

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

First millennium BCE cylinder seals - 43900

Last update 02-10-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Archaeology & Ancient near East

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Tallay Ornan

Coordinator Email: Tallay.ornan@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays: by ppointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Tallay Ornan

Course/Module description:

The course will deal with Mesopotamian cylinder seals from the 1st millennium BCE, by focusing on Neo-Assyrian cylinder seals. We will discuss the seals' themes, style, and carving techniques through which we will explore religious & political aspects of Assyria (located in northern modern Iraq) that governed the ancient Near East during the 9th to the 7th centuries BCE.

Course/Module aims:

To comprehend the features of Assyrian miniature (glyptic) art by decoding its message & by comparing it with the contemporary monumental Assyrian art in order to untangle aspects of religion, cult & propaganda.

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

1. The students will be able to identify seals from the New Assyrian period.
2. The students will be able to distinguish between Assyrian & contemporary Babylonian seals.
3. The students will be able to distinguish between Assyrian seals from the center of the Assyrian Empire & the seals made in peripheral areas of the Assyrian Empire.
4. The students will be able to identify the stylistic characteristics of the various groups of Assyrian seals.
5. The students will be able to understand the religious-ritual messages of the seals.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures accompanied by PP

Course/Module Content:

- Introduction: Carving cylinder seals in Mesopotamia: a tradition of more than 2000 years.
- The characteristics of the Mesopotamian seals in the 1st millennium BCE: materials & carving techniques.
- Cylinder & stamp -seals in the 1st millennium BCE.
- The themes of the Assyrian cylinder-seals: ancient traditions and innovations.

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- *Babylonian cylinder seals: conservatism.*
 - *The themes of the Assyrian cylinder-seals in comparison to contemporary monumental wall reliefs.*
 - *Gods & goddesses on Assyrian cylinder-seals.*
 - *Minor deities & protective creatures in the Assyrian cylinder- seals.*
 - *The exclusion of anthropomorphic deities from Neo-Assyrian & Babylonian cylinder-seals & and their replacement with symbols.*
 - *Features of the royal presentation on Neo-Assyrian cylinder-seals.*
 - *The king and the Lion.*
 - *Mortal women in Neo-Assyrian cylinder-seals.*
 - *Provincial 1st millennium BCE Mesopotamian seals.*
 - *Summary: A tour at the Israel Museum may be possible.*

Required Reading:

Buchanan, B., & Moorey, P.R.S., 1988, *Catalogue of Ancient Near Eastern Seals in the Ashmolean Museum III, The Iron Age Stamp Seals*, Oxford.

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

Collon, D., 1994, *Neo-Assyrian Gula in the British Museum*, in M. Dietrich and O. Loretz (eds.), *Beschreiben und Deuten in der Archäologie des Alten Orients*, Festschrift für Ruth Mayer-Opificius, Münster, 43-48.

Collon, D., 2001, *Catalogue of the Western Asiatic Seals in the British Museum, Cylinder Seals V, Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Periods*, London.

Collon, D., 2003, *Seals of Merodach-Baladan*, in *Eretz-Israel 27 hayim and Miriam tadmor volume*, Jerusalem, 10*-17.

Collon, D., 2006a, *The Iconography of Ninurta*, in P. Taylor (ed.), *The Iconography of Cylinder Seals (Warburg Institute Colloquia 9)*, Turin, 100-109.

Collon, D., 2006b, *Iconographic Evidence for Some Mesopotamian Cult Statues*, in B. Groneberg and H. Spiekermann (eds.), *Die Welt der Götterbilder*, Berlin and New York, 58-84.

Ehrenberg E. 1999, *Uruk, Late Babylonian Seal Impressions on Eanna-Tablets*, *Ausgrabungen in Uruk-Warka Endberichte 18* (R. M. Boehmer, ed.), Mainz am Rhein.

Frankfort H. 1939, *Cylinder Seals*, London.

George A.R. 1986, *Sennacherib and the Tablet of Destinies*, *Iraq 48*, 133-146.

Herbordt S. 1992, *Neuassyrische Glyptik des 8.-7. Jh. v. Chr. unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Siegelungen auf Tafeln und Tonverschlüssen*, Helsinki.

