

ANCIENT CULTURES 114

Cultures of North Africa and Western Asia

North Africa and Western Asia includes Egypt, Kush (Sudan), Ethiopia, the Hittites of Anatolia (Turkey), Mesopotamia (Iraq), the Levant (Syria and Israel/Palestina), and Persia (Iran). In this module we read some of the oldest stories of humanity (in English translation) originally written in the oldest writing systems (e.g. cuneiform and hieroglyphs) of the world:

- Epic of Gilgamesh - the world's oldest story about the Mesopotamian king's deeds and the question of the meaning of life
- Egyptian short stories - describing travels and social issues
- Ethiopian Kebra Negast - the story of the Queen of Sheba
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These stories are read in their context and the context described in it, is studied. Attention is given to various aspects of culture: the environment, main historical events, writing systems and languages, social and political institutions, technology and buildings, religious and moral values, visual arts and literature – all aspects which still have an influence today.

1. GENERAL

Outcomes

- A broad knowledge of the geography and history
- Insight into the important cultural-historical highlights

Content

- Geographical orientation
- Broad historical overview
- Cultural highlights

2. LECTURE TIMES & VENUES

Monday 16:00 (Gr. 1): **229**

Tuesday 14:00 (Gr. 1): **229**

Wednesday 14:00 (Gr. 2): **227**

Thursday 9:00 (Gr. 2): **229**

Friday 10:00 (Gr. 1): **229**

Friday 15:00 (Gr. 2): **229**

Tutorials:

Tutorials will be either in the form of online quizzes or discussions in groups (students will be informed via e-mail).

Rooms for online exercises	Groep/Groups
Mo 10:00 329 & 357	222
Mo 15:00 329 & 357	224
Tues 10:00 320 & 357	222
Tues 15:00 320 & 363	226

All online tutorial exercises must be completed via **SUNLearn** (<http://learn.sun.ac.za>), and will only be available from the locations provided above (with password). Be warned – arrive on time and do not attempt to start the exercise 10 minutes before the time expires! Stay within your group; seniors can choose any group, but taking the size of the room into account.

NB: please check in which class group you are and note which period (and theme) you have to follow according to the **work programme (7)**!

NB: Please keep an eye on your e-mails and the calendar within SUNLearn for important additional information that is not mentioned in class! Keep an eye on the calendar and read your emails!

3. METHOD OF TEACHING

The focus of this module is on self-learning. The three main lectures are used to give structure, explain concepts, give additional information, and for general discussion. The tutorials are to consolidate study material and esp. for assessments. The *work*

programme explains clearly what will be discussed during each lecture. Note the main points that are shown and use these as a framework for preparation for formal lectures and assessments.

Students should come prepared to each class. Self-study is required beforehand. Students may be asked to write an unannounced test on the self-study material during any class, and these tests shall contribute to the final mark. The basic **reading material will be given**. A list of selected works is given and a selection of these will be placed on reserve in the SU-Library. You will especially need it when you write the essays. A list of important terms and names (in English, Afrikaans and isi-Xhosa) is on SUNLearn.

Other information and material will be available via SUNLearn. Further information on the web-based study material will be given at a later stage.

NB!

- Attending formal lectures and tutorials is *compulsory*; attendance will be monitored in every class and students who, at the discretion of the lecturer, fail to attend too many classes (without a legitimate reason) may be penalised accordingly or even refused to further follow the module. The written assignments, the two formal tests and unprepared tests all form part of your final mark.

3.1. Assessment

Assessment is continuous and there is **no second examination!**

All assessments are **compulsory (online exercises, tests & essays)**. Extensions will only be given on the presentation of a legitimate medical certificate or, preferably, sending it via e-mail to the tutor and if the lecturer accepts the certificate. A second opportunity is only granted in the case of an illness or other unavoidable (and acceptable) reason, such as a clashing test on the formal US test timetable. The responsibility rests on the student to hand in a written application with the necessary documents to the lecturer with enough time to qualify for the Sick Test.

The written assignments must be handed in on the prescribed date. If not, 5% per day will be subtracted for each day it is late – after a week an *incomplete* will be given.

