
AEO037
ARCHAEOLOGY OF MESOPOTAMIA

Fall 2006
Artemis A.W. and Martha Sharp Joukowsky
Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World
Brown University

Syllabus

MWF 12:00-12:50 (The so-called E-hour) Salomon Center Room 203
Instructor: Ömür Harmansah (Visiting Assistant Professor)
Office Hours: Tuesday 10-12 am. (Or by appointment)
Office: Joukowsky Institute (70 Waterman St.) Room 202
E-mail: Omur_Harmansah@brown.edu Tel: 401-863-6411

Course website where the up-to-date syllabus can be downloaded:

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Joukowsky_Institute/Harmansah/teach.html

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an analytical survey of the social and cultural history of the Near East, tracing the variety of cultural developments in the region from prehistory to the end of the Iron age (ca. 300 BC). Both archaeological evidence and textual sources are examined as relevant. The material culture and social practices of Mesopotamian societies constitute the main focus of the course.

Archaeological landscapes, urban and rural sites, excavated architectural remains and artifacts are critically investigated based on archaeological, anthropological and art-historical work carried out in the region. Relevant ancient texts (mostly in Sumerian, Akkadian, and Luwian in translation) are studied as part of the material culture. Geographically the course will cover Mesopotamia proper, Syria, Anatolia and the Levantine coast (mostly staying within the boundaries of modern-day Iraq, Syria, and Turkey).

In order to study the material evidence from antiquity critically, scholars frequently involve interpretive theories in their work. Throughout the semester, along with the detailed reading of various bodies of archaeological evidence, we will investigate a variety of theoretical approaches and concepts used within the field of Near Eastern archaeology. The main goal of the course is to develop a critically self-conscious understanding of ancient societies and their material culture, with the help of particular interpretative theories from an interdisciplinary perspective. Every week, classroom discussions will incorporate some theoretical approach in exploring different bodies of material evidence.

PRACTICALITIES Meeting schedule, reserves, WebCT etc.

- Mondays and Wednesday sessions will be reserved primarily for lectures, while the Friday meetings will be used for discussion of weekly selected topics (there might be exceptions to such overarching plan - such changes will be announced on the wiki and by e-mail).
- The students are required to do the weekly readings listed below in the weekly schedule. The readings will be assigned both from the four survey books ordered at Brown Bookstore as

well as various articles and chapters, placed on reserve at the Rock.

- The readings on reserve are frequently digital and can be downloaded through OCRA Brown Library's Online Course Reserves Access webpage (<http://dl.lib.brown.edu/reserves/>). The course password is **anzu**.
- A wiki is created for this course and we will use this site interactively for out-of-class discussions, posting of announcements, assignments, and the like. Every student registered or auditing this course will have access to **editing** this page. Yes, you can freely edit the site, post your own work, make comments to your colleagues' and professor's postings. Our extensive use of this site will be mostly running forums on the Friday discussions. You will be asked to post all your written assignments on the wiki (but you also have the option of not doing so, and using the traditional format of submitting hard copies to Ömür). Please familiarize yourself with the wiki, and make sure to check the site regularly, at least before each class meeting. Here is the wiki-site: <http://metamedia.stanford.edu/projects/mesopotamianarchaeology/45>
- A WebCT site has also been created for this course and may be used occasionally during the semester for the posting of images and the like. You can access WebCT by logging in at: <https://mycourses.brown.edu/webct/logonDisplay.dowebct>
- You will be writing a lot of papers in this course, and Brown offers academic writing support for all members of the Brown Community, in case you would like to discuss your drafts with colleagues: http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Writing_Center/

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT BROWN BOOKSTORE You are strongly recommended (but not required) to buy the following books now available at the bookstore, especially if you are planning to pursue archaeology, ancient history, Near Eastern studies, ancient art in the future as a major/minor. Remember that there are also copies of these books on reserve at the Rock.

