

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Introduction Mesopotamian Art in the Second Millennium BCE - 43483*

*Last update 06-09-2016*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

*Responsible Department:* archaeology & ancient near east

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Prof. Tallay Ornan

*Coordinator Email:* [tallay.ornan@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:tallay.ornan@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* Wednesday 12.00 noon - 13.00 p.m by appointment

---

Teaching Staff:

Prof Tallay Ornan

Course/Module description:

A survey and analysis of Mesopotamian art from the early to late third millennium, c.2000-1000 BCE with an emphasis on royal & religious iconography. The works of art that will be discussed include stone and metal statues, reliefs, wall paintings, pottery plaques and cylinder seals. Most of these objects were excavated in Babylonia (southern Iraq), Mari located on the Euphrates in Syria and Ebla in north-west Syria.

Course/Module aims:

To provide methodological tools for the analysis of the ancient Near Eastern art through visual archaeological finds, that will enable a deeper understanding of the Mesopotamian civilization and its world view.

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

To recognize and comprehend the characteristics of the visual records of the discussed periods and to contextualize them in the contemporary cultural, religious and political framework.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures with Power Point.

Course/Module Content:

- Historical framework: the hegemony of Isin-Larsa dynasties, the 1st dynasty of Babylon, the Kassite dynasty of the Middle Babylonian period, Old & Middle Assyrian periods
- Art during the hegemony of Isin-Larsa city states
- Art during the Old Babylonian period: statues, figurines & clay plaques
- Cylinder seals in the first half of the second millennium
- Mari: Old Babylonian art
- Ashur: Old Assyrian art
- Ashur and Anatolia: cylinder seals & sealings from the Assyrian colonies in Cappadocia, Anatolia

- Scenes of war: the stele of Dadusha from Eshnuna
- Hammurabi and Shamash, the sun god on the 'Law Code' relief
- Seals & sealings in the Middle Babylonian & Middle Assyrian periods
- Assyrian & Babylonian art: monuments & sculptures
- Middle Babylonian kudurru stone documents ('boundary stones')
- Study tour in the Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem

#### Required Reading:

Aruz J. et al. eds. 2008, *Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C* (The metropolitan Museum of Art), New Haven and London, 13-39, 70-90, 200-213.

Assante J. 2001, *Sex, Magic and the Liminal Body in the Erotic Art and Texts of the Old Babylonian Period*, in S. Parpola and R.M. Whiting (eds.), *Sex and Gender* (Proceedings of the 47th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Helsinki, July 2-7, 2001), Part I, Helsinki, 27-52.

Assante J. 2002, *Style and Replication in 'Old babylonian Terracotta Plaques*, in O. Loretz, K.A. Metzler, H.-P. Schaudig eds., *Ex Mesopotamia et Syria Lux: Festschrift für Manfred Dietrich zu seinem 65. Geburtstag* (AOAT 281), Munster, 1-29.

Bahrani Z. 2008, *Rituals of War: the Body and Violence in Mesopotamia*, New York, 114-120, 131-147.

Collon D. 1987, *First Impressions, Cylinder Seals in the Ancient Near East*, London.

Collon D. 2005, *The Queen of the Night* (British Museum Objects in Focus), London.

Curtis J.E. & Collon D. 1996, *Ladies of Easy Virtue*, in H. Gasche, B. Hrouda eds., *Collectanea orientalia, Histoire, Arts de l'espace et Industrie de la terre, etudes offertes en hommage à Agnès Spycket* (CPOA 3), Paris, 89-95.

Feldman M. H. 2010, *Objects Agency? Spatial Perspective, Social Relations, and the Stele of Hammurabi*, in S. R. Steadman and J. C. Ross eds., *Agency and Identity in the Ancient Near East, New Paths Forward*, London and Oakville, 148-165.