4. LECTURERS

Prof. Dr. Izak (Sakkie) Cornelius (k./r. 336; sakkie@sun.ac.za)

Dr. Alexander (Alex) Andrason (k./r. 350; andrason@sun.ac.za): 15, 18-22 Feb., 12, 15-18, 23 April

Tutors:

Mnr./Mr. Marcus Joubert (k./r. 348; 18547516@sun.ac.za)

Me./Ms. Annerie Fritz 17080029@sun.ac.za

Me./Ms. Danea Burger 19457553@sun.ac.za

Admin.

Me./Ms. Louise Damons (k./r. 335; tel. 808-3203; ldam@sun.ac.za)

Consulting: send the lecturers an e-mail to make an appointment if urgently needed.

5. ASSIGNMENTS

All relevant documents can be found online on SUNLearn!

1. **ASSIGNMENT 1:** Shorter assignment (approx. 800 words)

DUE DATE: 1 April ONLINE.

2. **ASSIGNMENT 2:** Longer assignment (approx. 2000 words)

Topic has to be chosen online before 18 April.

DUE DATE: 24 May ONLINE.

NB:

It can **only be submitted online** via SUNLearn (<http://learn.sun.ac.za>) under **Assessment\Assignments**. Read **Submitting an assignment using Turnitin** thoroughly first. All other relevant documents (plagiarism declaration, checklist etc.) can also be found there.

It must be done according to the departmental requirements (refer to the guideline PowerPoint on SUNLearn), otherwise a mark

of 0% will be given!. No extension will be given, except in the case of an accepted medical certificate.

A collection of prescribed reading material will be placed on reserve in the Library. *NB: no internet sources will be allowed, with the exception of images.*

Plagiarism

The University regards plagiarism as a very serious matter. For the policy document see SUNLearn (Assignments).

6. ASSESSMENT

This module is assessed continuously. The final mark is calculated as follows:

Class attendance	5%
Tuts	20%
Assignment 1(1/4)	10%
Assignment 2 (24/5)	25%
Test 1 (13 April) <i>1st term</i>	20%
Test 2 (3 June/June) <i>2nd term</i>	20%

7. WORK PROGRAMME

WEEK 1: 4-8/2: INTRODUCTION

NB: No tutorials

[L1] 4/2 (GROUP 1) / 6/2 (GROUP 2)

Admin & Orientation

[L2] 5/2(1) / 7/2 (2)

Ancient Studies: what and why?

[L3] 8/2 (1 & 2)

Ancient Cultures: how do we study these?, sources and methods

WEEK 2: 11-15/2: WHERE AND WHEN?

ANCIENT WRITING AND LANGUAGES OF WESTERN ASIA 1

TUTORIAL: QUIZ Gilgamesh Epic (Translation Sandars, N.K. 1975. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. Harmondsworth: Penguin; <http://www.aina.org/books/eog/eog.htm>)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPYf8AwNvKg> reading Sandars 1.43 hrs.

[L1] 11/2 (1) / 13/2 (2)

From Africa to Afghanistan: The World and Environment

Main points:

Africa

deserts, Nile river, highlands

Western-Asia

Mountain regions, rivers: Orontes, Jordan, Tigris and Euphrates
/Persian Gulf and Mediterranean Sea

Reading:

Map

[L2] 12/2 (1) / 14/2 (2)

Three Millennia and More: Historical Orientation

Main points:

The Beginning: Stone Age

City States and Pyramids: 3rd Millennium BCE

Babylonian Laws and Egyptian Empire: 2nd Millennium BCE

Age of Empires: 1st Millennium BCE

Parthia, Sassania, Axum: 1st Millennium CE

Reading:

Timeline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TXzW4nF7fU>

[L3] 15/2 (1 & 2)

Ancient Writing and Languages of Western Asia: Sumerian

Reading:

Sumerian – G. Cunningham, pp. 271-274; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Sumerian – P. Michalowski pp. 6-46 (**read pp. 6-14**); in Roger D. Woodard (ed.) 2008. *The Ancient Languages of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Aksum*. Cambridge University Press.

