

PART I

Paper A3 Introduction to Ancient Egypt & Mesopotamia:

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Please note:

The content of courses and timetables are always subject to change. We will endeavour to inform you of any changes as they occur but please *always* refer to the online version of this syllabus for the most up-to-date information.

Course documents are available on Moodle:

<https://www.vle.cam.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=142951>

Timetables are available on Moodle and the University Online Timetabling system:

<https://www.vle.cam.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=119311§ionid=1959811>

<https://2017-18.timetable.cam.ac.uk/>

Structure

Lectures: 2 hours each week (Michaelmas and Lent)

Please note that the Introductory Lecture for this paper will be on Monday 9th October, 10-11am in the *South Lecture Room (SLR)*, *Archaeology*

Thereafter lectures will be 2:00-3:00 pm, in the *SLR*

Seminars: 4 x 1.5-hour seminars (2 at end Mich Term, 2 at end Lent Term)

Supervisions: 4 supervisions in Michaelmas and 4 supervisions in Lent.

Revision supervisions in Easter Term.

Mode of examination

60% of the final mark is based on the written examination in June; 40% is based on two pieces of assessed work (see below, *Assessment*).

The written exam is divided into two sections: Section A consists of five comparative questions in which candidates are expected to refer to both Egypt and Mesopotamia; Section B consists of five questions relating to Egyptian archaeology, history, and culture and five questions relating to Mesopotamian archaeology, history, and culture. Candidates must answer three questions, with at least one question taken from each section. All questions are of equal weight.

Aims of the course:

A 3 aims to provide a broad survey of the archaeology and history of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia and to introduce the student to key themes and approaches in the study of these two regions. The paper provides outline histories of the regions and introduces the geography, archaeology, society, literature, belief systems and mortuary practices of these areas in the past. The integration of archaeological, textual and artistic evidence as complementary sources for interpreting historical cultures is emphasised throughout.

A 3 Introduction to Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia - is comprised of *two concurrent* modules, *both* of which are taught across Michaelmas and Lent Terms. One module covers ancient Egypt and the other ancient Mesopotamia and the Aegean.

Ancient Egypt (16 lectures)

Ancient Mesopotamia and the Aegean (16 lectures)

Seminars:

Four seminars on common themes, designed to bring together approaches and materials from Egypt and Mesopotamia, will be held; two in Michaelmas term and two in Lent term (see schedule for dates). The seminars will run from 2-3:30pm. Students are expected to work in groups to prepare short presentations on assigned topics for these seminars.

Learning outcomes:

On the successful completion of A3 students will be able produce high quality written work that demonstrates an informed and critical understanding of the ancient cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia, their history, material culture and interconnections. You will also have gained practice and skills in essay writing, visual analysis, and seminar presentation.

Supervisions:

Students should expect four essay supervisions per term in Michaelmas and Lent, alternating between Egypt and Mesopotamia. Supervisions will be arranged by students' Directors of Studies in consultation with the lecturers and recommended supervisors for the paper. Revision supervisions will be offered in the Easter term.

Assessment:

Two written assessments will make up 40% of your final mark; the final exam in Easter Term will be worth 60%.

Each written assessment is worth 20% of the final mark.

Full details of each assessment will be given on the Moodle page.

1) Image study: You will select one ancient Egyptian or Mesopotamian object from a list provided. You may also select an alternative object, but your choice must be approved in advance by one of the teaching officers. Your written study should briefly describe and contextualise the object and then discuss its significance within the relevant culture. Your essay should be no more than 2000 words and may be illustrated. This exercise will not be supervised. It is due at the beginning of Easter Term, 24 April, 2018.

2) Seminar write-up: You will take one of the questions from any one of the four seminar sessions and write up the topic as an essay of maximum 2000 words, comparing and contrasting the seminar theme in Egypt and Mesopotamia. This essay will not be supervised. Due on 16 May, 2018.

Recommended reading list

More detailed reading lists are provided on Moodle for each lecture. The following books and articles are strongly recommended as background reading and for reference across the year. Copies are available in the Haddon library but should not be borrowed so that they are available for others to consult. We recommend asking your college library to purchase copies if they do not already have these volumes.

Egypt:

K. Bard, 2008. *Introduction to the archaeology of Ancient Egypt* (Malden MA: Blackwell)

T. G. H. James, 1984. *Pharaoh's people: scenes from life in Imperial Egypt* (London: Bodley Head).

M. Lichtheim, 1973, 1976. *Ancient Egyptian literature; a book of readings I-II* (Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press).

