



# ARCL0200 Middle Bronze Age to the Iron Age in the Near East: City-States and Empires

# 2023-24 Term 2

MA/MSc module 15 credits

(15 credits) Wednesdays 1.30-3.30 pm, Room 209 Institute of Archaeology Moodle Password: IoA2324

> Coordinator: Dr Mark Altaweel m.altaweel@ucl.ac.uk Room 103. Tel: 020 7679 74607 (Internal: 24607)

# Office hours: 11:00-1:00 PM on Wednesdays

Essay 1 due date: Turnitin deadline: Hardcopy deadline: Assignment returned:

Essay 2 due date: Turnitin deadline: Hardcopy deadline: Assignment returned: March 1, 2024 March 1, 2024 (midnight) March 15, 2024 , 5 pm 20 March 2024

April 22, 2024 April 22, 2024 (midnight) April 29, 2024, 5 pm 13 May 2024

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ASSESSMENTS:

The **coursework coversheet** is available on the course Moodle pages and here: <u>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students</u> under "Policies, Forms and Guidelines".

Please enter **your five-digit candidate code on the coversheet and** *in the subject line* when you upload your work in Moodle.

Please use your five-digit candidate code as the name of the file you submit.

Please refer to the IoA Student Handbook and IoA Study Skills Guide: <u>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-student-handbook</u> <u>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/current-students/ioa-study-skills-guide</u>

for instructions on coursework submission, IoA referencing guidelines and marking criteria, as well as UCL policies on penalties for late submission, over-length work and academic misconduct.

# 1. MODULE OVERVIEW

# **Module description**

This course trains students in identification and interpretation of primary archaeological evidence from the ancient Near East (=Mesopotamia, the Levant, Anatolia/Turkey, Iran, the Arabian Gulf, and Arabia). Periods covered are the Middle Bronze Age to the end of the Iron Age (ca. 2000-539 BC). The primary data consist of (1) published site and survey reports; (2) archaeological artefacts from collections held by the Institute of Archaeology; (3) selected unpublished data from Institute research projects. The aim is to teach students how to analyse primary evidence relating to research problems in cultural transformations in the Near East: migrations; trade and diplomatic contacts; the evolution of urban and rural societies; and the rise of major empires are themes covered. While other parts of the world were undergoing some similar transformations as those outlined, the Near East continued to play an important role in these themes and has been used by scholars from different fields in discussing how these events have shaped human history.

# **Learning Outcomes**

After completion of the course students should: (1) understand the nature of primary evidence from ancient Near Eastern sites covering the Middle Bronze through the Iron Ages/post-Iron Age; (2) be able to identify material culture from these periods as to region and sub-period; (3) understand how to critique and use artefacts and other primary evidence in formulating research questions and research designs on major cultural transformations within the discussed periods; (4) be able to carry out their own research on objects or fieldwork for the areas and periods covered; (5) be able to write original papers and to make effective presentations on primary data.

# **Methods of Assessment**

See schedule for due dates and the separate section on essay topics. Assessment is based on two essays; the first essay is 1000 words and the second essay is 3000 words. The first assessment is 30% of the final grade and the second is 70%. Essay 1 will be a critique/review of a site report, a survey report, or an existing material culture study (choices are shown in session outlines below). Essay 2 will be an original research paper, incorporating analysis of primary evidence, on a topic devised jointly by the student and the course coordinator. For Essay 2, each student will give a brief preliminary presentation (not assessed) on the proposed research design for the research paper, before the paper is written. Feedback from other students and from the course coordinator will assist the student in producing the final result. This will be an example of group learning; peer-assisted learning; and the teaching of research design, which will contribute to preparation for MA dissertation work. If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Module Coordinator.

Students are not permitted to re-write and re-submit essays in order to try to improve their marks. However, students may be permitted, in advance of the deadline for a given assignment, to submit for comment a brief outline of the assignment.

The Module Co-ordinator is willing to discuss an outline of the student's approach to the assignment, provided this is planned suitably in advance of the submission date. The nature of the assignment and possible approaches to it will be discussed in class, in advance of the submission deadline.

# Communications

- 1. Moodle is the main hub for this course.
- Important information will be posted by staff in the **Announcements section of the Moodle page** and you will automatically receive an email notification for these.

• For personal queries, please contact the co-ordinator by email.

