COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will consider the destinies of civilization in Western Eurasia from the eighth through the first millennium B.C. Special attention will be given to the following subjects:

1. the birth of agriculture and cities in the Near East (ca. 8000-3000 B.C.), and the first urban civilizations during the Near Eastern and eastern Mediterranean Bronze Age (ca. 3000-1200 B.C.);

2. civilization in the Near East during the early Iron Age (ca. 1200-500 B.C.);

3. civilization in Greek World during the early Iron Age (ca. 1200-500 B.C.);

4. the Classic Age of Greek Civilization (ca. 500-330 B.C.); and

5. the conquests of Alexander the Great and the juncture of Greek and Near Eastern Civilization after his death (ca. 330-100 B.C.).

LECTURES

Three lectures each week, supplemented by one weekly discussion meeting with a teaching assistant.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS (REGULAR CREDIT)

1. Students taking the course for THREE REGULAR CREDITS will write a six weeks examination, a twelve weeks examination, and a final examination.

2. Students taking the course for FOUR REGULAR CREDITS will write the three examinations listed above, and hand in (by the scheduled time of the final examination) a term paper. The suggested maximum length of the term paper: 10 to 15 pages. The deadline for selecting all regular credit term paper topics is Friday of the seventh week of the term.
SPECIAL PROJECT: A COLLOQUIUM ON THE PRESOCRATIC PHILOSOPHERS

Students who wish to complete the course without following the usual cycle of examinations and papers may participate in a colloquium on the presocratic philosophers -- the Greek thinkers who contemplated the nature of the universe and the meaning of life before the time of the Athenian philosopher Socrates (late 5th century B.C.). Participants will select a term paper topic -- preferably but not necessarily one which concerns the Presocratic Philosophers and related topics -- by the third week of the term. They will hand in a first draft of the term paper by Friday of the ninth week of the term, and a second draft (revised in accordance with the instructor’s comments and the student’s own second thoughts) by the day of the final examination. During the semester participants in the colloquium will use a weekly discussion hour (in addition to the three lecture hours) to present a report on an aspect of Presocratic philosophy.

Participants in the colloquium may earn honors or regular credit for the course. The suggested maximum length of the term paper’s second draft varies with the number of credits.

3 regular or honors credits -- 10 to 15 pages;
4 regular or honors credits -- 15 to 20 pages.

GRADING SYSTEM

3 regular credits: 6 weeks exam 30%, 12 weeks exam 35%, final exam 35% of final grade.
4 regular credits: 6 weeks exam 20%, 12 weeks exam 25%, term paper 25%, final exam 30% of final grade.
Colloquium: first draft of paper 30%, second draft 35%, discussion section reports 35% of final grade.

APPEALS: The course staff offers second readings of examinations and papers. This is a no-risk review: when second opinions are given, the staff records the higher of the two estimations as the examination or paper grade.
READINGS

# HISTORY 111/THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST AND GREECE: SPECIAL HANDOUTS


** W.F. Albright, BIBLICAL PERIOD FROM ABRAHAM TO EZRA. Harper & Row Torchbook TB 102.


% P. Matthiae, EBLA; AN EMPIRE REDISCOVERED. Doubleday & Co.


% J. B. Pritchard, THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST, I: AN ANTHOLOGY TEXTS AND PICTURES.

&% EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY. Tr. J. Barnes. Penguin; Paperback.


* required purchase available at the bookstores
& optional purchase available at the bookstores
% on three-hour reserve in H. C. White no. 1191
# required purchase at Econo-Print, 341 State Street
## History 111

### GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE, WEEKS I-VI

#### Week 1
- **Topic:** Agriculture and the first cities in western Eurasia (ca. 8000-3000 B.C.)

#### Week II-III
- **Topic:** The Bronze Age Civilizations of the Near East and E. Mediterranean (ca. 3000-1200 B.C.):
  1. **(a) general considerations**
  2. **(b) Mesopotamia--creation myths and the Mesopotamian World View**
  3. **(c) Ebla and the problem of the origins of the Hebrews**
  4. **(d) Egypt: the Old and Middle Kingdoms and the Empire --the Egyptian world view**
  5. **(e) Minoan and Mycenaean Civilization**

#### Required Reading
- C. Roebuck, *The World of Ancient Times*, pp. 3-100
- W.F. Albright, *The Biblical Period from Abraham to Ezra*, pp. 1-9
- P. Matthiae, *Ebla: An Empire Rediscovered*, entire
- J.A. Wilson, *The Culture of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 43-103, 125-153, 166-235
- C. Roebuck, *The World of Ancient Times*, pp. 101-119

#### Recommended Reading
- P. Matthiae, *Ebla: An Empire Rediscovered*, entire
- J. A. Wilson, *The Culture of Ancient Egypt*, entire
Week | Topic | Required Reading | Recommended Reading
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  | (a) the significance of the widespread use of iron | | |
  | (b) movements of peoples | | |
  | (c) The Phoenician response to the challenge of the early Iron Age | | |
  | (d) the response of Israel and Judah--the world view of the Ancient Hebrews | | |
  | (e) the Assyrian and Chaldaean backlash and the end of the ancient Near East--the Persian Empire | | |

Average required reading: About 90 pages per week

The six-weeks examination will cover readings and lectures of the first six weeks of the course. A detailed description of the examination will be distributed two weeks prior to the examination.