



**Part I**  
**ARC3: Introduction to the Cultures of Egypt  
and Mesopotamia**  
2016–17

**Lecturers:**

Dr Augusta McMahon (AMM) ([amm36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:amm36@cam.ac.uk)) Co-ordinator,  
Mesopotamia

Dr Kathryn Howley (KH) ([keh71@cam.ac.uk](mailto:keh71@cam.ac.uk)) Egypt

Meghan Strong (MES) ([mes66@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mes66@cam.ac.uk))

Hilary Stewart (HES) ([hes61@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hes61@cam.ac.uk))

Pippa Browne (PJB) ([pjb78@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pjb78@cam.ac.uk))

**Aims and Objectives:** 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.

**Lecture Schedule:** (see detailed schedule below)

The paper consists of two lectures a week; one lecture deals with ancient Egypt and one lecture covers Mesopotamia.

The Introductory Lecture for this paper will take place on Thursday, 6th October, 2-3pm in the South Lecture Room, Division of Archaeology.

All subsequent lectures will be held at the following times:

Wednesdays 2–3pm (Egypt) in the South Lecture Room, Division of Archaeology.

Thursdays 2–3pm (Mesopotamia) in the South Lecture Room, Division of Archaeology.

**Seminars:**

Four seminars on common themes, designed to bring together approaches and materials from Egypt and Mesopotamia, will be held; one in Michaelmas term, one in Lent term and two in Easter term (see schedule for dates).

The seminars will run from 2-4pm. Students are expected to work in groups to prepare short presentations on assigned topics for these seminars.

**Mode of Assessment:** There will be a three-hour written examination at the end of the academic year.

The paper is divided into two sections: Section A consists of five comparative questions in which candidates are expected to refer to both Egyptian and Mesopotamian cultures; 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.

**Supervision arrangements:** 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.

### **General Reading:**

Additional detailed reading lists will accompany individual lectures.

#### ***Egypt:***

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

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

M. Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian literature; a book of readings I-III* (Berkeley. Los Angeles, London: University of California Press 1973, 1976, 1980).

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

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

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

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

I. Shaw. *Exploring Ancient Egypt* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2003).

#### ***Mesopotamia:***

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

B.R. Foster and K Foster. 2011. *Civilisations of Ancient Iraq*. (Princeton University 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>

**Detailed Lecture Schedule** After a joint **introductory lecture on 6 Oct**, one lecture per week will cover Egypt and one lecture per week will cover Mesopotamia. All lectures and seminars are held in the South Lecture Room, Division of Archaeology.

<b>Michaelmas Term</b>			
<b>6 Nov (Thur) Intro Lecture : Environment &amp; landscapes of Egypt &amp; Mesopotamia</b>			
<b>Egypt: Wednesdays 2 pm (KEH)</b>		<b>Mesopotamia: Thursdays 2 pm (AMM)</b>	
12 Oct	Chieftdom to state in ancient Egypt	13 Oct	Village to chieftdom in Mesopotamia
19 Oct	The Early Dynastic Period: kingship and the elite	20 Oct	Social complexity and heterarchy: Uruk Period urbanism
26 Oct	The Old Kingdom and the materialisation of power	27 Oct	City-states and networks: Early Dynastic
2 Nov	The Middle Kingdom and the power of word and image	3 Nov	Nation-states, ideology and ethnicity: Akkadian "empire"
9 Nov	Provincial power incl the First and Second Intermediate Pds	10 Nov	Warfare and conflict
16 Nov	The New Kingdom: kings and the political power of the gods	17 Nov	Bureaucratic states: Ur III
23 Nov	The New Kingdom Egyptian Empire	24 Nov	Territorial states: Old Babylonian
30 Nov	<b>2-4:00 pm Seminar 1: Power, order and hierarchy (AMM/KEH)</b>		
<b>Lent Term</b>			
<b>Egypt: Wednesday 2pm</b>		<b>Mesopotamia: Thursday 2pm (AMM)</b>	
	(KEH unless stated)	19 Jan	Mesopotamian texts and historiography
25 Jan	Writing, knowledge and the role of literacy in anc Egypt	26 Jan	Trade/Exchange: local networks
1 Feb	Trade and exchange in ancient Egypt	2 Feb	Internationalism: private trade and state-organized exchange
8 Feb	Religious practices in ancient Egypt (MES)	9 Feb	Religious practice in Mesopotamia
15 Feb	Death and funerary practices in ancient Egypt	16 Feb	Death and Funerary practices in Mesopotamia
22 Feb	Settlement archaeology and urbanism (HES)	23 Feb	Empires and art
1 Mar	Egyptian art (PJB)	2 Mar	Neo-Assyrian empire
8 Mar	Egyptian monumental architecture	9 Mar	Neo-Babylonian neo-urbanism
15 Mar	Egypt in the 1st Mill. BC		
16 Mar	<b>2-4:00 Seminar 2: Texts and text-aided archaeology (AMM/KEH)</b>		

<b>Easter Term</b>	
3 May	<b>2-4:00</b> <i>Seminar 3: Death and Identity (AMM/KEH)</i>
10 May	<b>2-3:30</b> <b><i>Fitzwilliam Museum tour and gallery talk (KEH)</i></b>
17 May	<b>2-4:00</b> <i>Seminar 4: Art and the human body (AMM/KEH)</i>