# Week-by-week summary

# The weekly schedule should now be set as Weeks 1–11.

Week	Date	Торіс	Lecturers
1	10/1/2024	Introduction How the Near East transformed at the end of the Early Bronze The Middle Bronze Age World: Trade, Migration, and War	Mark Altaweel
2	17/1/2024	The Middle Bronze in Mesopotamia The Middle Bronze in Iran, the Gulf, and Arabia	Mark Altaweel
3	24/1/2024	The Middle Bronze in the Levant The Middle Bronze in Anatolia	Georgia Andreou
4	31/1/2024	From the Middle Bronze to the Late Bronze: Broad Themes and Topics The Diplomatic Age	Mark Altaweel
5	7/2/2024	The Late Bronze in Mesopotamia The Late Bronze in Iran, the Gulf, and Arabia	Mark Altaweel
6	READING WEEK		
7	21/2/2024	The Late Bronze in the Levant The Late Bronze in Anatolia	Georgia Andreou
8	28/2/2024	The Iron Age: The Emergence of Large Empires A Material Culture of Empire	Mark Altaweel
9	6/3/2024	The Iron Age of Mesopotamia The Iron Age of Iran The Iron Age of Arabia and the Gulf	Mark Altaweel
10	13/3/2024	The Iron Age in the Levant The Iron Age in Anatolia	Georgia Andreou
11	20/3/2024	The Age of Universalism and Universal Empires	Mark Altaweel

# Lecturers (or other contributors)

Mark Altaweel (MA)



# Weekly Module Plan

The module is taught through lectures and discussions. Students will be required to undertake set readings and complete pre-class activities in order to be able to actively participate in the discussion.

# Workload

Class sessions: 20 hours. Reading: ca. 80 hours. Producing assessed work: ca. 50 hours. Total for course: ca. 150 hours.

# ASSESSMENT

# Essay 1: Book Review (1000 words) (30%; due 1/3/2024)

Select one archaeological book or long article (i.e., those that are near or typically the length of books) report concerning excavations conducted, presentation of material cultures, or larger argument using material culture to discuss a region or regions in the Near East in a given period. You may select any book from the weekly readings, including required reading and other suggested readings. If you want to select anything not listed in the reading list you must talk to the course coordinator for approval. The book review should be formatted as a professional book review, as if for a journal. The readership would, therefore, be knowledgeable professionals in Near Eastern archaeology. The emphasis is on critique and assessment of how the work contributes to, or fits in with, recent related research (as revealed by other recent works). For example, if you are reviewing something published in 1995, you want to discuss in what ways later publications render the book out of date or perhaps diminish some of the evidence presented. Consider methods of excavation or survey; how the results change the overall picture of the period in question; whether the data contradict or agree with other recent evidence from the period. You are trying to critique the intellectual substance of the work in the context of the current state of research, with emphasis on methods of research/analysis and quality of data. For examples of reviews, see major journals and how they structure reviews. The Moodle site will also have review examples. If there are existing reviews for a given volume, you should discuss how your review differs from the other review(s). Include criticism of problem orientation, aims, methods, data analysis, results, interpretations. Finally, discuss the strongest or best chapters/sections.

# Essay 2: Research Essay (2000 words) (70%; due 22/4/2024)

The research essay should be an attempt to write an original, short, publishable paper for a journal. Choose a topic that interests you and see the course coordinator to discuss it. Be sure that the topic you choose does not involve any overlap with what you have written in the Book Review (i.e., Essay 1) or other essays in courses.

Part of the assessment will be on how well you formulate your research question. Research questions should not be descriptive, too basic, too limited or narrow in scope, or based on unexamined or simplistic theoretical assumptions. The essay should support or refute a given argument or position. You should address a research question, decide your position, and

defend your views using reasonable evidence.

In addressing the topic, your goal is to find artefacts or primary data to work with directly (e.g., in IoA collections, settlement surveys and material culture from publications, or you could also consider other museum collections). State the research design at the beginning (in introductory paragraphs), as follows:

- 1. The research problems/questions.
- 2. The data you have chose in order to address them.

3. A discussion/defence of what and why you chose those data (e.g., this includes scope, type of data, quality of data, sampling problems, etc.).

4. The methodology you will use in order to address the problem. For example, comparisons of certain units such as features, architecture, sites, regions, or other archaeological features (large or small).

