

Bernard Revel Graduate School  
BIB 5115--Intro to Biblical Studies II  
Bible and the Ancient Near East  
-- B. L. Eichler  
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## Course Syllabus

### I. The Historical Framework

Kuhrt, Amelie *The Ancient Near East c.3000-330 BC* (Routledge History of the Ancient World, Fergus Miller [general editor], London & New York: Routledge, 1995.

#### Mesopotamian History:

- \*Sasson, J., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* 2, 807-817, 831-915; 817-827, 917-979.
- \*Hallo, W. W & Simpson, W. K., *The Ancient Near East: A History* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) Harcourte Brace & Co., 1998, chapters 2-3; 4-5.
- \*Roux, G., *Ancient Iraq* (3rd edition) Penguin [ISBN 0-14012523-X], Chapters 8-13; 14-24.
- \*Roaf, M., *Cultural Atlas of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East*, 78-89, 96-103, 108-23; 132-50, 158-75, 176-91, 198-215.

#### Egyptian History:

- \*Sasson, J., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* 2, 679-748; 749-89.
- \*Hallo, W. W & Simpson, W. K., *The Ancient Near East: A History* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) Harcourte Brace & Co., 1998, chapters 8-10; 11-12.

#### Ancient Near Eastern Chronology:

- \*"Kinglists," in Pritchard, J.B. (editor), *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Bible*, 265 f.(#1), 271-274 (#3-5), 564-67.
- \*"Date Formulae, Eponyms," *ibid.*, 269-271 (#1-2), 274 (#6).
- \*"Mesopotamia," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 4, 714-20.
- \*"Egypt," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 2, 322-31.
- "The Chronology of the Ancient Near East in the Second Millennium B.C.E.," *Patriarchs* (World History of the Jewish People 2, ed. by B. Mazar) 63-101.

#### Israelite History and Chronology:

- \*"Chronology of the OT," *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* 1, 580-599.
- \*"Chronology," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 1, 1002-11.
- \*"krwnlwgylh," *Encyclopedia Miqra'it* 4, 245-310.
- "The Chronology of the First Temple Period," *The Age of the Monarchies: Political History* (World History of the Jewish People 4/1, ed. by A.

- Malamat), 44-60.
- "History," *Encyclopedia Judaica* 8, 569-609.
- "Israel, History of," *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* 2, 750-761.
- "Egyptian Relations With Canaan," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 2, 399-407.
- "Canaan in the Patriarchal Age," *Patriarchs* (World History of the Jewish People 2, ed. by B. Mazar), 169-187.
- "The Historical Development," and "The Egyptian Decline in Canaan and the Sea-Peoples," *Judges* (World History of the Jewish People 3, ed. by B. Mazar), 3-22; 23-38.
- "Israel: Fall and Exile," "The History of Judah from Hezekiah to Josiah," "The Last Years of the Kingdom of Judah," and "Assyrian Dominion in Palestine," *ibid.*, 180-191; 193-204; 205-221; 276-289.

## II. Ethno-linguistic Elements

- Hoerth, A. J., *Peoples of the Old Testament World*, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.
- Wiseman, D. J. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1973.

### Sumerians:

- \*"Sumerians," in Hoerth, *POTW*, 19-42.
- \*"Sumer, Sumerians," *Encyclopedia Judaica* 15, 512-15; *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 6, 231-37.
- \*"Writing," *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* 4, 909-911.
- \*Kramer, S. N., "The Origin and Development of the Cuneiform System of Writing," *The Sumerians*, 302-307.
- Kramer, S. N., *The Sumerians: Their History, Culture and Character*. University of Chicago Press, 1963

### Hittites and Hurrians:

- \*"Hittites," in Hoerth, *POTW*, 127-155.
- \*"The History of Anatolia and of the Hittite Empire," *CANE* 2, 1085-1105
- \*"Hittite History, Religion, Literature, in OT," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 3, 219-33.
- \*"Reflections of a Late Bronze Age Empire: The Hittites," *Biblical Archaeologist* 52 (1989) 62-142.
- \*"The Kingdom of Mitanni in Second Millennium Mesopotamia," *CANE* 2, 1243-1254
- \*"Hurrians," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 3, 335-38.
- "Hurrians and Hittites," *At the Dawn of Civilization*, (World History of the Jewish People 1, edited by E. A. Speiser), 153-161.
- Gurney, O. R., *The Hittites*. Pelican Books, 1962.

Ebla:

- \*"Ebla: A Third Millennium City-State in Ancient Syria," *CANE* 2, 1219-29.
  - \*"Ebla Texts," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 2, 263-70.
  - \*"The Ebla Tablets: An Interim Perspective," *Biblical Archaeologist* 43 (1980) 76-87.
  - \*"Literary Sources for the History of Palestine and Syria," *Biblical Archaeologist* 47 (1984) 6-16
- Pettinato, G., *The Archives of Ebla*. Doubleday & Co., 1981

Akkadians and Amurrites:

- \*"Amorite Tribes and Nations of Second Millennium Western Asia," *CANE* 2, 1231-41.
- \*"Amorites," *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 1, 199-202.
- \*"The Amorite Migrations," *Mari in Retrospect: Fifty Years of Mari and Mari Studies* (ed. G. D. Young), 233-241.
- \*"Ebla and the Amorites," *Eblaitica: Essays on the Ebla Archives and Eblaite Language* 3, 83-104.