Lambert W.G. 1987, *Gilgamesh in Literature and Art: The Second and First Millenia*, in A.E. Farkas P.O. Harper and E.B. Harrison eds., *Monsters and Demons in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds, Papers Presented in Honor of Edith Porada*, Mainz, 37-5.

Margueron J. -C. 2004, *Mari, Métropole de l'Euphrate au IIIe et au début IIe millénaire av. J.-C.*, Paris, 317-523.

Moortgat A. 1969, *The Art of Ancient Mesopotamia, The Classical Art of the Near East*, London & New York, 54-92.

Ornan, T. 2005, *The Triumph of the Symbol, Pictorial Representation of Deities in Mesopotamia and the Biblical Image Ban* (OBO 213), Fribourg and Göttingen, 18-59.

Ornan T. 2001, *The Bull and Its Two Masters – Moon and Storm Deities in Relation to the Bull in Ancient Near Eastern Art*, IEJ 51, 1-26.

Ornan T. 2010, *Humbaba, the Bull of Heaven and the Contribution of Images to the Reconstruction of the Gilgamesh Epic*, in H.-U. Steymans ed., *Gilgamesh – Epic and Iconography* (OBO 245), Fribourg & Göttingen, 229-260, 411-424. על ג'תשס"ט אורן

---

הנראה ועל הנכתב: הממצא החזותי והעדויות הכתובות אודות חמבב ופר-השמיים, ארץ-ישראל, מחקרים בידיעת הארץ ועתיקותיה כ"ז, ספר חיים ומרים תדמור, ירושלים, 18-32

Schlossman B.L. 1981/2, *Portraiture in Mesopotamia in the Late Third and Early Second Millennium B.C. Part 2: The Early Second Millennium*, AfO 28, 143-170.  
Schmandt-Besserat D. 2007, *When Writing Met Art: from Symbol to Story*, Austin, 87-100.

Schwartz G. 2013, *An Amorite Global Village: Syrian-Mesopotamian Relations in the Second Millennium B.C.*, in J. Aruz, B. Graff, Y. Rakic eds., *Cultures in Contact, from Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean in the Second Millennium (The Metropolitan Museum Art Symposia)*, New Haven and London, 2-11.

#### Additional Reading Material:

גבאי א' ווייס ת' תשס"ג, המיתולוגיה הבבלית (סדרת מיתוסים), תל אביב.  
הורוויץ א' ו' תשס"ח, לדיוקנו של האל המסופוטמי, בתוך מ' קיסטר, י' גייגר, נ' נאמן, ש' שקד (עורכים), אלי קדם, הפוליתאיזם בארץ-ישראל ושכנותיה בעת העתיקה, מן האלף השני לפנה"ס ועד עליית האיסלאם, ירושלים, 1-33.

שפרה, ש', וקליין, י', תשנ"ז, בימים הרחוקים ההם, אנתולוגיה משירת המזרח הקדמון, תל אביב, 307-183.

שפרה, ש', תשס"ח, המלים ככישוף והכישוף שבמלים, שיחות על ספרות המזרח הקדום, ישראל [תל אביב].

Black, J. & Green, A., 1992, *Gods, Demons and Symbols of Ancient Mesopotamia, An Illustrated Dictionary*, London.

Charpin D. 2012, *Hammurabi of Babylon*, London.

Frankfort, H., 1996, *Art and Architecture of the Ancient Orient*, 5th rev. edition, New Haven and London.

Kuhrt A. 1995, *The Ancient Near East, c. 3000-330 BC*, vol. I, London and New York, 332-381 (paperback ed. 1997).

Koppen van, F., 2006, *Old Babylonian Period Inscriptions*, in M. W. Chavalas ed., *The Ancient Near east, Historical Sources in Translation*, Oxford.

Mieroop Van de M. 2005, *King Hammurabi of Babylon, A Biography*, Oxford.

Roaf, M., 1990, *Cultural Atlas of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*, New York and Oxford.

#### Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

---

Quizzes 0 %  
Other 0 %

Additional information: