M104: History of Ancient Mesopotamia and Syria

286-325-200 (ANE), 221-318-200 (HIST)
Spring 2016

Instructor: Robert K. Englund
Lectures: Mo We 2:00 - 3:15 PM, Rm Bunche 2160
Office hours: Mo 4:00 - 5:00 PM Humanities Building 396, or appointment 805 390 0777 or englund@ucla.edu
Course Description: Political and cultural development of the “Fertile Crescent,” from early state formation to the Persian period.
See <http://cdli.ucla.edu/staff/englund/16s_m104.html>
Requirements, grading: Two exams: May 2 mid-term 25%, June 8 final 50%.
Term paper will be in the form of five (5) separate file packages, each to consist of one image and one text file (using text editor or writing txt file in Word etc., UTF-8 characters are okay, and note that the text file accepts html tags), compatible with pages in the iPad app cdli tablet <http://cdli.ucla.edu/?q=cdli-tablet>; model files: <http://cdli.ucla.edu/tools/cdlifiles/cdlitablet_modelfiles.zip>; submissions are due, per email attachment, on or before the end of May 11, 25%

Provisional list of lectures / class meetings

date | topics | readings (to be completed prior to the respective lecture dates)
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Mo March 28 | Introduction to course: objectives, methods, requirements |  
We March 30 | Sketch of Near Eastern geography, Mesopotamian history and society | vdMieroop 2004: 1-16; Oppenheim 1977: 48-63
Mo April 4 | Documentary: Michael Wood, *Iraq: The Cradle of Civilization* |  
We April 6 | Consideration of historical sources; Mesopotamian city-states | Postgate 1992: 22-50
Mo April 11 | A History of Writing | Postgate 1992: 51-70
We April 13 | The Early Dynastic period | Postgate 1992: 25-41 (review)
Mo April 18 | Syrian Ebla; Sargonic period | Milano in Sasson 1995: 1219-1230
We April 20 | The Ur III period | Hallo and Simpson 1998: 72-87
We April 27 | Discussion, mid-term prep |  
Mo May 2 | MID-TERM EXAM |  
We May 4 | Old Assyrian government and trade | Veenhof in Sasson 1995: 859-871
Mo May 9 | Hammurapi's Babylon |  
We May 11 | Old Babylonian law codes, administration of justice | Postgate 1992: 275-291; Kamp and Yoffee 1980: 85-104; Yoffee 1988a: 95-113
cdli tablet submissions due!
We May 18 | Movie: *People of the Wind* |  
Mo May 23 | Late Assyria and Babylonia; Israel and Mesopotamia | Hallo and Simpson 1998: 119-150; Machinist 1992: 69-81
Mo May 30 | Memorial Day |  
We June 1 | Collapse of Mesopotamian civilization; | Yoffee 1988b: 44-68
Discussion, final exam prep |  
We June 8 | FINAL EXAM Bunche 2160 3:00 - 5:00 PM (should take no longer than 90 minutes to complete) |  

Required readings (PDFs can be downloaded from the class web site [password: m104]):

Please purchase the class textbook at the UCLA store, or online:

Other required readings:
J. Bottero, Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia (Chicago 2001) introduction
A. Leo Oppenheim, Ancient Mesopotamia (Chicago 1977) 48-63

Recommended:
H. Nissen, P. Damerow and R. Englund, Archaic Bookkeeping (Chicago 1993)
H. W. F. Saggs, Babylonians (London 1995)
James B. Pritchard, Ancient Near East in Text and Pictures (2 vols.; Princeton 1965 etc.)
E. Cassin, Die Altorientalischen Reiche (=Die Fischer Weltgeschichte vols. 2-4; Frankfurt-Hamburg 1965-1967)
The Cambridge Ancient History, vols. I, II, III (later parts more current)

Various essays can be found in: Realexikon der Assyriologie; Anchor Bible Dictionary
Bibliographies of Mesopotamian history and culture can be found in the journals Orientalia and Archiv für Orientforschung.
Possible topics for cdli tablet submissions

Decipherment of cuneiform
The early development of writing
Egypt and Mesopotamia; contacts in the Uruk period
Ebla
Mesopotamian royal inscriptions
Who's who in Mesopotamian studies
Sargon
Naram-Sin
The obelisk of Manishtushu
Trade and traders in the Ur III period
Slavery
Old Assyrian caravan
The law codes
Women's rights
Assyrian reliefs
The library of Assurbanipal, Kuyunjik
Nimrud—the Northwest Palace of Assurnasirpal II
The battle of Lachish
ISIS and ancient artifacts
The trade in ANE antiquities
Protecting cultural heritage collections
IT and ANE
The Gilgamesh Epic
The Flood Story
Religion: Pantheon, Cult, Afterlife, etc.
Architecture
Agriculture
Use of animals
Food and drink in Mesopotamia
Hunting
Seals and sealing
British Museum collection of ANE artifacts
Louvre collection of ANE artifacts
Metropolitan collection of ANE artifacts
LACMA collection of ANE artifacts
# Mesopotamian Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bronze Age Designations</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Writing Phase</th>
<th>Historical Developments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3400</td>
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<tr>
<td>EBA I</td>
<td>Late Uruk</td>
<td>Clay bullae and numerical tablets</td>
<td>Beginning of large-scale settlement of Babylonia</td>
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<td>Jemdet Nasr</td>
<td>Archaic texts from Uruk: Writing Phase Uruk IV, Writing Phase Uruk III</td>
<td>First urban centers</td>
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<td>EBA II</td>
<td>Early Dynastic I</td>
<td>Archaic texts from Ur</td>
<td>Age of early civilization</td>
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<td>Early Dynastic II</td>
<td>Formulation of large irrigation networks</td>
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<td>EBA III</td>
<td>Early Dynastic IIIa</td>
<td>Texts from Fara</td>
<td>Rival city-states</td>
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<td>Early Dynastic IIIb</td>
<td>Old Sumerian texts</td>
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<td>Dynasty of Akkad</td>
<td>Old Akkadian texts</td>
<td>First empire</td>
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<td>EBA IV</td>
<td>Gudea of Lagash</td>
<td>Neo-Sumerian texts</td>
<td>Centralized state of the 3rd Dynasty of Ur</td>
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<td>MBA I</td>
<td>Ur III</td>
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<td>1900</td>
<td>Old Assyrian</td>
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<td>1800</td>
<td>Old Babylonian</td>
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<td>LBA I</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>Middle Assyrian / Kassite</td>
<td>Middle-Assyrian / Baylonian- texts</td>
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<td>Amarna correspondence</td>
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<td>Babylonian empire (Nebuchadnezzar II)</td>
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<td>400</td>
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<td>Occupation of Babylon</td>
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<td>300</td>
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<td>by Cyrus in 539</td>
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<td>Seleucid</td>
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<td>Revival of cuneiform under the Seleucids</td>
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