- 5. Then do the analysis.
- 6. Finally, provide a discussion and/or conclusion.

Do not just write a description/critique of other works. You are trying to provide your own analysis and approach and assess wider implications of the results on the Near East and archaeology. Provide details of the evidence, use citations where data presentations are long, but summarise relevant parts of the data, and present adequately the problems or possibilities of data utilised. Use concrete, specific examples in the archaeological record where relevant. The use of charts, diagrams, or illustrations to highlight your points is strongly encouraged.

Please consult with the course coordinator on a topic or if you have general questions. Chose on a topic from one of the following regions:

# **RESOURCES AND PREPARATION FOR CLASS**

# **Preparation for class**

You are expected to read the **Essential Readings as well as attend class each week**. Completing the readings is essential for your effective participation in the activities and discussions that we will do, and it will greatly enhance your understanding of the material covered. **Further readings are provided** for you to get a sense of the range of current work on a given topic and for you to draw upon for your assessments.

# **GENERAL WORKS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE**

# **Introductory Texts**

Altaweel, Mark, and Andrea Squitieri. 2018. *Revolutionizing a World: From Small States to Universalism in the Pre-Islamic Near East*. London: UCL Press.

https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/87846. (see Chapter 2 for timespan covered in course).

Chavalas, Mark W., ed. 2012. Women in the Ancient Near East: A Sourcebook. Routledge



Sourcebooks for the Ancient World. London: Routledge. ANCIENT HISTORY B 65 CHA

Gates, Charles. 2003. Ancient Cities: The Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece and Rome. London; New York: Routledge.

Glatz, C. 2020. *The Making of Empire in Bronze Age Anatolia: Hittite Sovereign Practice, Resistance, and Negotiation*. 1st ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Greenberg, R. 2019. *The Archaeology of the Bronze Age Levant: From Urban Origins to the Demise of City-States*, *3700–1000 BCE*. 1st ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. eBook access available.

Howland, M.D., Tauxe, L., Gordin, S., Altaweel, M., Cych, B., Ben-Yosef, E., 2023. Exploring geomagnetic variations in ancient mesopotamia: Archaeomagnetic study of inscribed bricks from the 3rd–1st millennia BCE. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 120, e2313361120. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2313361120

Liverani, Mario. 2014. *The Ancient Near East: History, Society and Economy*. London; New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group. ANCIENT HISTORY B 5 LIV.

Podany, Amanda H. 2014. *The Ancient Near East: A Very Short Introduction*. Very Short Introductions. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press.

Potts, D.T. (e.d.). 2012. A Companion to the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. INST ARCH DBA 100 POT. Read only chapters for basic background on Near East archaeology.

Radner and Potts (eds). 2020-22. *Oxford History of the Ancient Near East*. See series and volume online in reading list.

Sagona, A.G., Zimansky, P.E., 2009. <u>Ancient Turkey</u>. Routledge, London. INST ARCH DBC 100 SAG

Snell, Daniel C. 2020. *A Companion to the Ancient Near East*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub. <u>https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781119362500</u>. eBook access available.

Yasur-Landau, A., Cline, E.H., and Rowan, Y. 2018. *The Social Archaeology of the Levant: From Prehistory to the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. eBook access available.

# **Selected Journals**

Akkadica, Anatolian Studies; Anatolica; Anatolica Antiqua; Annales archéologiques arabes syriennes (AAAS); Annual of the Dept. of Antiquities of Jordan (ADAJ) (Jordan); Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy; Arabian Studies; Arastirma Sonuçlari Toplantîsî (AST); Bulletin d'Archéologie et d'Architecture Libanaises (BAAL); Berytus; Bulletin of the American Society of Oversears Research (BASOR); Excavations & Surveys in Israel; Israel Exploration Journal; Iraq; Iran; Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology; Journal of Oman Studies; Kazi Sonuçlari Toplantîsî (KST); Levant; Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist); Paléorient; Palestine Exploration Quarterly, Proceedings of the



Seminar for Arabian Studies; Studies in the History & Archaeology of Jordan (SHAJ) (Jordan); Syria. Also, see science (e.g., Journal of Archaeological Science, Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory) and heritage (Journal of Cultural Heritage) journals for other topics covered that overlap with Near East Areas.

# Libraries and Resources

The Institute of Archaeology library; UCL's other libraries (e.g., Main, Hebrew, Watson, esp. Anthropology). Other useful libraries: the British Museum, the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF), SOAS, Senate House; the British Library. A letter is required to use some of these. Note: the PEF is inexpensive and has a superb library: http://www.pef.org.uk/.

# **SYLLABUS**

**Session 1:** 10 January 2024 Session Lecturer: MA

#### Introduction

# How the Near East transformed at the end of the Early Bronze The Middle Bronze Age World: Trade, Migration, and War

*Summary*: We review the major events that closed the Early Bronze Age, including social and environmental reasons as to why major transformations between the third and second millennium BC occurred. We consider the Near East setting at the end of the third millennium and how it sets the stage for major cultural transformations in the second and first millennium.

We also consider major themes in the Middle Bronze Age. Throughout this course, we will look at major periods by looking at common themes and the overall setting in the Near East. Therefore, we will always try to integrate and tie the regional sequences and material cultural expressions. Having a combination of detailed regional material cultural remains and broader themes that cover multiple regions will allow one to understand broader theoretical issues while also having some knowledge of regional sequences used to demonstrate or counter these major themes. In this first week, we see how themes of trade, migration, and war play a major role in the material culture that spanned this period. How are these themes relevant and what ways would you expect material cultural to express or demonstrate these themes?

Note: readings marked with an asterisk are considered essential readings for the course session.

# Methodology (general background to use of material culture in research)

Hodder, I (e.d.). 1982. *Symbolic and Structural Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-3 and 5. INST ARCH AH HOD



Hurcombe, L. 2007. *Archaeological Artefacts and Material Culture*. Routledge. INST ARCH AH HUR

Knappett, C. 2005. *Thinking through Material Culture: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. (Should be available in IOA library).

# The End of the Early Bronze Age

\*Cooper, L. 2010. The demise and regeneration of Bronze Age urban centers in the Euphrates Valley of Syria. In: G. Schwartz and J.J. Nichols (Eds.), *After Collapse: The Regeneration of Complex Societies*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. Pp. 18-37. INST ARCH BD SCH

Jacobsen, T. and Adams, R.M. Salt and silt in ancient Mesopotamian agriculture. *Science* 128(3334):1251-1258.

Pustovoytov, Konstantin, and Simone Riehl. 2016. "The Early Bronze Age/Middle Bronze Age Transition and the Aquifer Geography in the Near East." *Journal of Archaeological Science* 69 (May): 1–11. doi:10.1016/j.jas.2016.02.005.

Weiss, H. (Ed.). 2017. *Megadrought and collapse: From early agriculture to Angkor*. Oxford University Press (look at Near East chapters for general background).

# The Middle Bronze Age World: Trade, Migration, and War

Arbuckle, Benjamin S., and Emily L. Hammer. 2019. "The Rise of Pastoralism in the Ancient Near East." *Journal of Archaeological Research* 27, no. 3: 391–449. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10814-018-9124-8.

Barjamovic, G. 2022. Before the Kingdom of the Hittites: Anatolia in the Middle Bronze Age. In K. Radner, N. Moeller, & D. T. Potts (Eds.), *The Oxford History of the Ancient Near East: Volume II* (1st ed., pp. 497–565). Oxford University PressNew York. https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190687571.003.0017.

Barjamovic, G. 2018. Interlocking commercial networks and the infrastructure of trade in Western Asia during the Bronze Age. In Kristiansen, K., Lindkvist, T., and Myrdal, J. (eds.), Trade and civilisation: economic networks and cultural ties from prehistory to the Early Modern era. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 113–142

Barjamovic, G. 2011. *A Historical Geography of Anatolia in the Old Assyrian Colony Period*. University of Copenhagen. ANCIENT HISTORY QUARTOS E 58 BA

Burke, Aaron A. 2008. "Walled up to Heaven": The Evolution of Middle Bronze Age Fortification Strategies in the Levant. Studies in the Archaeology and History of the Levant 4. Winona Lake, Ind: Eisenbrauns.



Greenberg, R. 2019. The Archaeology of the Bronze Age Levant: From Urban Origins to the Demise of City-States, 3700–1000 BCE. 1st ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 180-271 (Chapter 5).

\*Homsher, Robert S., and Melissa S. Cradic. 2017. "The Amorite Problem: Resolving an Historical Dilemma." *Levant* 49 (3): 259–83. doi:10.1080/00758914.2017.1418038.

