically to urge you to carefully avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is, simply, using material that you did not produce yourself without indicating its precise origin and ownership: this can mean 1) allowing someone else to write a paper or an examination for you, 2) copying and pasting something from a website and failing to mention clearly where this material is from, 3) assisting someone else to commit plagiarism by giving or selling your own work to someone else. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed, illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>.

Course Structure Overview: This course will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. The first thirty to forty minutes of each class period will be spent in lecture, with the remainder based on the discussion of primary sources. These will be made available on Carmen at the beginning of every week, and you will be expected to have read and/or looked at them before class. Participation in discussion is graded. We will be using Carmen frequently during this course, so please familiarize yourself with it.

Course Assignments:

Participation: As noted above, there will be discussion of the primary sources at least once a week, and preferably every meeting. Obviously, in a full classroom not everyone can participate every day, but I do expect you to come having examined the sources and be prepared to answer or ask questions about them. These sources will consist both of translated texts and images and will form an important part of the class. Each week, before class, I would like everyone to post on the appropriate forum a question or comment about the week’s readings and/or images. This will count as part of your participation grade.

Quizzes: There will be a quiz every week with three class days and one random pop quiz, for a total of eleven quizzes. The ten scheduled quizzes will be administered through Carmen and consist of five multiple choice questions based on the quiz and primary source readings. All material presented after the previous quiz will be considered fair game for the current quiz. You will have ten minutes to complete them and may use the textbook and primary sources while taking them. You will only have one attempt, so make sure you are ready when you sit down to take them. The quizzes will be open from Monday to Friday each week, and you may take it at a

time of your choosing during that timeframe. The pop quiz will be administered in class and will also consist of five questions. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Midterm Exam: The midterm will consist of a single essay question drawing on material from the first half of the class. It will be administered during class on Oct. 14 and will take the whole class period.

Final Exam: In lieu of a final exam, you will present a final paper of 2,000-3,000 words (about eight to ten pages; no longer than twelve) on a topic that you have developed with help from me. You will have to let me know in person or in writing what your subject is by week five of the course. These papers will be submitted through Carmen and are due by noon on the last of class (Dec. 9).

Extra Credit: There is an opportunity to exchange a little extra work for two points of bonus credit added directly to your final average. Details about this assignment will be given after the midterm.

Attendance: Attendance as such will not be graded or tracked, i.e., there will be no daily counting of students. Participation in discussion, however, is mandatory, and it will be difficult for you to participate if you are not present. If you choose not to come to class, that will be reflected in your participation grade. Also, there will be occasional pop quizzes throughout the semester which will further count toward the participation grade. To avoid such consequences, please notify me before any planned absences or on the first day you return after an unexpected absence. Sports schedules and doctor's excuses will be required if those are the reasons for your absence.

Grade Percentage by Assignment:

Midterm: 30%

Final Paper: 35%

Quiz Average: 15%

Participation: 20%

Grading Scale:

I use the standard OSU grading scale, which is as follows:

A: 93-100; **A-**: 90-92.99; **B+**: 87-89.99; **B**: 83- 86.99; **B-**: 80-82.99; **C+**: 77-79.99;
C: 73-76.99; **C-**: 70-72.99; **D+**: 67-69.99; **D**: 60-66.99; **E**: 0-59.99

Late Assignment Policy:

I expect all work to be submitted in a timely manner. I understand, however, that technology doesn't always work the way we wish. The best way to avoid problems with the parts of this class administered through Carmen is to leave yourself enough time before the deadline to submit your work that you can solve any technical problems that might arise. **The burden to do this rests entirely and solely upon on you, as will the consequence of any failure to do so.** Failing that, if you are unable to turn in an assignment before the deadline due to technical reasons, please notify me *before the deadline passes*, with your completed work attached, and we

can work out an arrangement. The acceptance of assignments that are late for any other reason is solely at my discretion. This includes any assignments that are to be submitted in person.

Communications Policy:

My office hours are fairly limited and will immediately follow the end of class until approximately 11:30am on the days on which the class meets. I highly recommend that you make an appointment even during those hours, since otherwise I may leave early. I should also be in my office or the classroom before class, but since I'll be coming from off-campus every day, I can't guarantee that I will be there at any certain time.

I know those hours are limited, and so I am also available to Skype during my home office hours, which are 9am to 4pm on Tuesday and Thursdays and 1pm to 4pm on Mon, Weds, and Fridays. These times are approximate and appointments are required. I'm usually unavailable on the weekends.

If you cannot meet in person and don't want to Skype, I am more than happy to discuss things over e-mail. I've taught online classes for three years now, and I'm quite good at working things out through that medium. I'll usually reply to e-mails within one to two hours. I will likely not respond to anything sent after 5pm on Saturday or anytime on Sunday until the following Monday. Feel free to send me e-mails at that time, just don't expect an immediate reply.

Weekly Assignments:

In addition to the reading assignments listed below, there will be primary source documents and photographs posted to Carmen each week with which you will need to be familiar for discussion.

Week 1: Introduction to Near Eastern History

Sources, Geography, and Definitions
Pre-history of Mesopotamia
Stiebing: chapter 1

Week 2: Sumer through the Early Dynastic Period

Geography of Sumer
Early Dynastic Period
Sumerian Religion
Stiebing: chapter 2
Quiz 1

Week 3: The Rise of Empires

Semites and Indo-Europeans
Akkadia and Ur III
Stiebing: chapter 3

Week 4: Babylon and its Neighbors

Old Babylonian Kingdom

Hittite Old Kingdom

Intro to the Levant

Stiebing: chapter 4

Quiz 2

Week 5: Introduction to Egypt

Geography and Pre-history

Early Dynastic Period

Egyptian Culture

Stiebing: pp. 120-135

Quiz 3

Week 6: Egyptian History

Old Kingdom and 1st Intermediate Period

Middle Kingdom and 2nd Intermediate Period

Cultural Changes

Stiebing: pp. 136-170

Quiz 4

Week 7: Egypt and the Hittites

Egyptian New Kingdom

Egyptian Religion

Hittite New Kingdom

Stiebing: pp. 173-217

Quiz 5

Week 8: End of the Bronze Age

Assyrian Old Kingdom and Kassite Babylonia

Bronze Age Collapse and the Sea Peoples

Stiebing: pp. 218-229

Midterm on Oct. 14

Week 9: Bronze Age Interlude

Bronze Age Aegean

The Israelites and their Religion

Stiebing: pp. 254-270

Quiz 6

Week 10: The Dawn of the Iron Age

The Phoenicians and the Levant

Colonization

Stiebing: pp. 234-254

Quiz 7

- Week 11: The Rise and Fall of Assyria
Assyrian Middle and New Kingdoms
Military and Culture
Provincial Administration
Stiebing: pp. 275-290
Quiz 8
- Week 12: The Successors of Assyria
Lydia, Media, Neo-Babylonia, and Saite Egypt
The Rise of Persia
Stiebing: pp. 292-301, 312
- Week 13: Achaemenid Persia
History
Religion
Culture
Stiebing: pp. 313-334
Quiz 9
- Week 14: The Return of the Jews
Stiebing: pp. 303-310, 335-340
- Week 15: A Second Look at the Greeks
History from the Archaic Age to the Classical
Greek Culture
Alexander the Great and the invasion of Persia
Stiebing: none
Quiz 10
- Week 16: The Hellenistic Age and the Legacy of the Near East
The Near East as a Greek Land
From Greece to Rome to Caliphate
Contributions to the Modern World
Stiebing: chapter 12