Syllabus NMC262H1S
Introduction to the Archaeology of the Near East Part II
The Historic Periods
Tues/Thurs 10-12 am; Room BF 415

Instructor: Anne Porter
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YOU MUST READ THE SYLLABUS CAREFULLY. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO
KEEP TRACK OF ALL DUE DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Course Description
The historic periods of the Near East seem to be marked by the rise and fall of one political power after the other, constant conflict and cultural change. Both texts and archaeology give us evidence of what happens at the state level, although whether conflict is a cause or effect of political change is hotly debated. Archaeology can also tell us what happens to ordinary people. This course has two goals: through a survey of the key sites and discoveries of the late third through first millennium in the Near East, to take a critical look at archaeological evidence of collapse, continuity and change as it relates to everyday life; to familiarize you with the way archaeologists answer questions. You will be expected to actively participate in constructing critique and conclusions.

Assessment
All papers must be submitted in hard copy as well as emailed. All papers must be single-sided, double-spaced and 12 pt font.

Exercise 1 JANUARY 19TH @ 10%: research the causes and effect of Syrian War.


Exercise 3 DATE TBD @ 10%: describe the sensory experiences of ritual – adding the experiential dimension to archaeological thought (this exercise will be based on an extra-curricular excursion).

Term test MARCH 7TH: 30%

Research Paper MARCH 23RD: 30%

Participation 5%
Classroom Policies

STUDENTS MAY NOT OPEN THEIR COMPUTERS IN CLASS UNLESS EXPRESSLY PERMITTED BY INSTRUCTOR. No phones or any other digital media are permitted. Class may not be recorded unless by prior arrangement with instructor. Computers may be used to take notes only. Wikipedia is not considered an acceptable source under any situation (so don’t bother consulting it in class). If students persist in inappropriate use of electronic media, they will be asked to leave the class. Behavior that distracts other students will not be permitted. Students are expected to discuss all topics openly and civilly.

MARCH 13th IS LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS

Failure to complete all components of the assessment may result in a failing grade.

Failure to properly reference any written work or to acknowledge source material is considered plagiarism and will result in a failing grade.

Readings

Some readings are given as a source of information, but some will apply the techniques or theories to a particular subject we are discussing. Approached critically these sources are also ways of learning how archaeologists do things and why. For this reason you will be expected to do three things with the readings: extract information, analyze the structure and implications of the piece, and break down the argument. Most readings are available online at JSTOR, academia.edu or researchgate.net. Please consult google scholar. Otherwise they will be posted in Blackboard. Please pay attention to the directions in the weekly schedule.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism consists of passing off someone else’s work as your own. This may be done in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to: wholesale copying of another person’s writing; getting someone else to write your work for you; quoting someone’s words directly within your own writing but failing to place the quote in quotation marks and/or failing to provide a reference; failing to provide a reference for someone else’s words that you paraphrase; failing to acknowledge information or ideas that have come from someone else. Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be reported. It will be then treated according to school policies and may result in expulsion. Please see the appropriate web page for the school’s plagiarism policy.

Attendance

It is very difficult to pass this class unless you attend class regularly. There are three reasons for this: one, I will be modeling for you in class the kind of work you are supposed to do for assignments and exams; two, readings do not replace class content; and three, class discussions, because they are the practice of analysis, are as important as any other part of the course. Exam questions are taken directly from class materials and discussions.
PART I: LATE THIRD MILLENNIUM BCE (EARLY BRONZE IV)

Week 1 The Ancient Near East at 2500 BCE
Thurs Jan 5th: Sumer, Subartu and Susa

Week 2. The World’s First Empire: Akkad.
Tues Jan 10th Lacking the city of Akkad itself, we are reliant on objects and texts for our understanding of imperialism. The artefacts of Sargon and Naram-Sin.
Thurs Jan 12th But in the North, it is a different story. The Akkadian levels at Tell Brak.

Week 3. Climate and Collapse: The Fall of Akkad and the Third Dynasty of Ur
Tues Jan 17th How did the rise and fall of empires affect the general population?
Thurs Jan 19th Does the modern situation give us insight into ancient situation, or are we imposing our own experience on the past?

PART II THE SECOND MILLENNIUM BCE (MIDDLE AND LATE BRONZE AGES)
Week 4. Invasion, migration, infiltration – or none of the above.
Tues Jan 24th The “coming” of the Amorites in Mesopotamia – intermediate periods, disjuncture and continuity.
Thurs Jan 26th How can archaeology inform us about the realities of daily life? Mashkan Shapir and Mari.
Week 5 What do laws tell us about life?

Tues Jan 31st Hammurabi


Thurs Feb 2nd The Old Assyrian empire, international trade and Kanesh


Week 6 The rise of the great empires and their impact on their subjects.

Tues Feb 7th The Hittites and Emar


Thurs Feb 9th Middle Assyrians


Week 7 The International Age

Tues Feb 14th The Egyptians and the age of Amarna


Selected Amarna letters

Thurs Feb 16th Qatna


Week 8 READING WEEK

Week 9 The Levant…
Tues Feb 28th … in the North – Ugarit


Thurs Mar 2nd …and in the South – Beth Shan


Week 10 And yet another collapse
Tues Mar 7th TERM TEST

Thurs Mar 9th The coming of the sea peoples


PART III THE FIRST MILLENNIUM BCE (IRON AGE)

Week 11 Identity, ethnicity, hybridity, acculturation
Tues Mar 14th Egypt

in *Walls of the Prince: Egyptian Interactions with Southwest Asia in Antiquity*, edited by T. Harrison, E. Banning and S. Klassen.

Thurs Mar 16\textsuperscript{th} Philistines


Week 12 New kids on the block

Tues Mar 21\textsuperscript{st} Israel


Thurs Mar 23\textsuperscript{th} Aramaeans


Week 13 The Neos: The Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian empires.

Tues Mar 28\textsuperscript{th} The Assyrian Reliefs


Thurs Mar 30\textsuperscript{th} The Babylonian city.

Week 14 LAST DAY of CLASS

Tues April 4\textsuperscript{th} So what was it all for?