Huang, He. 2018. "The Route of Lapis Lazuli: Lapis Lazuli Trade From Afghanistan to Egypt During Mid-Late Bronze Age." In *Proceedings of the 2018 4th Annual International Conference on Modern Education and Social Science (MESS 2018)*. Wuhan, China: Atlantis Press. doi:10.2991/mess-18.2018.73.

Larsen, M.T. 2000. The Old Assyrian city-state. In: M. H. Hansen (e.d.), *A Comparative Study of Thirty City-State Cultures*. The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters. Copenhagen. Pp. 77-87. INST ARCH BC 100 Qto HAN

Margueron, J.-C. 1995 'Mari: a portrait in art of a Mesopotamian city-state', in J.M. Sasson (ed.) *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, New York: Scribner's. Pp. 885-899. INST ARCH DBA 100 SAS

Moorey, P.R.S. 1986. The emergence of the light, horse-drawn chariot in the Near East c. 2000-1500 B.C. *World Archaeology* 18(2):196-215.

Mourad, Anna-Latifa. 2015. *Rise of the Hyksos: Egypt and the Levant from the Middle Kingdom to the Early Second Intermediate Period*. Archaeopress Egyptology 11. Oxford: Archaeopress Publishing Ltd. EGYPTOLOGY QUARTOS B 20 MOU.

Nichols, J.J. and Weber, J.A. 2010. Amorites, onagers, and social reorganization in Middle Bronze Age Syria. In: G. Schwartz and J.J. Nichols (Eds.), *After Collapse: The Regeneration of Complex Societies*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. Pp. 38-57 INST ARCH BD SCH

Potts, D.T. 1993. Rethinking some aspects of trade in the Arabian Gulf. *World Archaeology* 24:423-440.

Sagona, A. and P. Zimansky 2009. *Ancient Turkey*, London: Routledge. Pages 225-252. INST ARCH DBC 100 SAG

Van De Mieroop, M. 2007 *A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000-323 BC*, Oxford: Blackwell. Pg. 80-112, 112-118, 121-140, 145-178. INST ARCH DBA 100 MIE

Yener, K. Aslıhan. 2007. "The Anatolian Middle Bronze Age Kingdoms and Alalakh: Mukish, Kanesh and Trade." *Anatolian Studies* 57 (December): 151–60. doi:10.1017/S0066154600008577.

# **Resolving Chronology**

\*Howland, M.D., Tauxe, L., Gordin, S., Altaweel, M., Cych, B., Ben-Yosef, E., 2023. Exploring geomagnetic variations in ancient mesopotamia: Archaeomagnetic study of



inscribed bricks from the 3rd–1st millennia BCE. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 120, e2313361120. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2313361120

**Session 2:** 17 January 2024 Session Lecturer: MA

# The Middle Bronze in Mesopotamia The Middle Bronze in Iran, the Gulf, and Arabia

*Summary*: This week we look at Mesopotamia during the first half of the second millennium BC, focusing on the Isin-Larsa and Old Babylonian periods. This was a time when major urban centres in the far south of Mesopotamia began to decline, while northern settlement in the southern alluvium gained increased ascendancy. We contrast this to northern Mesopotamia, where the kingdoms of Mari and Assyria were among the early powers that arose in the region. How does southern Mesopotamian material culture contrast with that in northern Mesopotamia?

We also look at the cultures of Elamite Iran in the early second millennium and how it competed and contrasted with Mesopotamia. The Persian Gulf and Arabia, during this period, also underwent transformations where the Early Bronze cultures may have transformed or were affected by increased migrations. How do you think cultures in the Gulf and Arabia differed from those in the Early Bronze Age?

#### **Northern Mesopotamia**

Altaweel, M. 2014. Settlement dynamics and hierarchy from agent decision-making: A method derived from entropy maximization. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*. DOI:10.1007/s10816-013-9185-4. (just read the parts about the structure of settlements in the Middle Bronze Age).

Bartelmus, Alexa, and Katja Sternitzke, eds. 2017. *Karduniaš: Babylonia under the Kassites: The Proceedings of the Symposium Held in Munich, 30 June to 2 July 2011 = Tagungsbericht Des Äünchner Symposiums 30. Juni Bis 2. Juli 2011.* Untersuchungen Zur Assyriologie Und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie, Band 11. Boston ; Berlin: Walter de Gruyter. (online).

