

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester I, 1987-88

History 111
Office: 4117 Humanities

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The Ancient Near East and Greece

Course Description

In this course we shall deal with four important ancient Mediterranean cultures: The Mesopotamian, the Israelite, the Egyptian, and the Greek. Taking them in that order, we shall trace their development from urbanization, about 3000 B.C., through the glorious cultural period of the Bronze Age (c. 2000-1000 B.C.), and the renaissance of the First Millennium B.C. Strong emphasis will be placed upon the themes of totalitarian government versus political freedom and man's perception of himself within nature and society. An attempt will be made to contrast these differing understandings amidst the Near Eastern and Greek civilizations. Ancient evidence and slides of archaeological remains will be used whenever possible.

Lectures: 2/week plus one discussion section.

Written Assignments and Examinations: 6 week, 12 week, and final exam.

Honors students and 4-credit non-honors students will also write papers (below).

Exams: Will be essay style. They will require an understanding of the fundamental questions, supported by evidence found in the readings and lectures.

Paper Option: Two short (3-5 pages) papers, based upon an analysis of specific ancient material read in this course, and due October 22 and November 24, may be substituted for the 12 week exam. These papers may be rewritten for improvement with consent of T.A. (4-credit students [see below] choosing this option must then write four papers.)

4-credit, non-honors students: Are required to write two short (3-5 - pages) papers based on an analysis of specific ancient material read in this course. The first is due November 12; the second December 8. With the permission of the T.A., they may be rewritten for improvement.

VERY IMPORTANT: If you register for 4 credits, you **MUST** do the required written work. If after having signed up for the fourth credit, you decide that you don't want to complete the written work, you **MUST** formally drop the credit, with the Registrar, by the 12th week of classes. Otherwise, whether or not you complete the work, you shall be responsible for it.

Honors students: Will participate in a discussion with the instructor.
You will choose your own paper topics or projects.

Grading: 3 units: approximately 25% for the 6 and 12 week exams (or paper option); 10% for participation in discussion sections; 40% for the final exam.

4 units: approximately 20% for the 6 and 12 week exams and papers; 10% for participation in discussion sections; 30% for the final.

Books to be Purchased:

Carl Roebuck, The World of Ancient Times
James B. Pritchard, The Ancient Near East, vol. I
John A. Wilson, The Culture of Ancient Egypt
Herodotus, The Persian Wars
Sophocles, The Oedipus Cycle of Sophocles
Revised Standard Bible

Lectures:

I. Introduction: History and Oriental Despotism
Roebuck, 3-17

II. Mesopotamia

1. Early Mesopotamia and Babylonian Society
Roebuck, 19-32
Pritchard, 28-39
2. From Sargon to Hammurabi
Roebuck, 32-46
Pritchard, 85-86, 133-167
3. Mesopotamian literature: the Creation Story
Pritchard, 31-19
4. Mesopotamian world outlook
Pritchard, 40-76
5. Assyria
Roebuck, 141-153
Pritchard, 188-208
6. Persia (2 lectures)
Roebuck, 157-170
Herodotus I, 95-216
7. Slide lecture

III. The Hebrews

1. From Foundations to David
Roebuck, 125-135
I Samuel, 1-24, 31
II Samuel, 1-20
I Kings, 1
Pritchard, 231, 267-274
2. From the Glory of Solomon to the Exile
I Kings, 1-12, II Kings, 18-25
3. Covenant and Prophecy
Genesis 1: 24-31
Exodus, 19-24
Isaiah, 40, 44, 49
Pritchard, 278-282

6 WEEK EXAM: OCTOBER 22

IV. Egypt

1. Early Egypt: Pyramids to the Middle Kingdom
Wilson, 43-153
Pritchard, 1-2, 5-11, 234-243
2. From the Hyksos to the Empire
Wilson, 154-205
Pritchard, 173-182, 225-226, 262-277
3. The Strange Case of Ikhnaton/Fall of the Empire
Wilson, 206-288
Pritchard, 184-186

V. Greece

1. Mycenaean Age (2 lectures)
Roebuck, 101-119
2. Transition to a Classical Mentality (Shame to Guilt Culture)
No readings
3. Sparta
Roebuck, 174-203
Herodotus VI, 56-60
4. Athens
Roebuck, 203-216
Herodotus I, 59-64; V, 55-73, 94-95

12 WEEK EXAM: NOVEMBER 24

5. East Meets West: The Persian Invasion of Europe (2 lectures)
Roebuck, 237-252
Herodotus V, 96-105; VI, 94-136; VII, 201-VIII 96
6. From Freedom to Imperialism: the Athenian Empire
Roebuck, 253-275
Herodotus IX, 108-122
7. The Classical Spirit: What a Piece of Work is Man
Sophocles, The Antigone
8. Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World
Roebuck, 349-67, 391-414