

**Mesopotamia: Cradle of Civilization**

**Spring 2013**

**HIST 408 3 hours credit**

**MWF 10:00-10:50**

**AD321**

**Abilene Christian University**

**Instructor: Dr. Mark Cullum**

**Assistant Professor of History**

**Office: AD 324B**

**Office Hours: MWF: 3-5; T/Th: 3-4:30 and by appointment**

**Telephone: (W) 674-2845**

**(H) 670-9859**

**E-mail: mark.cullum@acu.edu**

**University Mission**

Educating students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

**Departmental Mission**

The mission of the Department of History is to provide a strong academic program designed to prepare students for Christian service through a knowledge of and appreciation for their own heritage and the heritage of peoples throughout the world.

**Audience**

This course can be used to fulfill a requirement for an upper level history or upper level elective credit depending on one's degree plan.

**Textbooks**

William H. Stiebing, Jr., *Ancient Near East History and Culture (Second Ed.)*

ISBN-10: 032142297X | ISBN-13: 978-0321422972

James B. Pritchard, ed., *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures*

ISBN-10: 0691002002; ISBN-13: 978-0691002002

*The Epic of Gilgamesh* (tr. Benjamin R. Foster)

ISBN-10: 0393975169 | ISBN-13: 978-0393975161 0

Herodotus, *The Histories* (ed. Marincola, tr. Selin-court) (also available on internet)

ISBN-10: 0140449086 | ISBN-13: 978-0140449082 0

**Other Resources**

Other texts will be announced and handouts made available during the semester.

**Scripture**

Acts 17:26-28 "[God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, thought he be not far from

every one of us: For in him we live and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."

### **Catalog Description**

HIST 408 Mesopotamia: Cradle of Civilization (3-0-3), spring, odd years. Survey of cultural, economic, political, and military developments in the ancient Near East down to the Persian Empire

### **Grade Composition**

|                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Exams                           | 40 % |
| Final Exam                      | 20 % |
| Class Presentation              | 20 % |
| Quizzes and Class Participation | 20 % |

### **Grade scale**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| A | 92-100 |
| B | 84-91  |
| C | 76-83  |
| D | 68-75  |
| F | 0-67   |

### **Weekly Topics and Readings**

#### **Week One**

Mon: Introduction to course

Wed: Archaeology in Mesopotamia

Fri: Prehistory of Mesopotamia

Reading: Stiebing, Chapter One

#### **Week Two**

Mon: Dawn of Civilization

Wed: Prehistoric religion

Fri: Sumerian city-states

Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Two; Pritchard, 330-337

#### **Week Three**

Mon: Early Empires: Akkadian, Third Dynasty of Ur

Wed: The Epic of Gilgamesh

Fri: Exam One

Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Three; Pritchard, 25-39, 337-342; Epic of Gilgamesh

#### **Week Four**

Mon: Old Babylonian Empire  
Wed: War in the Ancient Near East  
Fri: Ancient Near East Culture: Math, Science, Medicine, Art, Literature  
Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Four; Pritchard, 155-179, 352-374

#### Week Five

Mon: Mesopotamia in the Early Second Millennium  
Wed: Egyptian Prehistory  
Fri: Old Kingdom Egypt  
Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Five; Pritchard, 1-24; 343-352

#### Week Six

Mon: Egyptian religion  
Wed: Egyptian Middle Kingdom, First Intermediate Period  
Fri: Exam Two  
Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Six; Pritchard, 226-235

#### Week Seven

Mon: Egyptian Middle Kingdom, Second Intermediate Period  
Wed: New Kingdom Egypt  
Fri: Egyptian culture  
Reading: TBA

#### Week Eight

Mon: New Kingdom Egypt  
Wed: New Kingdom Pharaohs (cont.)  
Fri: The Hittites  
Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Seven; Pritchard, 237-239, 324-329

#### Week Nine

Mon: Ancient Near East in Late Bronze Age  
Wed: Collapse of Bronze Age Cultures, Decline of Egypt  
Fri: Exam Three  
Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Eight; Pritchard, 101-106, 205-207

#### Week Ten

Mon: Mesopotamia and Egypt in Early First Millennium  
Wed: Old Assyria  
Fri: Early Israel  
Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Nine; Pritchard, 250-259 on Hittites

#### Week Eleven

Mon: Rise of Neo-Assyrian power  
Wed: Assyrian warfare  
Fri: Israel and Biblical Monotheism

Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Ten; Pritchard, 264-271 on Assyrians; on siege of Jerusalem, also read II Kings 18-19; cf. Is. 36-37

#### Week Twelve

Mon: Neo-Assyrian Empire

Wed: Neo-Babylonians

Fri: Exam Four

Reading: TBA

#### Week Thirteen

Mon: Later Egypt

Wed: Achaemenid Persian Empire

Fri: Ancient near East influence on Greeks

Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Eleven; Pritchard, 281-284

#### Week Fourteen

Mon: Philosophical and religious developments

Wed: Persian Wars

Fri: Alexander the Great

Reading: Herodotus, 7.1-40; 7.139-147; 7.201-239; 8.40-107; 9.28-65

#### Week Fifteen

Mon: Hellenistic Egypt

Wed: End of Ancient Egypt

Fri: Exam Five

Reading: Stiebing, Chapter Twelve

### Classroom Lectures

This course is intended to help students develop an understanding of the ancient Near East civilizations. The majority of the classroom meetings will be lecture-based, albeit with some opportunities for classroom discussion. The five scheduled exams, as well as the final exam will be made up mostly of material from these lectures, along with some material from assigned readings and discussions.

### Exams

Exams will be given every third Friday, and they will be based primarily on material from lectures, but information from readings and discussion groups will also sometimes be included. Students will be told before each exam what the questions will cover. Exams will have both multiple choice questions and discussion questions. These tri-weekly exams will count for 40% of the students' final grade. A comprehensive final exam will be given, as well, of the same basic type. It will count for 20% of the student's final grade.

### **Class Presentations**

The final two or three weeks (depending on class size) will be devoted to student classroom presentations on various topics. These presentations will provide an opportunity for students to explore in greater depth issues upon which the class has touched. These presentations will be expected to demonstrate a considerable degree of research and effort, as it will comprise 20% of the student's overall grade. An exam in week 15 will cover material from the various student presentations.

#### Reading Assignments, Quizzes, and Class Participation

Students will be assigned regular readings in class texts and other material made available by the instructor. Regular reading quizzes will be given – especially over the Stiebing assignments – with two bonus questions per quiz. A few other quizzes may be given relating to other reading assignments. The average quiz grade will make up 20% each student's final grade.

Regular and timely attendance, civil behavior and a reasonable degree of attention and participation in class (where appropriate) are all expected as a matter of course. If there is a problem in this area, points will be deducted from the student's "Homework and Class Participation" grade. (Other disciplinary measures may be taken, as well.) Absent such problems (and they are rare among ACU students), this 20% segment of each student's grade will be determined strictly by quizzes.

#### Make-up Work

Make-up exams will be offered only with a 50-point penalty, unless the exam was missed because of a university-sponsored event, illness (a note from your doctor will be required), or a serious personal problem.

#### The Role of Faith in Education

This class is based on the beliefs that intellectual development is valuable in and of itself, and that, for those of us called to a university education, it is a matter of faithful stewardship of gifts. Christian faith should influence our academic strivings not by making them less intellectual – mingling a Sunday school atmosphere with that of a university classroom – but by inspiring us to ever greater intellectual achievements, to the glory and service of God.

#### Professor's Open Door

Serious thought about historical issues and Christian principles should prompt reflection about the nature of one's personal faith and standing before God. Faith-related issues will be discussed in class, of course, but you are more than welcome to visit me in my office (during office hours or by appointment) if you would rather discuss such things privately.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement**

"Abilene Christian University is dedicated to removing barriers and opening access for students with disabilities in compliance with ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The Alpha Scholars Program facilitates disability accommodations in cooperation with instructors. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with Alpha Scholars Program, and you must complete a specific request for each class in which you need accommodations. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please call our office directly at 325-674-2667."

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity is defined as academic work completed as assigned for each class by the individual or group responsible for the work. Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating involve the intention to deceive, mislead, or misrepresent and therefore, are a form of lying. Such actions are contrary to behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following: 1) Failure to give credit to sources used in a work in an attempt to present the work as one's own, 2) Submission of papers or projects obtained from another source (e.g., research service or club paper file) as one's own, and 3) Falsifying information orally or in writing. Academic misconduct may result in, but is not limited to, a zero on the assignment and/or an F in the course. Additionally, the department chair, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Dean of Student Life will be notified. See the full university policy, including how to appeal a decision, by following this link: <http://www.acu.edu/campusoffices/studentlife/judicialDocuments/AcademicIntegrityPolicy.pdf>.