- Matthews, Roger; 2003. *The archaeology of Mesopotamia: theories and approaches*. London and New York: Routledge (**strongly recommended**).
- Van de Mieroop, Marc; 2004. *A history of the ancient Near East. ca 3000-323 BC*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing (**strongly recommended**).
- Postgate, J. Nicholas; 1992. *Early Mesopotamia: Society and Economy at the dawn of history*. Routledge: London and New York (**strongly recommended**).
- Akkermans, Peter M.M.G. and Glenn M. Schwartz; 2003. *The archaeology of Syria: from complex hunter-gatherers to early urban societies (ca. 16,000-300 BC)*. Cambridge World Archaeology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (**optional**).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS Each student is expected to do the weekly readings thoroughly, participate in conference discussions and take extensive notes during class lectures and discussions. It is strongly recommended that you keep a good, intimate record of all discussions in writing (and if you wish, share it with others on the wiki). It is a hard task to form sustainable memories. Throughout the semester, students will be asked to make brief presentations of selected articles or topics in class, pose relevant discussion questions to the class and write response papers afterwards based on the ensuing discussions. There will be two take-home exams (a midterm and a final), and a final research project (explained in detail below). Don't expect any in-class exams or quizzes.

Grading will be based on class participation (25%), presentations and response papers (10%), two 3-4 page take-home exams (midterm 15% + final 15%) and the final paper project (35%). Due dates are listed in the syllabus.

RESEARCH PROJECT Students will choose a research topic in collaboration with the instructor and turn it into a project. The project should involve an analytical and critical discussion of a theoretical approach and its application to an archaeological case study. The main aim in the research project is the bridge the apparent gap between theoretical discussions in archaeology and the material evidence. The submissions will include a 1 page proposal, a 3-4 page draft and a 8-10 page final paper.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: Sept. 6-8 Introduction

Wed: Introduction: scope of the course, methods, overview.

Fri: *Discussion:* What/where is Mesopotamia, Near East, Middle East?

Problems in (and the politics of) defining a region.

Readings:

Scheffler, Thomas; 2003. " 'Fertile crescent', 'Orient', 'Middle East': the changing mental maps of Southwest Asia," *European Review of History* 10/2: 253-272.

Bahrani, Zainab; 1998. "Conjuring Mesopotamia: imaginative geography and a world past," in *Archaeology under fire: Nationalism, politics and heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East*. L. Meskell (ed.), Routledge: London and New York, 159-174.

Week 2: Sept. 11-15 Archaeological landscapes of the Near East

Mon: Landscapes of the Ancient Near East: towards a cultural geography.

Readings:

Postgate 1992: "Mesopotamia: the land and the life," 3-21.

Pollock, S.; 1999. "Geographic setting and environment" *Ancient Mesopotamia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 28-44.

Wed: Climate, environment and long-term history in the Near East.

Readings:

Cordova, Carlos E.; 2005: "The degradation of the ancient Near Eastern environment" in *A companion to the Ancient Near East*. Daniel C. Snell (ed.). Malden MA: Blackwell, 109-125.

Wilkinson, Tony J.; 2003. "The environmental context" in *Archaeological landscapes of the Near East*. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 15-32.

Fri: *Discussion:* Archaeology as a modern discipline and Mesopotamian archaeology.

Readings:

Matthews 2003: "Defining a discipline: Mesopotamian archaeology in history," 1-26.

Preucel, Robert W. and Lynn Meskell; 2004. "Knowledges," in *A companion to social archaeology*. L. Meskell and R.W. Preucel (eds.). Malden MA: Blackwell, 3-22.

Liverani, M; 1999. "History and archaeology in the Ancient Near East," in *Fluchtpunkt Uruk: Archäologische Einheit aus methodischer Vielfalt: Schriften für Hans Jörg Nissen*. Hartmut Kühne, Reinhard Bernbeck, Karin Bartl (eds.); Rahden/Westf.: Verlag Marie Leidorf GmbH, 1-11.

Week 3: Sept. 18-22 Prehistory: the Neolithic in the Near East

Mon: From hunter-gatherers to agriculturalists: early settled communities- Göbekli Tepe, Nevali Cori, Ain Ghazal. Agricultural revolution.

Readings:

Matthews 2003: "Tracking a transition: hunters becoming farmers," 67-92.

Cauvin, Jacques; 2000. *The birth of the gods and the origins of agriculture*. Trans. Trevor Watkins. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 62-72 and 105-120. (optional)

Wed: Çatalhöyük: a major Neolithic settlement in central Anatolia.