Mesopotamian Cuneiform Script – G.B. Gragg, pp. 27-31; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

WEEK 3: 18-22/2: ANCIENT WRITING AND LANGUAGES OF WESTERN ASIA 2

TUTORIAL

[L1] 18/2 (1) / 20/2 (2) *Old Semitic languages: East*

Reading:

Semitic Languages – J. Hackett, pp. 229-235; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Akkadian – G. Deutscher, pp. 140-141; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Akkadian in general – B. Kouwenberg, pp. 330-340 (**read pp. 330-335**); in Stefan Weninger (ed.) 2011. *Semitic Languages. An International Handbook*. De Gruyter Mouton.

Eblaite – A. Archi, pp. 53-54; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Eblaite and Old Akkadian – M.P. Streck, pp. 340-359 (**read pp. 340-341**); in Stefan Weninger (ed.) 2011. *Semitic Languages. An International Handbook*. De Gruyter Mouton

Elamite – G.B. Gragg, pp. 95-97; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

[L2] 19/2 (1) / 21/2 (2) *Old Semitic languages: West*

Reading:

Ugaritic – J. Hackett, pp. 210-211; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Ugaritic – D. Pardee, pp. 460-472 (**read pp. 460-462**); in Stefan Weninger (ed.) 2011. *Semitic Languages. An International Handbook*. De Gruyter Mouton.

Hebrew, Biblical and Medieval – A. Sáenz-Badillos, pp. 262-265; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Aramaic and Syriac – J. Watt, pp. 444-446; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.
Phoenician – J.A. Hackett, pp. 343-345; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.
Phoenician and Punic – W. Röllig, pp. 472-479 (**read pp. 472-473**); in Stefan Weninger (ed.) 2011. *Semitic Languages. An International Handbook*. De Gruyter Mouton.
Amorite – M.P. Streck 452-459 (**read pp. 452-453**); in Stefan Weninger (ed.) 2011. *Semitic Languages. An International Handbook*. De Gruyter Mouton.

[L3] 22/2 (1 & 2) *Old Indo-European languages (12 pages to read)*

Reading:

Indo-European Languages – N.E. Collinge, pp. 633-636; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Hittite – J.G. Macqueen, pp. 359-360; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Hittite – C. Watkins, pp. 6-30 (**read pp. 6-10**); in Roger D. Woodard (ed.) 2008. *The Ancient Languages of Asia Minor*, Cambridge University Press.

Persian, Old – E. Tucker, pp. 297-298; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

WEEK 4: 25-28/2, 1/3: THE WORLD OF GILGAMESH

TUTORIAL

[L1] 25/2 (1) / 27/2(2)

Where and When?

Main points:

Geographical Scope

Historical Background

Reading:

Bertman, S. 2003. *Handbook to Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*. New York: Facts on File, 2-5, 54-58.

Sandars, *Gilgamesh*, 3.

[L2] 26/2 (1) / 28/2 (2)

Bread and Beer: Everyday Life

Main points:

Agriculture

Economy

Food and Drink

Reading:

Bertman, 285-294.

[L3] 1/3 (1 & 2)

Uruk City of Gilgamesh and the World's Oldest Metropole

Main points:

Excavations

Bureaucracy and Writing

Temples

Reading:

Nissen, H.J. 2003. Uruk and the Formation of the City, in: Aruz, J. (ed.), *Art of the First Cities*. New York: MMA, 11-20.

<https://youtu.be/Z5HFQvx0u2c>

WEEK 5: 4-8/3: SOCIETY AND KINGSHIP

TUTORIAL

[L1] 4/3 (1) / 6/3(2)

Mesopotamian Society

Main points:

Social Strata

Family

Women and Children

Reading:

Stol, M. 1995. Private Life in Ancient Mesopotamia, in: Sasson, J.M. (ed.), *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. New York: Scribner, 485-499.

[L2] 5/3 (1) / 7/3 (2)

Mesopotamian Politics

Main points:

King

Law

Reading:

Nemet-Nejat, K.R. 1998. *Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 217-227.

[L3] 8/3 (1 & 2)

The Mesopotamian King

Main points:

King as Priest, Builder, Deified, Enforcer of the Divine Will, Guarantor of Justice, Hero, Empire, Militarist, Homage Giver and Receiver

Reading:

Ascalone, E. 2005. *Mesopotamia*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 96-129.

