

Instructor: John C. Franklin

Time/Place: MWF 1:55 pm - 2:45 pm FLEMING MUSEUM 101

Office Hours: T/Th 4–5 or by appointment. 481 Main St. Rm. 304 (top floor). Phone 656-0649. Email: john.franklin@uvm.edu

Course Webpage (= ‘Webpage’): <http://www.kingmixers.com/CLAS149/CLA149.html>. Here I will post any changes to the syllabus, and have any necessary readings, instructions, or other links.

Course Description:

Introductory survey of the complex histories and cultures of Mesopotamia (Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Amorites, Aramaeans), Syria-Levant (Ugarit, Phoenicians, Judea-Israel), Anatolia (Hurrians, Hittites, Hattians), ancient Iran (Elamites, Persians, Medes), and Egypt. The class will work through Van de Mieroops’ *A History of the Ancient Near East*, Morkot’s *The Egyptians*, and literary / historical texts from the various cultures covered. Class time will be divided between discussion of readings—much emphasis here—contextual lectures, and student presentations. For each chapter in Mieroop, a group of 6-7 students will also read the parallel treatment in A. Kuhrt’s more extensive *The Ancient Near East (c.3000–330)*. The sessions on Egypt will be presented by Nick Velez, a graduate student in our department with a background in Egyptology. There will be several one-page essays. The midterm and final will be quite extensive, but I provide study guides to help you gather information from the readings as you go. There will be a final paper on a topic of choice, including an option to play and analyze the classic boardgame *Civilization*.

Required Textbooks

1. M. Van De Mieroop, *A History of the Ancient Near East*. Wiley-Blackwell 2005. ISBN: 1-4051-4911-6.
2. R. Morkot, *The Egyptians: An Introduction*. Routledge. ISBN: 0415271045
3. *ANET* = J. B. Pritchard, *The Ancient near East - an Anthology of Texts and Pictures*. Princeton University Press, ISBN: 0-691-14726-4. ISBN13: 978-0-691-14726-0.
4. Black, J./Green, A., *Gods, Demons and Symbols of Ancient Mesopotamia: An Illustrated Dictionary* (U. of Texas Press, 1992). ISBN: 0-292-70794-0.
5. T. Jacobsen, *The Harps That Once: Sumerian Poetry in Translation*. Yale University Press 1997. ISBN: 0-300-07278-3 (Active Record).

Online readings:

ETCSL = Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Literature: <http://etcsl.orinst.ox.ac.uk/>. Click ‘browse by number’ and enter number.

Bible passages: Since some comparison readings involve some of the apocryphal (i.e. non-canonical books), the best option is: <http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Good-News-Translation-GNT-Bible/>

Other readings on Course webpage as indicated.

Course requirements and grading:

- 25% Preparation and participation. Judged from contributions to discussion, peer assessment of student presentations, and preparedness in A. Kuhrt study groups.
- 40% Midterm and final
- 20% Projects / Presentation. Two one page essays, guidelines to be given. One 15 minute presentation, with partner, on topic of choice (from range of selections)
- 15% Final Paper or *Civilization* analysis.

Initial Syllabus (subject to revision)	Due for this day:
1/19 Introduction	
1/21 The Received View	See webpage for Greek readings on ANE (Phocylides, Herodotus, Ctesias/Diodorus). Compare flood accounts: <i>ANET</i> 25–8 (“The Deluge”) + Genesis 6-9. Also read Table of Nations (Genesis 10–11)
1/24 Discovery / decipherment	CUNEIFORM TRANSCRIPTION AT FLEMING