Casana, Jesse, and Claudia Glatz. 2017. "THE LAND BEHIND THE LAND BEHIND BAGHDAD: ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES OF THE UPPER DIYALA (SIRWAN) RIVER VALLEY." *Iraq* 79 (December): 47–69. <u>https://doi.org/10.1017/irq.2017.3</u>.

Dalley, S. 2002. *Mari and Karana: Two Old Babylonian Cities*. Gorgias Press. ANCIENT HISTORY H 52 DAL

Kempinski-Lecomte,C 1992. *Haradum I. Une ville nouvelle sur le Moyen-Euphrate (XVIIe-XVIIIe siecles av J.-C.)*. Paris

Kühne, H. 1976. *Die Keramik von Tell Chuera und ihre Beziehungenzu Funden aus Syrien-Paldstina,der Turkei und dem Iraq.* Berlin. INST ARCH DBD 10 KUH

McMahon, A., Tunca, O., Bagdo, A-M. 2001. New excavations at Chagar Bazar, 1999-2000.



Iraq 43:201-22.

Mallowan, M.E.L. 1947. Excavations at Brak and Chagar Bazar. Iraq 9:1-259.

Mallowan, M.E.L. 1937. The Excavations at Tall Chagar Bazar and an Archaeological Survey of the Habur Region. Second Campaign, 1936. *Iraq* 4:91-177.

Oates, D., Oates, J., McDonald, H. 1997. *Excavations at Tell Brak 1: The Mitanni and Old Babylonian Period*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute Monographs. INST ARCH DBD 10 Qto OAT

Oguchi, H. 2006. Notes on Khabur Ware from the Haditha Dam Area. In: Kepinski, C., Lecomte, O. and Tenu, A. (eds.), *Studies Euphratica. Le moyen Euphrate iraquien révéle par les fouilles préventives de Haditha*, 203-215. Paris: De Boccard.

Perruchini, E., C. Glatz, M.M. Hald, J. Casana, and J.L. Toney. 2018. "Revealing Invisible Brews: A New Approach to the Chemical Identification of Ancient Beer." *Journal of Archaeological Science* 100 (December): 176–90. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2018.05.010</u>.

Postgate, C. Oates, D., Oates, J. 1997. *The Excavations at Tell al Rimah: The Pottery*. British School of Archaeology in Iraq and the Directorate of Antiquities. London. INST ARCH DBB 10 Qto POS

# **Southern Mesopotamia**

\*Campbell, Stuart, Jane Moon, Robert Killick, Daniel Calderbank, Eleanor Robson, Mary Shepperson, and Fay Slater. 2017. "TELL KHAIBER: AN ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE OF THE SEALAND PERIOD." *Iraq* 79 (December): 21–46. https://doi.org/10.1017/irq.2017.1.

Clark, S., Altaweel, M., & Gordin, S. 2022. Urbanscape, Land Use Change and Centralization in the Region of Uruk, Southern Mesopotamia from the 2nd to 1st Millennium BCE. *Land*, *11*(11), https://doi.org/10.3390/land11111955

Delougaz, P. 1952. *Pottery from the Diyala Region*. Oriental Institute Publications 63. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago. INST ARCH DBB 10 Qto DEL

Frankfort, H. 1955. *Stratified Cylinder Seals from the Diyala Region*. Oriental Institute Publications 72. Chicago: University of Chicago. 492 QUARTOS D 52 FRA

Gasche, H., Armstrong, J.A., Cole, S.W., and Gurzadyan, V.G. 1998. *Dating the Fall of Babylon: A Reappraisal of Second-Millennium Chronology (A Joint Ghent-Chicago-Harvard Project)*. Mesopotamian History and Environment 2. Memoirs 4. Ghent. ANCIENT HISTORY QUARTOS D 10 GAS

Hussein, AM; Hamza, HA; Thaher, AK; Kadhum, SJ; Hashem, M; Taha, HM; Altaweel, MR; Studevent-Hickman, B; 2010. Tell Abu Sheeja/Ancient Pasime Report on the First Season of Excavations, 2007. Akkadica 131(1):47–103.