WEEK 6: 11-15/3: RELIGIONS, LITERATURES AND ARTS

TUTORIAL Writing Essays

[L1] 11/3 (1) / 13/3 (2)

Mesopotamian Religions

Main points:

Pantheon

Temple and Cult

Reading:

Bertman, S. 2003. *Handbook to Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*. New York: Facts on File, Chap. 4.
Sandars, *Gilgamesh*, 25-27.

[L2] 12/3 (1) / 14/3 (2)

Myths and Deities

Main points:

Mesopotamian Myths
Deities in the Gilgamesh Epic

Reading:

van Dijk-Coombes, R.M. "He Rose and Entered before the Goddess:" Gilgamesh's interactions with the goddesses in the Epic of Gilgamesh. *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 44/1 (2018), 61-80.

[L3] 15/3 (1 & 2)

Gilgameš in Art

Main points:

Mesopotamian art/Mesopotamiese kuns
Gilgameš & Enkidu vs. Humbaba
Gilgameš & Enkidu vs. Bull of Heaven/Bul van die Hemel

Reading:

Lambert, W G 1997. Gilgamesh in Literature and Art: The Second and First Millennia, in: Maier, J (ed.). *Gilgamesh: A Reader*. Wauconda: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 50-58.

WEEK 7: 18, 20/3: SUMMARY AND LEGACY

TUTORIAL

[L1] 18/3(1) 20/3(2)

Summary and Reception

Main points:

Summary
Modern Comics and Myths

Reading:

Ziolkowski, T. 2011. Gilgamesh: An Epic Obsession. *Berfrois* Nov. 1 (<https://www.berfrois.com/2011/11/theodore-ziolkowski-gilgamesh/>)
Pryke, L.M. 2019. Marvel Meets Mesopotamia: How Modern Comics Preserve Ancient Myths. (<http://www.asor.org/onetoday/2019/01/Marvel-meets-Mesopotamia>).

RECESS 21-31/3

WEEK 8: 1-5/4: THE EGYPTIAN WORLD/DIE EGIPTIESE WÊRELD

NO TUTORIAL

1 April: Hand in Essay 1

[L1] 1/4 (1) / 3/4 (2)

Kemet The Black Land: Geography and Everyday Life

Main points:

Nile
Deserts
Everyday Life

Reading:

Watterson, B. 1997. *The Egyptians*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, xix-21.

L2] 2/4 (1) / 4/4 (2)

30 dynasties: history & society

Main points:

Historical Periods: Three Kingdoms

Society: Pharaohs and Mortals

Reading:

Ikram, S. 2009. *Ancient Egypt: An Introduction*. Cambridge: University Press, 165-188.

[L3] 5/4 (1&2)

Technology, Science & Religion

/Main points:

Pyramids & Obelisks

Pantheon

Temple & Funerary Customs

Reading:

Brewer, D.J. & Teeter, E. 1999. *Egypt and the Egyptians*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 84-93.

WEEK 9: 8-12/4 : TRAVEL STORIES & WRITING SYSTEMS AND LANGUAGES OF NORTH AFRICA 1

TUTORIAL

[L1] 8/4 (1) / 10/4 (2)

Shipwrecked Sailor & Doomed Prince

Main points:

Travel Abroad in Egypt

Motifs and Themes

Readings

Simpson, W.K. ed. 2003. *The Literature of Ancient Egypt*. Cairo: AUC, 45-53, 75-79.

L2] 9/4 (1) / 11/4 (2)

Tale of Simuhe

Main points:

Background

Motifs

Reading:

Simpson, *Literature*, 54-66.

[L3] 12/4 (1&2)

Languages of Africa and Afro-Asiatic Languages

Reading:

Africa as a Linguistic Area - B. Heine, pp. 90-94; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Afroasiatic Languages – J. Crass, pp. 106-109; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

13/3 9-11: TEST WEEK 1-7 IN 230

WEEK 10: 15-18/4: WRITING SYSTEMS AND LANGUAGES OF NORTH AFRICA 2

TUTORIAL

[L1] 15/4 (1) / 17/4 (2)

Egyptian Writing and Languages

Reading:

Ancient Egyptian and Coptic – J.D. Ray, pp. 253-254; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Egyptian and Coptic – A. Loprieno, pp. 153-184 (**read pp. 153-161**); in Roger D. Woodard (ed.) 2008. *The Ancient Languages of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Aksum*. Cambridge University Press.