1/26	Method/Sources	Microop 1. Enki and the World Order (ETCSL 1.1.3).
1/28	The Uruk Phenomenon	Microop 2. Inanna and Enki ETCSL 1.3.1
1/31	Early Dynastic Period	Microop 3, Sumerian King List (ETCSL 2.1.1). Gilgamesh and Aka, <i>Harps</i> 345-56. Stud. Pres.: The Agricultural Cycle, Farming, and Water Management in the Ancient Near East.
2/2	Sumerian Lit. 1	Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta (<i>Harps</i> , 275–319). Stud. Pres.: Pastoral Nomadism in Ancient Western Asia.
2/4	Sumerian Lit. 2	Lugalbanda and the Thunderbird (<i>Harps</i> , 320–44). Stud. Pres.: Ancient Mesopotamian Military Organization.
2/7	Old Akkadian Period	Microop 4, 63–72. Legend of Sargon (<i>ANET</i> 82–3), compare with Exodus 2:3. First known female author: Hymnal prayer of Enheduanna: The Adoration of Inanna of Ur (<i>ANET</i> 332) The Cursing of Agade (<i>Harps</i> , 359–74). Stud. Pres: Ebla.
2/9	Ur III / Neo Sumerian Period	Microop 4, 73–84. King of the Road: Shulgi Hymn: <i>ANET</i> 337–40. The Lament for Ur (<i>Harps</i> 447–74), a city lament with which briefly compare the biblical Book of Lamentations on the fall of Jerusalem. Stud. Pres.: Royal Ideology and State Administration in Sumer and Akkad.
2/11	King and Goddess	Dumuzi texts, <i>Harps</i> 1-46; Descent of Ishtar <i>ANET</i> 77-82. WARNING, LONG READING. Stud. Pres.: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Mesopotamian Thought.
2/14	Sumerian Lit. 3	Gudea Cylinders, <i>Harps</i> 386–44 WARNING, LONG READING. Stud. Pres.: The Social and Economic Organization of Ancient Mesopotamian Temples.
2/16	EGYPT 1	I: Who were the Egyptians? Language, decipherment and secondary scholarship. <i>Morkot</i> , pp. 6-10; pp. 15-18. <i>ANET</i> , Memphite Theology of Creation, pp. 1-3; Deliverance of Mankind from Destruction, pp. 3-5. <i>Morkot</i> , Chapter 3: pp. 51-69.
2/18	EGYPT II	II: Pre-dynastic/Old Kingdom. <i>Morkot</i> , pp. 70-103.
2/21	President's Day Holiday	
2/23	Early Second Millennium	Microop 5. The Marriage of Martu (<i>ETCSL</i> 1.7.1), reflecting integration of Amorites (= god Martu) in Mesopotamian society. The Assyrian King-List: <i>ANET</i> 259–64. Odd assortment of documents to give flavor of period: Dedication of Shamash temple (<i>ANET</i> 246-7), various letters and oracles in <i>ANET</i> 388–92, Mari Letters (427-8), also 445–7 (letters a-i). Stud. Pres.: Kanesh
2/25	Growth of Territorial States	Microop 6. Skim: Law codes of Eshnunna (<i>ANET</i> 150-5) and Hammurabi <i>ANET</i> 155–78, following up biblical parallels noted in margins there; Edict of Ammisaduqa (Hammurabi dynasty, <i>ANET</i> 183-7). Stud. Pres.: Legal and Social Institutions of Ancient Mesopotamia.
2/28	<i>Enuma Elish</i> (Bab. Creation Epic)	<i>ANET</i> 28–38 (including 'Additions to Tablet V'). Stud. Pres.: Amorite Tribes and Nations of Second-Millennium.
3/2	Akkadian Erotica	Read: Song of Solomon (Bible, aka Song of Songs). In class recitations. Work on your ETCSL Profile and study for Midterm. Stud. Pres.: Erotic Art in the Ancient Near East.
3/4	MIDTERM	ETCSL PHILOLOGICAL PROFILE DUE
3/7–11	SPRING BREAK	
3/14	<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	<i>ANET</i> 39–71. Stud. Pres.: The Scribes and Scholars of Ancient Mesopotamia.
3/16	The Club of Great Kings	Microop 7. Amarna letters: <i>ANET</i> 429-442. Stud. Pres.: Messengers and Ambassadors in Ancient Western Asia.
3/18	Mitanni, Hittites	Microop 8, 150-63. The Story of Idrimi (<i>ANET</i> 248-9), Treaty of