Readings:

Lewis-Williams, David; 2004. "Constructing a cosmos: architecture, power and domestication at Çatalhöyük," *Journal of Social Archaeology* 4: 28-60.

Last, Jonathan; 1998. "A design for life: interpreting the art of Çatalhöyük" *Journal of material culture* 3: 355-378. (optional)

Fri: *Discussion:* New approaches to archaeological fieldwork and the Hodder's reflexive method.

Readings:

Review <http://www.catalhoyuk.com/>.

Matthews 2003: "Tools of the trade: scope and methods of Mesopotamian archaeology" 25-66.

Hodder, Ian; 1992. "The Haddenham causewayed enclosure – a hermeneutic circle" in *Theory and practice in archaeology*. London: Routledge, 213-240.

Hodder, Ian (ed.); 2000. *Towards reflexive method in archaeology: the example at Çatalhöyük*. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, 3-18. (optional)

Presentation: Hodder, Ian and C. Cessford; 2004. "Daily practice and social memory at Çatalhöyük," *American Antiquity* 69: 17-40.

Week 4: Sept. 25-29 Uruk period: urbanization and social complexity

Mon: Emerging social complexities in Mesopotamia: the Chalcolithic in the Near East.

Readings:

Wengrow, David; 1998. "The changing face of clay: continuity and change in the transition from village to urban life in the Near East," *Antiquity* 72: 783-795.

Matthews 2003: "States of mind: approaches to complexity," 93-126.

Wed: Ceremonial centers, urbanization and state formation in Southern Mesopotamia during the 4th millennium: the case of Uruk. The invention of cuneiform writing.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop 2004: "Origins: The Uruk phenomenon," 17-38.

Postgate 1992: "The written record," 51-70.

Cooper, Jerrold S.; 2004. "Babylonian beginnings: the origin of the cuneiform writing system in comparative perspective," in *The first writing: script invention as history and process*. S.D. Houston (ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 71-99. (optional)

Fri: *Discussion:* Mesopotamian settlement: cities as cult centers, urbanism, urbanization. Uruk and the cult of Inanna.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop, M.; 1997. "The origins and the character of the Mesopotamian city," *The ancient Mesopotamian city*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, 23-41.

Pollock, S.; 1999. "Settlement patterns" *Ancient Mesopotamia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 45-77.

Bahrani, Z.; 2002. "Performativity and the image: narrative, representation and the Uruk vase," in *Leaving no stones unturned: essays on the Ancient Near East and Egypt in honor of Donald P. Hansen*. E. Ehrenberg (ed.). Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 2002: pages 15-22.

Presentation: Pollock, S and R. Bernbeck; 2000. "And they said, let us make gods in our image: gendered ideologies in ancient Mesopotamia," in *Reading the Body: Representations and remains in the archaeological record*, A. E. Rautman (ed.). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 150-164.

Week 5: Oct. 2-6 Early Dynastic period in the Diyala River basin and at Nippur

Mon: Early Dynastic period (Early Bronze Age) in the Diyala River Basin. The sites of Khafajah and Tell Asmar.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop 2004: "Competing city-states: the Early Dynastic period," 39-58.

Postgate 1992: "Cities and dynasties," 22-50.

Wed: Nippur: a major supra-regional ceremonial center in Mesopotamian history.
Introduction to early Mesopotamian religion.
Readings:
Gibson, McGuire; 1993. "Nippur, sacred city of Enlil, supreme god of Sumer and Akkad," *Al-Rāfidān* 14: 1-18.
Bottero, J; 1992. "The religious system" in *Mesopotamia*. Z. Bahrani and M. Vand de Mieroop (trans.). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 201-231.

Fri: *Discussion:* Royal Tombs of Ur: burial practices and material culture.
Ancient Text: Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta
Readings:
Cohen, Andrew; 2005. "Conclusion: Early Dynastic III Death Rituals as a Locus for Negotiating Power Relations" in *Death rituals, ideology, and the development of early Mesopotamian kingship : toward a new understanding of Iraq's royal cemetery of Ur*. Leiden: Brill, 233-247.
Pollock, S; 1991. "Of priestesses, princes and poor relations: The dead in the Royal Cemetery of Ur," *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 1: 171-189.
Zettler, R. L. and L. Horne(eds.); 1998. *Treasures from the royal tombs of Ur*. Philadelphia: University of Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Skim through the catalogue.
Vanstiphout, H.; 2003. *Epics of Sumerian Kings*. Atlanta. Read "Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta."
Presentation: Dickson, Bruce; 2006. "Public transcripts expressed in theatres of cruelty: the Royal Graves at Ur in Mesopotamia," *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 16/2: 123-144.

