



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=142641§ionid=1949021>

<https://2018-19.timetable.cam.ac.uk>

Structure

Lectures: 2 hours each week (Michaelmas and Lent)

Lectures will be Tuesday & Wednesday 2:00-3:00 pm, in the *South Lecture Room Archaeology*

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

Supervisions: 3 supervisions in Michaelmas and 4 supervisions in Lent.

Revision supervisions in Easter Term.

Mode of examination

80% of the final mark is based on the written examination in June; 20% is based on one piece 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 (14 lectures)

Ancient Mesopotamia and the Aegean (15 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 three 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:

A written assessment will make up 20% of your final mark; the final exam in Easter Term will be worth 80%.

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, 2019.

Full details will be given on the Moodle page.

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 2018-19*Michaelmas Term*

<i>Tuesday, 2:00-3:00, SLR</i>			<i>Wednesday, 2:00-3:00, SLR</i>		
<i>Mesopotamia</i>			<i>Egypt</i>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>
9 Oct	Introduction: Landscapes and resources of Egypt and Mesopotamia	AMM/ KES	10 Oct	Historiography, archaeology and heritage in Egypt	KES
16 Oct	Social complexity and heterarchy: early cities in Mesopotamia	AMM	17 Oct	Climate, agriculture and prehistory in Northeast Africa	KES
23 Oct	City-states in cooperation & conflict: Early Dynastic Mesopotamia	AMM	24 Oct	Social complexity and state formation in Egypt	KES
30 Oct	Nation-states, ideology and ethnicity: Akkadian "empire"	AMM	31 Oct	Chronology, power and historical patterning: Kingdoms and Intermediate Period	KES
6 Nov	Bureaucratic states: Ur III	AMM	7 Nov	Kings, dynasties and officials	KES
13 Nov	Territorial states: Old Babylonian	AMM	14 Nov	Warfare and empire in Egypt and beyond	KES
20 Nov	Internationalism: private trade and state-organized exchange	AMM	21 Nov	Diplomacy and exchange	KES
27 Nov 2-3.30	Seminar 1: Power, order and hierarchy	KES, AMM	28 Nov 2-3.30	Seminar 2: Texts and historical archaeology	AMM, KES

Lent Term

Tuesday, 2:00-3:00, SLR			Wednesday, 2:00-3:00, SLR		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lecturer</i>
20 Jan	Religious practice in Mesopotamia	AMM	23 Jan	Religious practices in ancient Egypt	KES
29 Jan	Death and funerary practices in Mesopotamia	AMM	30 Jan	Death and funerary practices in ancient Egypt	KES
5 Feb	Cultures of the Bronze Age Aegean	LR	6 Feb	Egyptian art and ideology	KES
12 Feb	Trade and Material Culture in BA Aegean	LR	13 Feb	Egyptian monumental architecture	KES
19 Feb	Empires and art in Mesopotamia	AMM	20 Feb	Settlement archaeology and urbanism	KES
26 Feb	Neo-Assyrian empire	AMM	27 Feb	Farmers, villagers and workers in Egypt	KES
5 Mar	Neo-Babylonian neo-urbanism	AMM	6 Mar	Writing, knowledge and the role of literacy in ancient Egypt	KES
			13 Mar 2-3.30	Seminar 3: Death and identity	AMM, KES
			<i>THURS</i> 14 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>
30 Apr 2-3.30	Visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum	KES
7 May	Revision session	AMM/ KES