		Suppiliumas and Aziras of Amurru (<i>ANET</i> 205). Stud. Pres.: Stud. Pres.: Royal Ideology and State Administration in Hittite Anatolia.
3/21	Hurro-Hittite Lit.	<i>ANET</i> 101–6: Telepinus Myth (Hattic); El, Ashertu, and the Storm-god (Canaanite but found in Hattusha). Linked on course webpage: Hurro-Hittite (Hurrian in origin, adopted in Hittite ritual): <i>Kingship in Heaven</i> and <i>Song of Ulikummi</i> . Comparison with castration myth in Hesiod’s <i>Theogony</i> , lines 116-206 only. Stud. Pres.: Legal and Social Institutions of Hittite Anatolia.
3/23	Syria, Palestine	Microop 8 163–70. <i>The Baal Cycle</i> (<i>ANET</i> 107–133). Warning: fragmentary, difficult reading: leave time for it. Stud. Pres.: Administration of the State in Canaan and Ancient Israel.
3/25	Ugaritic lit.	<i>The Tale of Aqbat</i> <i>ANET</i> 134–49 (Ugaritic Epic). Stud. Pres.: Death and the Afterlife in Canaanite and Hebrew Thought.
3/28 3/30	Kassites, Assyrians, Elamites EGYPT III	Microop 9. Stud. Pres.: Kassites. Stud. Pres.: Elamites III: First Intermediate Period/Middle Kingdom/Second Intermediate Period. <i>Morkot</i> , pp. 104-117. <i>ANET</i> , The Tradition of Seven Lean Years in Egypt, pp.21-24; War against the Hyksos, pp. 242-245; Expulsion of the Hyksos, pp. 226-228; The Asiatic Campaign of Thutmose III, pp. 228-234.
4/1	EGYPT IV	IV: New Kingdom and Beyond. <i>Morkot</i> , pp. 117-147. <i>ANET</i> , War against the Sea Peoples, pp. 237-239; Hymn to the Aton, 324-328.
4/4	The Great Collapse / Sea Peoples	Microop 10. Journey of Wen-Amon <i>ANET</i> 14–20. Azatiwadda of Adan(a) inscription: <i>ANET</i> 294-6. Sea Peoples inscription <i>ANET</i> 237–9. Stud. Pres.: The “Sea Peoples” and the Philistines of Ancient Palestine.
4/6	Saul and David	1 Samuel 1–24. Stud. Pres.: Prophecy and Apocalypics in the Ancient Near East.
4/8	Latin Day. No class	Extra credit opportunity
4/11	The United Monarchy	1 Samuel 25–36, 2 Samuel 1-13. Stud. Pres.: Legal and Social Institutions in Canaan and Ancient Israel.
4/13	Solomon and the First Temple	2 Samuel 14-24, 1 Kings 1–11. Stud. Pres.: Theology, Priests, and Worship in Canaan and Ancient Israel
4/15	Near East in the Early First Millennium	Microop 11. Optional: skim Palestinian inscriptions (<i>ANET</i> 287–93), documents from various minor peoples mentioned in Bible. Stud. Pres.: The Kingdom of Urartu in Eastern Anatolia. Stud. Pres.: Karkamish and Karatepe: Neo-Hittite City States in North Syria. Stud. Pres.: The Phoenicians.
4/18	The Rise of Assyria	Microop 12. Assyrian historical texts <i>ANET</i> 250–9. Stud. Pres.: Progress, Science, and the Use of Knowledge in Ancient Mesopotamia.
4/20	Assyria’s World Dominion	Microop 13 (up to 265 only). Assyrian historical texts <i>ANET</i> 212–3 (2 treaties), 264–7 + The Substitute King (<i>ANET</i> 443). Begin work on Knowledge and Power in Assyria Project. Stud. Pres.: Assyrian rule in the West.
4/22	Aramaic lit:	Words of Ahiqar <i>ANET</i> 379-83. Also read the Book of Tobit (Bible, apocrypha), where Ahiqar reappears as Achiacharus, a royal advisor to the Assyrian king. Course webpage: And the <i>Life of Aesop</i> , which in many respects reproduces the Ahiqar story. Stud. Pres.: Aramaean Tribes and Nations of First-Millennium Western Asia.
4/25	Fall of Assyria, rise of Medes and Anatolian states	Microop 13–14 (pp. 266–75 only). Fall of Nineveh, <i>ANET</i> 272–3. Lord Byron, The Destruction of Sennacherib (search online). Course webpage for Herodotus on the Lydians, Medes, and Fall of Nineveh: WARNING, 20 page reading (BUT GOOD STORIES) Stud.

4/27	Neo-Babylonian Dynasty	Pres.: Archives and Libraries in the Ancient Near East. Microop 14, pp. 276–85 only. <i>ANET</i> texts 273–81. Stud. Pres.: Distant Shores: Ancient Near Eastern Trade with South Asia and Northeast Africa. Stud. Pres.: North Arabia in the First Millennium BCE.
4/29	EGYPT V	Overview of culture, architecture and religion. <i>Morkot</i> , pp. 151-160; pp. 200-221.
5/2	Persian Empire	Microop 15, up to 299 only. Cyrus cylinder <i>ANET</i> 282-4. Course webpage Herodotus on Cyrus the Great and the Rise of Persia and Darius' Behistun inscription. Stud. Pres.: Brittany Rudacille on Madness of Camybses.
5/4	Alexander the Great	Microop 15, 299–301. Mesopotamian king lists mentioning Alexander (<i>ANET</i> 284–6). Further readings on webpage (Curtius Rufus on Alexander entering Babylon; contemporary Babylonian astronomical diary mentioning same; Arrian on Alexander's actions at Babylon and in Persia, including mass marriage of his officers to Persian noblewomen). Knowledge and Power in Assyria Project due.
5/9	Final Exam 01:30 - 04:15	FLEMING 101
5/13	Final Paper Due at Latest!	