Week 6: Oct. 9-13. Material practices and kingship in the Third Millennium BC

Mon: [Research project proposals due]
Temple as an economic institution in the Early Mesopotamian city.
Readings:
Postgate 1992: "The temple," 109-136.
Pollock, S.; 1999. "A changing way of life: The oikos-based economy of the third millennium" *Ancient Mesopotamia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 45-77.
Berdan, Frances F.; "Trade and markets in pre-capitalist societies," in *Economic anthropology*. S. Plattner (ed.). Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, 78-107. (optional)
Foster, B.A.; 1981. "A new look at the sumerian temple state," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 24: 225-241. (optional)

Wed: [Midterm takehome exam questions handed out]
Gudea and the Second dynasty of Lagash: texts, narrativity and architecture.
Ancient Text: Cylinders of Gudea.
Readings:
Winter, Irene J.; 1989. "The body of the able ruler: Toward an understanding of the statues of Gudea" in *DUMU-E2-DUB-BA-A: studies in honor of Åke W. Sjöberg*, H. Behrens et al. (eds), Philadelphia: 573-583.
Edzard, D. O.; 1997. *Gudea and his dynasty*. University of Toronto Press: Toronto.

Fri: [Ömür out of town]- Documentary Video: *The architecture of mud* (by Caterina Borelli & Pamela Jerome): on the techniques and uses of mud bricks as building materials in Hadhramaut region of southeast Yemen.
Optional Readings:
London, G.; 2000. "Ethnoarchaeology and the interpretation of the past," *Near Eastern archaeology* 63: 2-8.
Kamp, K.; 2000. "From village to tell: household ethnoarchaeology in Syria," *Near Eastern archaeology* 63: 84-93.

Week 7: Oct. 16-20 Akkad and Sumer: narratives of royal ideology.

Mon: [Midterm takehome exam due] Akkadian kingdom in Southern Mesopotamia:
Sargon, Naram-Sin and the mythical kingship.
Readings: Van de Mieroop 2004: "Political centralization in the late Third Millennium," 59-79.

Wed: Third Dynasty at Ur: the Nanna temple complex.

Readings:

- Kuhrt, A; 1995. *The Ancient Near East c. 3000-330 BC*. London: Routledge, 56-73.
Zettler, R. L.; 2003. "Archaeology and the problem of textual evidence for the Third Dynasty of Ur," *Bulletin of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies* 38: 49-62.
Tilley, Christopher; 2001. "Ethnography and material culture," in *Handbook of Ethnography*. P. Atkinson et. Al. (eds.). London: Sage Pub., 258-272. (optional)

Fri: *Discussion:* Commemorative monuments and ideologies of kingship in Early Mesopotamia.

Readings:

- Eagleton; T; 1991. "What is ideology?" in *Ideology: an introduction*. Verso: London, 1991, pages. 1-32.
Winter, Irene J.; 1995. "After the battle is over: the stele of the vultures and the beginning of historical narrative in the art of the ancient Near East", *Studies in the History of Art*. 16: 11-32.
Winter, I.J.; 1999. "Tree(s) on the mountain: landscape and territory on the victory stele of Naram Sin of Agade," in *Landscapes: territories, frontiers and horizons*. L. Milano et. Al. (eds). Padova: Sargon srl, 63-72.

Presentation: Winter, I. J.; 1996. "Sex, rhetoric and the public monument: the alluring body of Naram-Sin of Agade" in *Sexuality in Ancient Art*, N.B.Kampen (ed.), Cambridge: 11-26.

Week 8: Oct. 23-27 Middle Bronze Age in Upper Mesopotamia: new cities, new practices

Mon: Middle Bronze Age in Syria: new architectural practices. Sites of Ebla and Aleppo.

Readings:

- Akkermans and Schwartz 2003, "Regeneration of complex societies", pages 288-326.

