

Ancient Near East  
Verbrugghe  
Spring, 2015

510:301  
Armitage 212  
MWF 11:15-12:10

## Syllabus

This course traces the history of the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Iraq (Mesopotamia) from the beginning of our species (c. 150,000 years ago) to their demise at the hands of the Greeks and Romans (exact date of death to be determined). Seemingly dead ends – Ancient Egypt and ancient Iraq basically disappeared as their gods, forms of government, and languages all disappeared. – these civilizations nevertheless played essential roles in the ancient world and directly influenced the civilizations that succeeded them. Our purpose, besides learning the history of these two great civilizations, is twofold: 1. to explain why ancient Egypt and ancient Iraq ultimately disappeared; and 2. to evaluate their effect on the civilizations that succeeded them.

Required Readings Available at the Bookstore:

*Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., William H. Stiebing, Jr. ISBN 0-321-42297-X = Stiebing

*The Ancient Near East*, Vol. I & II, ed. James Pritchard ISBN 0-691-00200-2 and 0-691-00209-6 = Pritchard I and Pritchard II

Required Readings Available on Sakai (on Sakai, see below.)

“Eight Little Piggies” (1993) and “Dinosaur in a Haystack” (1995), articles by Stephen J. Gould

Basis for the determination of Final Grade:

A numerical grade will be given to each of the following:

Two (2) in class examinations, worth 35% of the final grade;

One (1) 5 to 10 page paper, worth 15% of the final grade;

Four (4) quizzes worth 20% of the final grade

A Final Examination, worth 30% of the final grade.

The paper is due Apr. 22 and will be penalized 10 points or one letter grade each late day. Stated policy is that there are **NO** make-up essay examinations or quizzes. This policy is easily vitiated, if you are going to have to miss turning a map in on time or taking a quiz or examination when scheduled because of absolutely unavoidable circumstances. Courtesy and I, however, demand that you notify me **beforehand** or in an unforeseen and unforeseeable situation **as soon as possible** afterwards (**NOT** just the next time you happen to be in class) either in person, by phone, or by e-mail so that **arrangements can be made to make up** the map assignment, quiz, or essay examination you unavoidably missed.. The final letter grade will be determined by the following correspondence:

100–90=A

89–80=B

79–70=C

69–60=D

59– 0=F

My office is 200 in 429 Cooper, and I will be available for questions or consultation there each class day, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 7:15 to 8:45 A.M. If these times are not convenient, we can arrange to meet at a mutually agreeable time. My office phone number is 225-6075. My E-mail address is [Verbrugg@Camden.Rutgers.Edu](mailto:Verbrugg@Camden.Rutgers.Edu); please, put in the subject heading Ancient Near East. My personal home page, which under courses for 516:301 has a copy of this syllabus in .pdf format: <http://crab.rutgers.edu/~verbrugg>. More important, our Sakai site, under

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal> when you log in using your Rutgers user name and password, also has a copy of this syllabus in .pdf format. Click on our course (Ancient Near East 50), click on Resources, and then click on Syllabus. Also on Sakai are the two articles by Gould I ask you to read, and I will be posting other information and readings for our course.

I expect the reading assignments to be done for the class day they are assigned. A good rule of thumb is that for every hour of class, two hours of preparation are necessary. Although no grade is given for class attendance or participation, I expect everyone to attend and participate in class. Such attendance and participation should show good results on the quizzes and essay examinations.

#### Schedule of meetings, assignments, and examinations:

Jan. 21 Introduction

Jan. 23, 26, 28 Evolution - Africa and The Role of the Ancient Near East in the Old Stone Age  
Stiebing Chapter 1  
“What the Immaculate Pigeon Teaches the Burdened Mind,” Stephen Jay Gould in *Natural History* 100 (April 1991) 12-21] and in Gould’s *Eight Little Piggies*, Chap. 25, pp. 355-370  
“In the Mind of the Beholder,” Stephen Jay Gould in *Natural History* 103 (Feb. 1994) 14-23 and in Gould’s *Dinosaur in a Haystack*, chap. 8, pp. 93-107  
Both articles are available on our Sakai site.

