I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Egypt and the Levant from the rise of cities (ca. 3000 B.C.) to the Achaemenids (ca. 330 B.C.). Relevant points of connection with biblical events and peoples will be highlighted with a view to situate the biblical text within its larger socio-historical and theological framework for the period under consideration.

Notes:
- Course documents (handouts, Powerpoints, etc.) will be available on Cams (or Sakai). It is the student’s responsibility to check Cams for announcements, handouts, etc.
- INTERNET USAGE
  Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.

II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Amihai Mazar, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible* (Anchor)
- *NIV Archaeological Study Bible* (Zondervan): Articles from Genesis to Judges

Note: there will be additional weekly readings placed on reserve

III. RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

- Jack Sasson, ed. *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (Hendrickson)
- James Hoffmaier, *The Archaeology of the Bible* (Kregel)
- Jeffrey Niehaus, *Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology* (Kregel)

Useful links can be found at: http://www.utoronto.ca/nmc/links/index.html
IV. Course Requirements

Mid-Term Exam (30%):
- Part I: Identification (for ex., geography)
- Part II: Short-answer questions (that is, one paragraph or two at the most)

Final Exam (30%):
- Part I: Identification
- Part II: Short-answer questions

Comparative Timeline (30%)
Each student will design an annotated timeline of the Near East with a particular focus on connecting biblical events to the dominant cultures of the Near East during the Biblical period (from the time of Abraham to the post-exilic period). A thorough commentary of the major transitional phases is expected, along with bibliography. Due December 18, 2012

Readings (10%): A reading report stating percentage of weekly assignment read will need to be submitted AT SPECIFIC TIMES (due on Tuesdays, see class schedule below)

A Note on Class Participation: Lack of preparation and attendance will affect course grade.

V. Class Schedule

WEEK ONE: Third Millennium Civilizations

Sept 11 “Sumer”
- Mazar 1-34; Kuhrt 1-73

Further suggested readings:
G. Roux, Ancient Iraq
Related essays in CANE
S. N. Kramer, The Sumerians
Sept 13 “Early Dynastic/Old Kingdom Egypt and Early Bronze Age Palestine”
- Mazar 91-173; Kuhrt 118-160

Further suggested readings:
Mazar 35-90
B. Trigger, et al, Ancient Egypt, A Social History
N. Grimal, A History of Ancient Egypt

WEEK TWO: Second Millennium Civilizations (part I)

Sept 18, “Old Assyrian and Old Babylonian periods”
- Kuhrt 74-116
- Read the code of Hammurabi (in Context of Scripture [on Reserve])
- Jean-Claude Margueron, “Mari: A Portrait in Art of a Mesopotamian City-State” in CANE [on Reserve]

Sept 20, “Middle Kingdom Egypt and Middle Bronze Age Palestine”
- Kuhrt 161-182; 283-317; Mazar 174-231
- R.M. Whiting, “Amorite Tribes and Nations of Second-Millennium Western Asia” in CANE [on Reserve]

Further suggested readings:
B. Kemp in Ancient Egypt, A Social History
P. Day “Ugaritic” in Beyond Babel; A Handbook for Biblical Hebrew and Related Languages

WEEK THREE: Second Millennium Civilizations (part II)

Sept 25, "Hittites and Hurrians"

Hittites
- Kuhrt 225-282
- H.A. Hoffner, “Legal and Social Institutions of Hittite Anatolia” in CANE

Hurrians/Mitanni
- Kuhrt 283-300
• G. Wilhelm, “The Kingdom of Mitanni in Second-Millennium Upper Mesopotamia,” in CANE [on Reserve]

Sept 27, "Ugarit, Kassites and Elamites"

Ugarit
• Kuhrt 300-317
• Read “Baal Cycle” in Context of Scripture [on Reserve]
• W.H. Van Soldt, “Ugarit: A Second Millennium Kingdom on the Mediterranean Coast” in CANE

Kassites/Elamites
• Kuhrt 332-381

Recommended text:
D.T. Potts, The Archaeology of Elam

NOTE: FIRST READING REPORT IS DUE ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 2

WEEK 4 NEW KINGDOM EGYPT

Oct 2, 18th Dynasty
• Kuhrt 185-224; 317-331
• J. Walton, “Exodus, Date of” in Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch [on Reserve]

Oct 4, 19th Dynasty
Hoffmeier, Israel in Egypt (chs 5-6) [On Reserve]

WEEK 5 READING WEEK

Oct 9, 11 BEGIN WORK ON TIMELINE
WEEK 6 LATE BRONZE AGE PALESTINE

Oct 16, MIDTERM (90 MINUTES)

Oct 18 LB I, II

- Mazar 232-294
- S. Bunimovitz, “On the Edge of Empires-Late Bronze Age (1500-1200 BCE) in *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land* [On Reserve]
- G. Schwartz, “Pastoral Nomadism in Ancient Western Asia” in *CANE* [On Reserve]

WEEK 7 IRON AGE I PALESTINE


- Mazar 295-367;
- Petter [on reserve shelf]
- Kuhrt 385-416

WEEK 8 IRON AGE II PALESTINE

Oct 30, Nov 1

- Mazar 368-530

WEEK 9 NE0-ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

Nov 6, 8

- Kuhrt 458-572

Further suggested reading:
G. Roux, *Ancient Iraq*
Related readings in *CANE*
WEEK 10 (Reading Week)

Nov 13, 15

SECOND READING REPORT IS DUE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20.

WEEK 11 NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

Nov 20
• Kuhrt 573-622; Mazar 531-550

NOVEMBER 22 IS THANKSGIVING

WEEK 12 IRAN

Nov 27, 29
• Kuhrt 623-702
• M.C. Root, “Art and Archaeology of the Acheamenid Empire” in CANE
• E. Yamauchi, Persia and the Bible 1-92 [on Reserve]

Further suggested reading:
K. Kitchen, The Third Intermediate Period
P. Briant, From Cyrus to Alexander: A history of the Persian Empire

WEEK 13 SYNTHESIS

Dec 4 “The Bible and the Ancient Near East”

Dec 6
Timeline and final reading report are due (including ASB articles from Genesis to Judges)

WEEK 14 EXAM

Dec 13 Final exam (90 minutes)