

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *CUNEIFORM TEXT AND TEXTUALITY IN ANCIENT MESOP - 30314*

*Last update 02-02-2014*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: School of Philosophy and Religions*

*Academic year: 1*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Uri Gabbay*

*Coordinator Email: [gabbay.uri@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:gabbay.uri@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: upon coordination*

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Uri Gabbay

Course/Module description:

Why was writing invented? Is there text without writing? Does the organization of knowledge depend on cultural perceptions or on written materials? Does writing have its own social value or does it merely reflect other social values? The course will deal with "text" in cuneiform culture of the Ancient Near East from the its very physical essence to more abstract levels of textuality

Course/Module aims:

to outline the development of the idea of "text" in Mesopotamia  
to view the concept of "text" critically  
to distinguish between the different components of "textuality"

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

The independently analyze the notion of "text" and to use the Mesopotamian concept for the analysis of other texts

Attendance requirements(%):

75

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures  
discussion  
1-2 exercises  
guided tour in museum  
film and discussion

Course/Module Content:

text without writing  
oral literature  
invention of writing  
the scribe  
the composer  
textualization  
canonization  
libraries

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Required Reading:

קריאת עזר כללית

C.B.F. Walker, *Reading the Past: Cuneiform*, London 1987

H. Nissen, P. Damerow and R. Englund (trans. P. Larsen), *Archaic Bookkeeping: Early Writing and Techniques of Economic Administration in the Ancient Near East*, Chicago 1993

שיעור 2

\*"Chapter 4: Prehistoric Means of Administration," in: H. Nissen, P. Damerow and R. Englund (trans. P. Larsen), *Archaic Bookkeeping: Early Writing and Techniques of Economic Administration in the Ancient Near East*, Chicago 1993, pp. 11-18

D. Schmandt-Besserat, "Record Keeping Before Writing," in: J. Sasson (ed.), *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, New York 1995, pp. 2097-2106

M.W. Green, "Early Cuneiform", in: W.M. Sennner (ed.), *The Origins of Writing*, Lincoln and London 1989, pp. 43-57

שיעור 3

\*"Chapter 5: The Emergence of Writing," in: H. Nissen, P. Damerow and R. Englund (trans. P. Larsen), *Archaic Bookkeeping: Early Writing and Techniques of Economic Administration in the Ancient Near East*, Chicago 1993, pp. 19-24

"Chapter 7: The Archaic Bookkeeping System," in: H. Nissen, P. Damerow and R. Englund (trans. P. Larsen), *Archaic Bookkeeping: Early Writing and Techniques of Economic Administration in the Ancient Near East*, Chicago 1993, pp. 30-35

\*"Chapter 15: The Development of Cuneiform Script," in: H. Nissen, P. Damerow and R. Englund (trans. P. Larsen), *Archaic Bookkeeping: Early Writing and Techniques of Economic Administration in the Ancient Near East*, Chicago 1993, pp. 116-124

שיעור 4

\*"Chapter 14: The Titles and Professions List," in: H. Nissen, P. Damerow and R. Englund (trans. P. Larsen), *Archaic Bookkeeping: Early Writing and Techniques of Economic Administration in the Ancient Near East*, Chicago 1993, pp. 110-115

שיעור 5

B. Alster, "Epic Tales from Ancient Sumer: Enmerkar, Lugalbanda, and Other Cunning Heroes," in: J. Sasson (ed.), *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, New York 1995, pp. 2315-2326

P. Steinkeller, "The Function of Written Administration in the Administrative Praxis of Early Babylonia," in: M. Hudson and C. Wunsch (eds.), *Creating Economic Order: Record-Keeping, Standardization and the Development of Accounting in the Ancient Near East*, Bethesda 2004, pp. 65-88

\*H. Vanstiphout, "Memory and Literacy in Ancient Western Asia," in: J. Sasson (ed.), *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, New York 1995, pp. 2181-2196

שיעור 6

\*"Chapter 13: The Education and Profession of the Scribe," in: H. Nissen, P. Damerow and R. Englund (trans. P. Larsen), *Archaic Bookkeeping: Early Writing and Techniques of Economic Administration in the Ancient Near East*, Chicago 1993, pp. 105-109

A. Sjöberg, "The Old Babylonian Eduba," in: *Sumerological Studies in Honor of Thorkild Jacobsen*, Assyriological Studies 20, Chicago 1974, pp. 159-179

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שיעור 9

\*א' ו' הורוויץ, "ספריית אשורבניפל – יד לספרות מסופוטמיה, אבן יסוד לאשורולוגיה", בתוך: מ' סלוחובסקי ו' קפלן (עורכים), ספריות ואוספי ספרים, ירושלים תשס"ו, עמ' 33-47

S.J. Lieberman, "Canonical and Official Cuneiform Texts: Towards an Understanding of Assurbanipal's Personal Tablet Collection," in: Tz. Abusch, J. Huehnergard and P. Steinkeller (eds.), *Lingering over Words: Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Literature in Honor of William L. Moran*, Atlanta 1990, pp. 305-336

שיעור 10

U. Gabbay, "Akkadian Commentaries from Ancient Mesopotamia and Their Relation to Early Hebrew Exegesis," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 19/3 (2012), pp. 267-312

שיעור 11

\*S. M. Maul, "Divination Culture and the Handling of the Future," in: G. Leick (ed.), *The Babylonian World*, New York 2007, pp. 361-372

שיעור 13

M. Geller, "The Last Wedge," *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* 87 (1997), pp. 43-95

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 90 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 10 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: