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. Weekly discussions and presentations on foundational biblical-theological themes are also part of the course.

Notes:
- Course documents (handouts, Powerpoints, etc.) will be available on Cams (and a shared dropbox file). 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)
- Jeffrey Niehaus, Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology (Kregel)
- T. Petter, The Land Between the Two Rivers (in press; available to the students via a dropbox shared file)

Note: there will be additional weekly readings placed on reserve. For Mazar and Kuhrt follow the scheduled reading (the other two textbooks should be read during the first two/three weeks of class)
III. RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

- Jack Sasson, ed. Civilizations of the Ancient Near East (Hendrickson)
- NIV Archaeological Study Bible (Zondervan): Articles from Genesis to Judges
- W. Hallo and L. Younger, eds. The Context of Scripture (Brill)
- James Hoffmaier, The Archaeology of the Bible (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.

**Class Presentations (10%)**: Each student will be required to give a presentation to the class on a biblical theological theme as it relates to the history and archaeology of the ancient Near East. Format: outline and select bibliography.

Suggested topics include:

Divine Kingship
Zion vs Babylon (building the city of God)
The Supremacy of Yahweh over the gods of Egypt
Sacrifice
Divine warfare and territorial expansion

Other topics may be selected in consultation with the professor

**A Note on Class Participation**: Active preparation and discussion of the weekly primary sources is required for the class.
V. CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE (SEPT 10, 12) Third Millennium Civilizations

“Sumer”
- Mazar 1-34; Kuhrt 1-73
- Primary source reading: TBD
- Biblical-Theological topic: Divine kingship

Further suggested readings:
G. Roux, Ancient Iraq
Related essays in CANE
S. N. Kramer, The Sumerians

“Early Dynastic/Old Kingdom Egypt and Early Bronze Age Palestine”
- Mazar 91-173; Kuhrt 118-160
- Primary source reading TBA

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

WEEK TWO (SEPT 17, 19) Second Millennium Civilizations (part I)

“Old Assyrian and Old Babylonian periods”
- Kuhrt 74-116
- Primary source: code of Hammurabi (in Context of Scripture)
- Jean-Claude Margueron, “Mari: A Portrait in Art of a Mesopotamian City-State” in CANE
- Biblical-Theological discussion: Law and Covenant

“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
- Primary source: TBD
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 (SEPT 24, 26) Second Millennium Civilizations (part II)**

"**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*

"**Ugarit, Kassites and Elamites**"

Ugarit

- Kuhrt 300-317
- Primary source: “Baal Cycle” in *Context of Scripture*
- W.H. Van Soldt, “Ugarit: A Second Millennium Kingdom on the Mediterranean Coast” in *CANE*
- Biblical-Theological discussion: Scripture vs Other ANE sacred writings

Kassites/Elamites

- Kuhrt 332-381

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

**NOTE: FIRST READING REPORT IS DUE ON TUESDAY OCTOBER**
WEEK 4 (Oct 1, 3) NEW KINGDOM EGYPT

18th Dynasty

- Kuhrt 185-224; 317-331
- Primary source reading: TBD
- J. Walton, “Exodus, Date of” in Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch

19th Dynasty

- Hoffmeier, Israel in Egypt (chs 5-6)
- Biblical-Theological Theme: Yahweh and the gods of the ancient Near East

WEEK 5 (Oct 8, 10) LATE BRONZE AGE PALESTINE

“Israelite Settlement” Part I

- Mazar 295-36
- The Land Between the Two Rivers
- Kuhrt 385-416
- Biblical-Theological discussion: The Nomadic-Tribal Lifestyle

WEEK 6 (Oct 15, 17) READING WEEK

BEGIN WORK ON TIMELINE

WEEK 7 IRON AGE I PALESTINE

MIDTERM ON OCTOBER 22

Oct 24 “Israelite Settlement” Part II

- Biblical-Theological Discussion: Canaanization
WEEK 8 (Oct 29, 31) IRON AGE II PALESTINE

- Mazar 368-530
- J. Holladay, “the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah: Political and Economic Centralization in the Iron IIA-B” in *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*, ed. T. Levy
- Biblical-Theological Discussion: The Promise of Zion
- Class presentations begin

WEEK 9 (Nov 5, 7): NEO-ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

- Kuhrt 458-572
- Primary source reading: TBD
- Biblical-Theological Discussion: Yahweh and the Nations
- Class presentations

Further suggested reading:
G. Roux, *Ancient Iraq*
Related readings in *CANE*

WEEK 10 (Nov 12, 14): READING WEEK

WORK ON TIMELINE

SECOND READING REPORT IS DUE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19.

WEEK 11 (Nov 19): NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

Nov 19
- Kuhrt 573-622; Mazar 531-550
- Biblical-Theological Discussion: The City of Man
- Class presentations

NOVEMBER 21 IS THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS
WEEK 12 (Nov 26, 28) IRAN

- Kuhrt 623-702
- M.C. Root, “Art and Archaeology of the Acheamenid Empire” in CANE
- E. Yamauchi, Persia and the Bible 1-92
- Biblical-Theological Discussion: Restoration of the Kingdom
- Class presentations

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

WEEK 13 (Dec 3, 5): SYNTHESIS

Dec 3
Discussion: Biblical-Theology and ancient Near Eastern data: prospects and pitfalls

Dec 5: NO CLASS

WEEK 14 EXAM

Final exam: CHECK REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Timeline and final reading report are due ON DECEMBER 17