McCown, D.E. and Haines, R. 1967. *Nippur 1: Temple of Enlil, Scribal Quarter, and Soundings: Excavations of the Joint Expedition to Nippur of the University Museum of Philadelphia and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. Oriental Institute Publication 78. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. INST ARCH DBB 10 Qto MCC

McCown, D.E., Haines, R., and Biggs, R. 1978. *Nippur II: The North Temple and Sounding E: Excavations of the Joint Expedition to Nippur of the American School of Oriental Research and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. Oriental Institute Publication 97. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. INST ARCH DBB 10 Qto MCC

Palmisano, Alessio, and Mark Altaweel. 2015. "Landscapes of Interaction and Conflict in the Middle Bronze Age: From the Open Plain of the Khabur Triangle to the Mountainous Inland of Central Anatolia." *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 3: 216–36.

Stone, E., Otto, A., Charpin, D., Einwag, B., & Zimansky, P. 2021. Two Great Households of Old Babylonian Ur. *Near Eastern Archaeology*, *84*(3), 182–191. https://doi.org/10.1086/715346

Stone, E. and Zimansky, P. 2004. *The Anatomy of a Mesopotamian City: Survey and Soundings at Mashkan-shapir*. Winona Lake: Eisenbraun.

Werr, L.A.G., Mansour, S., Yaseen, G.T. 1992. *Old Bablonian Cylinder Seals from the Hamrin*. London: Nabu. INST ARCH KG Qto GAI

\*Wilson, K. 2012. *Bismaya: Recovering the Lost City of Adab*. Oriental Institute Publications 138. http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/publications/oip/oip-138-bismaya-recovering-lost-city-adab.

Woolley, L and Mallowan, M.E.L. 1927. *Ur Excavations VII: The Old Babylonian Period*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISSUE DESK IOA WOO 5

Yaseen, G.T. 1995. *Old Babylonian Pottery from the Hamrin, Tell Halawa*. London: Nabu. STORE 12-0523

# <u>Iran</u>

\*Alizadeh, A. 2014. Ancient Settlement Systems and Cultures in the Ram Hormuz Plain, Southwestern Iran: Excavations at Tall-e Geser and Regional Survey of the Ram Hormuz Area. Oriental Institute Publications 140. http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/publications/oip/oip-140-ancient-settlement-systems-and-cultures-ram-hormuz-plain. (Look at Middle Bronze 2000-1600 BC sections).

Alizadeh, A., Ahmadzadeh, L., Omidfar, M. 2015. Reflections on the long-term socioeconomic and political development in the Ram Hormoz Plain, a highland-lowland buffer zone. *Archaologische Mitteilungen aus Iran und Turan* 45: 113-148 (relevant periods 2000-1600 BC).



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**Session 3**: 24 January 2024 Session Lecturer: GA

# The Middle Bronze in the Levant and Anatolia

In the early 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium, Amorite dynasties emerged in northern Mesopotamia (e.g., Shamshi-Adad of Shubat-Enlil/Leilan, Zimri-Lim of Mari). The Mari Letters reveal far-flung overland trade networks; overland trade caravans between Assur and central Anatolia are revealed at Kültepe/Kanesh. In the Levant, Qatna and Ebla were powerful kingdoms. Levantine coastal ports were linked to the interior and the Mediterranean. Links between Middle Kingdom Egypt & Syria-Palestine were followed by takeover of the Nile Delta by the Hyksos. Material culture: Jericho, Ajjul, Alalakh, Beycesultan

# Note: **\*\*** = essential; **\*** = recommended; **+** = site report (scan one before class if you can). Before class, read all essentials; read as many recommended as you can.

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**Session 4:** 31 January 2024 Session Lecturer: MA

# From the Middle Bronze to the Late Bronze: Broad Themes and Topics The Diplomatic Age

*Summary*: The Late Bronze Age was a time of major cultural, economic, and diplomatic changes in the Near East. The cuneiform tablets from Amarna are a testament to the contacts kingdoms and states had, while the Uluburun shipwreck and others demonstrate trade connections that tied the Near East, Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean worlds. While trade and diplomatic relations characterised much of this period, near the end of the Late Bronze the Near East witnessed profound changes in migration and collapse of major centres and kingdoms. This week we discuss some of these major events in the context of material cultural found during this period. What cultural aspects do you see that indicate significant cultural contacts between states and kingdoms during the Late Bronze Age? How do you think material culture may reflect the profound collapse of societies witnessed at the end of the Late Bronze?