Egypt: Scripts, Ancient – L. Depuydt, pp. 84-86; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

L2] 16/4 (1) / 18/4 (2)

Arabic and Ethiopic

Reading:

Arabic – S. Procházka, pp. 423-431; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Ethio-Semitic in General – S. Weninger, pp. 1114-1123 (**read pp. 1114-1115, 1123**); in Stefan Weninger (ed.) 2011. *Semitic Languages. An International Handbook*. De Gruyter Mouton.

Old Ethiopic – S. Weninger, pp. 1124-1142 (**read pp. 1124-1126**); in Stefan Weninger (ed.) 2011. *Semitic Languages. An International Handbook*. De Gruyter Mouton.

18 April : Choose Theme Essay 2

19 April: Good Friday

WEEK 11: 23 & 26/4: WRITING SYSTEMS AND LANGUAGES OF NORTH AFRICA 2 & EGYPTIAN ELOQUENT PEASANT

TUTORIAL

[L1] 23/4 (1&2) **FRIDAY TIME TABLE**

Berber, Cushitic, and Chadic

Reading:

Berber – S. Chaker & A. Mettouchi, pp. 738-744; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Berber M. Kossmann, pp. 18-101 (**read pp. 18-20**); in Zygmunt Frajzyngier & Erin Shay (eds.) 2012. *The Afroasiatic Languages*. Cambridge University Press.

Cushitic Languages – D. Appleyard, pp. 332-336; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.

Cushitic – M. Mous, pp. 342-422 (**read pp. 342-346**); in Zygmunt Frajzyngier & Erin Shay (eds.) 2012. *The Afroasiatic Languages*. Cambridge University Press.

Chadic Languages – P.J. Jagger 287-290; in Keith Brown (ed.) 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. Elsevier.
Chadic – Z. Frajzyngier & E. Shay, pp. 236-341 (**read pp. 236-241**); in Zygmunt Frajzyngier & Erin Shay (eds.) 2012. *The Afroasiatic Languages*. Cambridge University Press.

24-25/5 NO CLASSES

[L2] 26/4 (1&2)

The Eloquent Peasant

Main points:

Social Strata

Justice

Reading:

Simpson, *Literature*, 25-44.

WEEK 12: 29-30/4, 2-3/5: TALE OF TWO BROTHERS & CONTENTINGS OF HORUS AND SETH

TUTORIAL

[L1] 29/4 (1) / 2/5 SEPT (2)

Tale of Two Brothers

Main points:

Plot

Bata & Anubis

Themes

Reading:

Simpson, *Literature*, 80-90.

30/4 NO CLASS, but Tutorial!

1/5 WORKER'S DAY

[L2] 3/5 (1&2)

Contentings of Horus and Seth

Main points:

The Story

Horus the King

Seth: God of Confusion

Reading:

Simpson, *Literature*, 91-103.

WEEK 13: 6-10/5: KEBRA NEGAST: QUEEN OF SHEBA

TUTORIAL

[L1] 6/5 (1) / 8/5 (2)

Culture of Axum

Main points:

Environment
Society
Economy & Technology
Art & Literature
Religion & Legacy

Reading:

Connah, G. 2004. *Forgotten Africa: An Introduction to Its Archaeology*. London: Routledge, 69-81.

L2] 7/5(1) / 9/5 (2)

From Arabia to Africa

Main points:

Where is the Land of Sheba?

Reading:

Kribus, B. 2016. Where is the Land of Sheba – Arabia or Africa? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 42/5, 27-36, 60-61.

[L3] 10/5 (1&2)

Kebra Negast

Main points:

Queen of Sheba
Solomon and Sheba
Menelik

Reading:

Budge, E.A.W. 2000. *The Queen of Sheba and Her Only Son Menyelek (Kebra Negast)*. Cambridge, Ontario: In Parentheses Publications, 15-25: Chaps. 21-27.

WEEK 14: 13, 15/5: END OF MODULE

TUTORIAL

[L1] 13/5 (1)/ 15/5 (2)

Summary and conclusion of module

DO STUDENT FEEDBACK ONLINE ON SUNLEARN

24/5: HAND IN ASSIGNMENT ONLINE

3/6 TEST: 9:00 – 11:00 in 230: WEEK 7-14