Wed: Babylonian and Assyrian kingdoms: Ashur and Mari: nomads and the city.

Readings:

- Van de Mieroop 2004: 80-111.
Castillo, Jorge Silva; 2005: "Nomadism through the ages" in *A companion to the Ancient Near East*. Daniel C. Snell (ed.). Malden MA: Blackwell, 126-140.
Buccellati, Giorgio; 1990. "River bank, high country and pasture land: the growth of nomadism on the Middle Euphrates and the Khabur," in *Tell el Hamidiya 2*. S. Eichler, M. Wafler, D. Warburton (eds.). Gottingen: 87-117. (optional)

Fri: *Discussion:* Terracotta figurines of the Old Babylonian period-issues of gender, sexuality, materiality and the body.

Readings:

- Joyce, Rosemary; 2005. "Archaeology of the body," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34: 139-158.
Assante, J.; 2003. "From whores to hierodules: the historiographic invention of Mesopotamian female sex professionals," in *Ancient art and its historiography*. A. A. Donohue and M. D. Fullerton (eds.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 13-47.
Bahrani, Z; 1996. "The Hellenization of Ishtar: nudity, fetishism and the production of cultural differentiation in ancient art," *Oxford Art Journal* 19: 3-16.

Presentation: Asher-Greve, J. M.; 1998. "The essential body: Mesopotamian conceptions of the gendered body," in *Gender and the body in the ancient Mediterranean*. Maria Wyke (ed.). Malden, MA: Blackwell, 8-37.

Out-of-class viewing and discussion at the Joukowsky Institute: Grass: a nation's battle for life. (directed by Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack) A 1925 documentary that follows the journey of the *Bakhtiari*, a nomadic tribe in Iran, as they herd their livestock up snow-covered mountain passes to get to the grazing lands on the other side of the mountains. **Date and place TBA**

Week 9: Oct. 30- Nov. 3 Anatolia and the Eastern Mediterranean in the Late Bronze Age: cultic performances and interregional trade.

Mon: Hittite kingdom in Anatolia: Hattusha and the rock-cut sanctuary at Yazilikaya. Kingship, ritual and ceremonial space.

Readings:

- Gorny, Ronald L.; 1989. "Environment, archaeology and history in Hittite Anatolia," *Biblical Archaeologist* 52: 78-96.

Bryce, T.R.; 2002. "Festivals and rituals" in *Life and society in the Hittite world*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Hawkins, J.D.; 1998. "Hattusa: home to the thousand gods of Hatti," in *Capital cities: urban planning and spiritual dimensions*. J. G. Westenholz (ed.), Bible Lands Museum: Jerusalem.

Wed: Hittites and the Late Bronze Age collapse: an archaeological/historical problem.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop 2004: "The collapse of the regional system and its aftermath," 179-194.

Hallo, W.W.; 1992b. "From Bronze age to Iron age in Western Asia: defining the problem," in *The crisis years: the twelfth century B.C.B from beyond the Danube to the Tigris*. W.A. Ward and M.S.

Joukowsky (eds.); Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1-9.

Fri: *Discussion:* Eastern Mediterranean, cross-cultural exchange and cultural hybridity.

Readings:

Akkermans and Schwartz 2003, "Empires and internationalism", 327-359.

Feldman, M. H.; 2002. "Luxurious forms: refining a Mediterranean 'international style,' 1400-1200 BCE," *Art Bulletin* 84: 6-29.

Knapp, A. Bernard and Emma Blake; 2005. "Prehistory in the Mediterranean: the connecting and corrupting sea," in *The archaeology of Mediterranean prehistory*. Emma Blake and A. Bernard Knapp (eds.). Malden MA: Blackwell, 1-23.

Presentation: Moorey, P.R.S.; 2001. "The mobility of artisans and opportunities for technology transfer between Western Asia and Egypt in the Late Bronze Age," in *The social context of technological change: Egypt and the Near East, 1650-1550 BC*. A. J. Shortland (ed.), Oxbow Books: Oxford, 1-14.

Week 10: Nov. 6-10 The Early Iron Age in Northern Mesopotamia: production of space

Mon: Northern Syria in the Early Iron Age: Building program at Karkamis. Text: Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions from Karkamis.