Ugarit and Canaanites:

- \*"Ugarit: A Second Millennium Kingdom on the Mediterranean Coast," *CANE* 2, 1255-65
- \*"Canaanites and Amorites," Hoerth, *POTW*, 157-182.
- \*"Canaanite Inscriptions and the Story of the Alphabet," *Patriarchs* (World History of the Jewish People 2), 24-34.
- "Alphabet, Hebrew," *Encyclopedia Judaica* 2, 674-89.
- \*Greenfield, J. C., "The Hebrew Bible and Canaanite Literature," *Literary Guide to the Bible*, 545-60.
- "Remembering Ugarit," *Biblical Archaeology Review* 9 (1983) 54-75.
- "The Role of the Canaanites in the History of Civilization," *The Bible and the Ancient Near East* (ed. G. E. Wright), 328-362.

Phoenicians and Philistines:

- \*"The Phoenicians," *CANE* 2, 1321-1333.
  - \*"Phoenicians," c, 183-206.
- Harden, D., *The Phoenicians*. Praeger, 1963.
- \*"The 'Sea Peoples' and the Philistines of Ancient Palestine," *CANE* 2, 1267-79.
  - \*"Philistines," Hoerth, *POTW*, 231-250.
  - \*"The Philistines," *Biblical Archaeology Review* 8 (1982) 20-44.

Arameans, Ammonites, Moabites and Edomites:

- \*"Aramean Tribes and the Nations of the First Millennium Western Asia," *CANE* 2, 1281-1293.
- \*"Arameans," Hoerth, *POTW*, 207-230.
- \*"A Statue from Syria with Assyrian and Aramaic Inscriptions." *Biblical Archaeologist* 45/3 (1982) 135-141.

- \*"Neighbors on the East," *The Age of the Monarchies: Political History*, 247-275.
- "Ammon," *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible 1*, 108-114.
- \*"Moab," *Anchor Bible Dictionary 4*, 882-893.
- \*"Edom," *Anchor Bible Dictionary 2*, 287-301.
- \*"New Light on the Edomites," *Biblical Archaeology Review 14* (1989) 28-41.
- A. Dearman, *Studies in the Mesha Inscription and Moab* (1989).

Semitics:

- \*"Semitic Languages," *Encyclopedia Judaica 14*, 149-1157 or  
"Languages," *Anchor Bible Dictionary 4*, 155-170.
- "Linguistic Data," *At the Dawn of Civilization*, 99-134
- \*"The Northwest Semitic Languages," *Patriarchs*, 102-124
- \*"The Hebrew Language in its Northwest Semitic Background," *The Bible and the Ancient Near East* (ed. G.E. Wright), 54-72
- "The Writing and Language of Ebla," *The Archives of Ebla*, 54-66.
- Greenfield, J. C., "Amurrite, Ugaritic, and Canaanite," *Proceedings of the International Conference on Semitic Studies* (Jerusalem, 1965 [1969]), 1-10.

## Topics for Term Papers

Paper A. Sites and their contribution to biblical studies:

1. Mari
2. Nuzi
3. Ugarit
4. El Amarna
5. Ebla

Bibliography:

Entries in:

*Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East.*  
*Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*  
*Anchor Bible Dictionary*

Paper B. Texts and their contribution to biblical studies:

1. Ancient Near Eastern legal texts
2. Ancient Near Eastern wisdom texts
3. Ancient Near Eastern love songs
4. Ancient Near Eastern lamentations
5. Ancient Near Eastern historical texts
6. Ancient Near Eastern treaties
7. Ancient Near Eastern myths and epics
8. Canaanite and Aramaic inscriptions
9. Ugaritic texts

Bibliography:

- J. H. Walton, *Ancient Israelite Literature in its Cultural Context*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- J. B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament* (3rd edition or 2nd edition and supplement).
- B. Foster, *Before the Muses* (2 vols.), Bethesda: CDLPress, 1996 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)
- J. Sasson, *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East 4*.
- W. W. Hallo, *The Context of Scripture, 1, 2*.

### **\*\*Class Assignment Schedule**

<b>September</b>	10	Introduction	
	24	Bibliographic Session in Library (4 <sup>th</sup> floor)	
<b>October</b>	15	Mesopotamia	
	22	Mesopotamia	
	29	Egypt	Submit topic for paper A
<b>November</b>	5	Egypt	
	12	Chronology	Submit synchronization chart
	19	Sumerians	Submit bibliography A
	26	Hittites & Hurrians	
<b>December</b>	3	Amurrites	Submit paper A, topic for paper B
	10	Ebla	
	17	Ugarit	Submit bibliography B
	24	Phoenicians	
	30*	Arameans & Moabites	
	31	Semitics	Submit paper B

\*PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT WE WILL NOT MEET MONDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>. THE MAKE-UP CLASS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> WILL BE OUR LAST CLASS.

\*\*Please note that on any class session a class quiz may be given on assigned work according to the above schedule. All written assignments including the term papers must be submitted on time. Should the work not be submitted when due, a point deduction in the grade will be made for every week delayed.

The final grade in the course will be determined by quiz marks and class participation (25%) and by graded term papers (3 x 25%).