**Jan. 27 Last day to DROP a course without a \$5.00 fee and a "W" grade**

Jan. 30, Feb. 2 The Neolithic Revolution

Feb. 4, 6, 9, 11 The Early Bronze Age, the Sumerians, the Akkadians, and the Third Kingdom of Ur  
Stiebing Chapter 2 and Chapter 3  
Legend of Sargon, Pritchard I 85-86  
Sumerian Myths, the Deluge, Pritchard I 28-30  
Hymns to Ninurta, Pritchard II 123-125  
Laws of Ur-Nammu, Pritchard II 31-34  
Hymns of Enheduanna, Pritchard II 126-132  
Hymns to Shulgi, Pritchard II 132-135  
Sumerian Job, Pritchard II 136-141  
Sumerian Sacred Marriage Texts, Pritchard II 195-204  
Curse of Agade, Pritchard II 204-215

**Feb. 9 First Quiz**

Feb. 13, 16, 18, 20, 23 The Semites to the Iron Age  
Stiebing Chapter 4  
*Epic of Gilgamesh* Pritchard I 40-75  
Adapa, Pritchard I 76-80  
Code of Eshnunaa, Pritchard I 133-138

Code of Hammurabi, Pritchard I 138-167  
Hymn to Ishtar, Pritchard 231-233  
Descent of Ishtar to the Netherworld, Pritchard I 80-85  
Akkadian Observations on Life, Pritchard I 250-252  
Mari Letters, Pritchard I 260-262  
Edict of Ammisaduqa, Pritchard II 36-41

**Feb. 20      SECOND QUIZ**

**Feb. 25      *FIRST EXAMINATION***

Feb. 27,      Egypt—The Old Kingdom  
Mar. 2, 4, 6      Stiebing Chapter 5 “Memphite Theology, Pritchard I 1-3

Mar. 9, 11,      Egypt—The Middle Kingdom and The New Kingdom  
13, 23, 25,      Stiebing Chapter 6 and Chapter 7  
27      Story of Sinhue, Pritchard I 5-12  
Hymn to Aten, Pritchard I 226-231  
Tale of the Two Brothers, Pritchard I 12-16  
Megiddo battle, Pritchard I 175-182

Mar. 13      No Class

**Mar. 25      Third Quiz**

Mar. 30,      The Dark Ages  
Apr. 1, 3, 6      Stiebing Chapter 8  
Stele of Merneptah Pritchard I 231

***Apr. 3 - Good Friday***

Apr. 6      No Class

***Apr. 7      Last Day to DROP course with a "W" grade upon  
payment of a \$5.00 fee without having to petition the  
Scholastic Standing Committee.***

**Apr. 8      SECOND EXAMINATION**

***Apr. 8 - Passover begins at Sundown***

Apr. 10, 13,      The New Interconnection—Rise of Assyria  
15, 17      Stiebing Chapter 9 and Chapter 10  
Creation Epic, Pritchard I 31-40  
Assyrian Annals, Pritchard 188-203  
Assyrian Treaties, Pritchard II 49-69

Assyrian King Lists, Pritchard II 113-118

**Apr. 13      Fourth Quiz**

Apr. 20, 22, 24      The Neo-Babylonians—The Last Semitic Empire  
Babylonian Chronicles, Pritchard I 202-208

**Apr. 22      *PAPER DUE***

Apr. 27, 29      The Persians and Greeks  
Stiebing Chapter 11  
King Lists (Persian and Greek), Pritchard II 118-120

May 1, 4      The Romans, Byzantines, and Arabs  
Stiebing Chapter 12

***May 5-6      Reading period***

**May 13 – Wednesday, 11:30 am.**

***FINAL EXAMINATION***