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**Session 5:** 7 February 2024 Session Lecturer: MA

# The Late Bronze in Mesopotamia The Late Bronze in Iran, the Gulf, and Arabia

*Summary*: After discussing the broader themes previously, this week we look at Mesopotamia, Iran, and the Persian Gulf during the Late Bronze. We look remains associated with the Kassite, Mitanni, Elamite, and Assyrian states. Cultural contacts with Arabia and the Gulf are also discussed. What material cultural characteristics distinguish some of the states mentioned during this period? How does material culture in this period differ from that in the Middle Bronze? Is there any significant continuity in the material culture?

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**Session 7:** 21 February 2024 Session Lecturer: GA

# The Late Bronze in the Levant and Anatolia

Summary: The Late Bronze Age witnessed truly large empires affecting the Levant and



Anatolia: the New Kingdom, Mitanni, the Hittites. It is easy to view the Levant and Anatolia from the perspective of the most politically powerful empires. But there were spheres of relative independence and resistance. How did the LBA empires maintain control over distant territories? Why were some city-states under more control than others? Did elites in subordinate polities use material culture to emulate their imperial overlords or to resist them? How have petrographic studies of texts altered our understanding of political geography? Material culture: Ajjul, Alalakh, Cyprus, Alishar

# Note: **\*\*** = essential; **\*** = recommended; **+** = site report (scan one before class if you can). Before class, read all essentials; read as many recommended as you can.

# Historical Documents (read a selection)

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# For further reading

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## **Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean**

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**Session 8:** 28 February 2024 Session Lecturer: MA

# The Iron Age: The Emergence of Large Empires A Material Culture of Empire

*Summary*: This week we discuss the Iron Age's broader themes and in particular the emergence of the Neo-Assyrian Empire and its influence on the Near East. We examine how the Assyrians began a trend of major empires that impacted the region for many centuries after the collapse of the Assyrian state. We discuss how imperialism influences material culture in the central and peripheral provinces of empires. In what ways do you expect that the Neo-Assyrian Empire would have influenced cultures surrounding it? How would this affect the material cultures in the Near East? How do you think states imitated others or differed in their art during the Neo-Assyrian period?

# **Empires and States in the Iron Age**

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**Session 9:** March 6 2024 Session Lecturer: MA

The Iron Age of Mesopotamia The Iron Age of Iran The Iron Age of Arabia and the Gulf

Summary: This week we examine the Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian period in



Mesopotamia. We also look at the rise of the Median and Persian cultures in Iran. We examine how the Gulf and Arabia was influenced by the larger states and developed indigenously. Questions form this week include: How did Neo-Assyrian art begin to influence the region's artistic styles? What regions and cultures do you think Neo-Assyrian art and styles were influenced by? Are there broader Mesopotamian and Iranian themes during the Iron Age that we see deriving from much earlier periods?

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**Session 10: 13** March 2024 Session Lecturer: GA **The Iron Age in the Levant and Anatolia** 

*Summary:* In the wake of the LBA collapse, independent city-states and small kingdoms emerged but their autonomy was often short-lived: many were caught up in the Neo-Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian and Persian empires. Although alliances and confederations were formed to resist Mesopotamian aggressions, these states were mostly small. Territorial boundaries were fluid or changing, and political organization was quite variable. The Iron Age polities covered here are Philistia, Phoenicia, Israel and Judah, Ammon, Moab, Edom, Arabia, the Aramaean and Neo-Hittite 'houses,' Urartu, Phrygia. What processes drove secondary state formation in the Iron Age? How were these states organized politically? How accurate are historical (written) sources on the history of this period? Material Culture: Fara, Samaria, Jemmeh, Beycesultan, al Mina

Note: \* = recommended

Historical Documents (read a selection)



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## **<u>Neo-Hittite and Aramean Kingdoms</u>**. (Read 1)

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**Session 11:** 20 March 2024 Session Lecturer: MA

## The Age of Universalism and Universal Empires

*Summary*: Sometimes the period after the Iron Age is called the Axial Age. Whatever one considers it, we see a pattern of large states and empires now becoming the norm. Hellenistic influences develop, cultures in the Near East increasingly interact with distant empires and



cultures, even interacting with Britain to the West and China to the East at one point. Universal cultural traits emerge, whereby common themes in language, religion, art, and other areas emerge. We explore this and other related topics.

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