

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: The History of the Ancient Near East

TERM: Fall 2019-2020

PROFESSOR: Ron E. Tappy

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO _____
AUDITORS: 1

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to early cultures in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Syria-Palestine. The chronological range of topics extends from the formative periods in the Cradles of Civilization through the rise of urbanism and increased cultural interaction to the emergence of Old Testament Israel in its broader geographical and cultural context. By stressing the historical context of ancient Israel amidst all its neighbors, the course will enable the student to think more holistically about the world of the Bible.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, students will:

- possess a systematic guide to the study of ancient Near Eastern history (the syllabus)
- have compiled a coherent set of class notes relating to selected phases of ancient Near Eastern history
- have read 2–3 major textbooks that trace the history and review the archaeology of various cultures and empires which flourished in the Near East from the fourth millennium to the first millennium BCE
- be able to identify at least ten key artifacts that relate directly to various cultural phases of ancient Near Eastern history
- have demonstrated an ability to assess critically issues and problems inherent in the historiography of the ancient Near East/Israel by writing a research paper dealing with an assigned topic and by critiquing a paper written by a peer
- possess a better understanding of the broader historical and cultural setting of early Israel, i.e., an understanding of the world surrounding old Israel and of the cultural forces that played a role in the formation of Old Testament Israel

PREREQUISITES: None (but OT 110 and OT 120 will help)

READING ASSIGNMENTS/BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Amélie Kuhrt, *The Ancient Near East, c. 3000–330 BCE, Volumes I–II*. New York: Routledge, 1997. **ISBN:** 978-0415167628, \$140.95 (two-volume set - new; used copies available for \$50.00–\$80.00)

Nicolas Grimal, *A History of Ancient Egypt*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1994. **ISBN:** 978-0631193968, \$37.57

Miscellaneous journal articles

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Submission of complete set of Class Notes based on material presented in lectures (5%)

Required Readings (self-reported; 7%)

Miscellaneous Assignments, Class Attendance, and General Participation (3%)

Research Evaluation — critique of a student paper (grammar; syntax; style; content) (15%)

Research Paper — choose a topic from listed in the syllabus; 10–12 pages; 20 sources (50%)

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT: Required