Herbordt, S., 1997, *Neo-Assyrian Royal and Administrative Seals and Their Use*, in H. Waetzoldt and H. Hauptmann (eds.), *Assyrien im Wandel der Zeiten, XXXIXe Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale*, (Heidelberger Studien zum Alten Orient 6), Heidelberg, 1997, 279-283.

Marcus, M. I., 1996, *Emblems of Identity and Prestige: The Seals and Sealings from Hasanlu, Iran, Commentary and Catalog*, Philadelphia.

Merrillees, P. H., 2005, *Catalogue of the Western Asiatic Seals in the British Museum: Cylinder Seals 6, Pre-Achaemenid and Achaemenid Periods*, London.

Mitchell, T. C. & Searight, A., 2007, *Catalogue of the Western Asiatic seals in the British Museum, Impressions of Stamp Seals on Cuneiform Tablets, Clay Bullae, and Jar Handles, Stamp Seals III*, Boston.

Nadali, D. 2009-2010, *Neo-Assyrian State Seals: An Allegory of Power*, *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin (SAAB)* 18, 215-244.

Ornan, T., 1993, *The Mesopotamian Influence on West Semitic Inscribed Seals: A Preference for the Depiction of Mortals*, in B. Sass and Ch. Uehlinger (eds.), *Studies in the Iconography of Northwest Semitic Inscribed Seals (OBO 125)*, Fribourg and Göttingen 52-73.

Ornan, T., 2001, *Ištar as Depicted on Finds from Israel*, in A. Mazar (ed.), *Studies in the Archaeology of the Iron Age in Israel and Jordan (JSOT Suppl. 331)*, Sheffield, 2001, 235-256.

Ornan, T., 2004a, *Idols and Symbols – Divine Representations in First Millennium Mesopotamian Art and its Bearing on the Second Commandment*, *Tel Aviv* 31(1), 90-120.

Ornan, T., 2004b, *The Goddess Gula and her Dog*, *Israel Museum Studies in Archaeology* 3, 13-30.

Ornan, T., 2005, *The Triumph of the Symbol, Pictorial Representation of Deities in Mesopotamia and the Biblical Image Ban (OBO 213)*, Fribourg and Göttingen, 66-72, 98-108, 115-133, 147-163.

Ornan, T., Weksler-Bdolah, Sh., Greenhut, Z., Sass, B., Goren, Y., 2008, *Four Hebrew Seals, One Depicting an Assyrian-like Archer, From the Western Wall Plaza Excavations, Jerusalem*, *Atiqot* 60, 115-129.

Porada, E., 1948, *Corpus of Near Eastern Seals in North American Collections I: The Pierpont Morgan Library*, Washington.

Sachs, A. J., 1953, *The Late Assyrian Royal Seal Type*, *Iraq* 15, 167-170.

Rader, K., 2011, *Sealing Practices*, *RIA* 12, 466-469.

Rader, K., 2012, *The Seal of Tašmetum-šarrat, Sennacherib's Queen, and Its Impressions*, *Leggo!*, Fs. Mario Fales, 466-469.

Radner, K. 2008, *The delegation of power : Neo-Assyrian Bureau Seals*, in P. Briant, W. F. M. Henkelman, M. W. Stolper *L'archive des Fortifications de Persépolis État des questions et perspectives de Recherches Actes du colloque organisé au Collège de France par la « Chaire d'histoire et civilisation du monde achéménide et de l'empire d'Alexandre » et le « Réseau international d'études et de recherches achéménides »* (GDR 2538 CNRS), 3-4 novembre 2006, 481-514.

Watanabe, K., 1999, *Seals of Neo-Assyrian Officials*, in K. Watanabe (ed.), *Priests and Officials in the Ancient Near East, Papers of the Second Colloquium on the Ancient Near East - The City and its Life, held at the Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan (Mitaka, Tokyo), March 22-24, 1996*, Hiedelberg, 313-366.

Winter, I. J., 2000, *Le Palais imaginaire: scale and meaning in the iconography of Neo-Assyrian cylinder seals*, in Ch. Uehlinger 2000 (ed.), *Images as Media, Sources for the cultural history of the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean (1st millennium BCE)* (OBO 175), Fribourg and Göttingen, 51-87.

Wiseman, D. J., 1958, *The Vassal-Treaties of Esarhaddon*, *Iraq* 20, 1-28.

Additional Reading Material:

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:
17 Derech Beit Lehem