B. Manley, 1996. *The Penguin historical atlas of Ancient Egypt* (London: Penguin).

S. Quirke, 1992. *Ancient Egyptian Religion* (London: British Museum Press).

R. Parkinson, 1991. *Voices from Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Middle Kingdom writings* (London: British Museum Press)

G. Robins, 1997. *The Art of Ancient Egypt* (London: British Museum Press).

I. Shaw (ed.) 2000, *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

I. Shaw, 2004. *Exploring Ancient Egypt* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

W. Wendrich, 2010. *Egyptian Archaeology* (Malden: Wiley-Blackwell).

Mesopotamia:

H. Crawford. 2004 ed. *Sumer and the Sumerians*. (Cambridge Univ. Press).

B.R. Foster and K Foster. 2011. *Civilisations of Ancient Iraq*. (Princeton Univ. Press).

R. Matthews. 2003. *Archaeology of Mesopotamia: Theories and Approaches*. (Routledge).

J. Oates. 2005 ed. *Babylon*. (Thames & Hudson).

N. Postgate. 1994. *Early Mesopotamia: Society and Economy at the Dawn of History*. (Routledge).

M. van de Mieroop. 2007 ed. *A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC*. (Blackwell).

Online ancient text collections and themes (e.g., religion, Neo-Assyrian historical inscriptions, etc.): <http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/projectlist.html>

A 3 Timetable 2017-18*Michaelmas Term*

<i>Wednesday, 2:00-3:00, SLR</i>			<i>Thursday, 2:00-3:00, SLR</i>		
<i>Egypt (except 18 Oct)</i>			<i>Mesopotamia (except 12 Oct)</i>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>
11 Oct	Historiography, archaeology and heritage in Egypt	KES	9 Oct 10-11	Introduction: Landscapes and resources of Egypt and Mesopotamia	KES
18 Oct	Social complexity and heterarchy: early cities	AMM	12 Oct	Climate, agriculture and prehistory in Northeast Africa	KES
25 Oct	Social complexity and state formation in Egypt	KES	19 Oct	City-states and networks: Early Dynastic	AMM
1 Nov	Chronology, power and historical patterning: Kingdoms and Intermediate Period	KES	26 Oct	Nation-states, ideology and ethnicity: Akkadian "empire"	AMM
8 Nov	Kings, dynasties and officials	KES	2 Nov	Bureaucratic states: Ur III	AMM
15 Nov	Warfare and empire in Egypt and beyond	KES	9 Nov	Territorial states: Old Babylonian	AMM
22 Nov	Diplomacy and exchange	KES	16 Nov	Warfare in Mesopotamia	AMM
29 Nov 2-3.30	Seminar 1: Power, order and hierarchy	KES, AMM	23 Nov	Internationalism: private trade and state-organized exchange	AMM
			30 Nov 2-3.30	Seminar 2: Texts and historical archaeology	AMM, KES

Lent Term

Wednesday, 2:00-3:00, SLR			Thursday, 2:00-3:00, SLR		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>
24 Jan	Religious practices in ancient Egypt	KES	18 Jan	Religious practice in Mesopotamia	AMM
31 Jan	Bronze Age Aegean	CB	25 Jan	Death and funerary practices in Mesopotamia	AMM
7 Feb	Palatial dynamics in the Aegean	CB	1 Feb	Death and funerary practices in ancient Egypt	KES
14 Feb	Egyptian monumental architecture	KES	8 Feb	Egyptian art and ideology	KES
21 Feb	Settlement archaeology and urbanism	KES	15 Feb	Empires and art in Mesopotamia	AMM
28 Feb	Iron Age city-states in the Aegean	CB	22 Feb	Neo-Assyrian empire	AMM
7 Mar	Writing, knowledge and the role of literacy in ancient Egypt	KES	1 Mar	Farmers, villagers and workers in Egypt	KES
14 Mar 2-3.30	Seminar 3: Death and identity	AMM, KES	8 Mar	Neo-Babylonian neo-urbanism	AMM
			15 Mar 2-3.30	Seminar 4: Art and the human body	AMM, KES

Easter
Term**Wednesday, 2:00-3:30, SLR**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>
2 May	Revision session	AMM/KES
9 May 2-3.30	Visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum	KES