Readings:

Akkermans and Schwartz 2003, "Iron Age Syria", pages 360-397.

Wed: From a city-state to a territorial state: Assyria in the Early Iron Age. Ashur and Kalhu.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop 2004, "The rise of Assyria" 216-231.

Pittman, Holly; 1996. "The White Obelisk and the problem of historical narrative in the art of Assyria," *Art Bulletin* 78: 334-355.

Fri: *Discussion:* Production of space: The practice of founding new cities: royal ideology, urban planning and architectural practices.

Text: Banquet Stele from Kalhu

Readings:

Blake, E.; 2004. "Space, spatiality and archaeology," in *A companion to social archaeology*, 215-229.

Postgate, J. Nicholas; 1992. "The Land of Assur and the Yoke of Assur" *World Archaeology* 23: 247-263.

Mazzoni, S; 1997. "The gate and the city: change and continuity in Syro-Hittite urban ideology," in *Die orientalische Stadt: Kontinuität, Wandel, Bruch*. G. Wilhelm (ed.), SDV Saarbrücker Druckerei und Verlag: Saarbrücken, 307-338.

Presentation: Barbanes, E; 2003. "Planning an empire: city and settlement in the Neo-Assyrian period," *Bulletin of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies* 38: 15-22.

Week 11: Nov. 13-17 The Assyrian Empire: imperial ideology and architectural practices

Mon: Geography, empire and representation: Assyrian rock reliefs, Balawat gates.

Readings:

Marcus, Michelle I; 1995. "Geography as visual ideology: landscape, knowledge, and power in Neo-Assyrian art," in *Neo-Assyrian geography*, Mario Liverani (ed.); Università di Roma "La Sapienza," Roma: Sargon srl, 193-202.

Kreppner, Florian Janoscha; 2002. "Public space in nature: the case of Neo-Assyrian rock reliefs," *Altorientalische Forschungen* 29: 367-383.

Wed: Sargon's Khorsabad and Sennacherib's Nineveh: palace programs.

Readings:

Stronach, David; 1994. "Village to Metropolis: Nineveh and the beginnings of urbanism in Northern Mesopotamia," in *Nuove fondazioni nel Vicino Oriente antico: realta e ideologia*. Stefania Mazzoni (ed.); Pisa: Università degli studi di Pisa. Giardini, 85-114.

Fri: *Discussion:* Symbolism and materials. Stone building technologies in the Iron age Near East. Questions of technology, architectonic aesthetics and "facture".

Readings:

Moorey, P.R.S.; 1994. "Building in stone" in *Ancient Mesopotamian materials and industries*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns: 335-347.

Summers, David; 2003. "Facture" in *Real Spaces*. London: Phaidon Press, 61-86.

Presentation: Ingold, Tim; 2000. "Society, nature and the concept of technology" in *The perception of the environment*. London and New York: Routledge, 312-322.

Week 12: Nov. 20 Urartian Kingdom: construction of political landscapes.

Mon: Urartian kingdom in Eastern Anatolia: political landscapes.

Readings:

Smith, A. T.; 1999. "The making of an Urartian landscape in Southern Transcaucasia: A study of political architectonics" *American Journal of Archaeology* 103: 45-71.

Smith, A. T.; 2000. "Rendering the political aesthetic: Political legitimacy in Urartian representations of the built environment," *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 19: 131-163.

Zimansky, Paul; 1995b. "Urartian material culture as state assemblage: an anomaly in the archaeology of empire," *BASOR* 299/300: 103-115.

Wed-Fri: Thanksgiving recess-no class.

Week 13: Nov. 27-Dec. 1 The Neo-Babylonian kingdom: urban space and memory

Mon: Babylon: archaeology of the city.

Readings:

George, Andrew R.; 1993. "Babylon revisited: archaeology and philology in harness," *Antiquity* 67: 734-46.

Kuhr, Amélie; 2001. "The palace(s) of Babylon," in *The royal palace institution in the First Millennium b.c.: regional development and cultural interchange between East and West*. Inge Nielsen (ed.); Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens: Athens, 77-94.

Wed: Paradeisos: Royal gardens in the Ancient Near East.

Readings:

Novák, M.; 2002. "The artificial paradise: programme and ideology of royal gardens," in *Sex and gender in the ancient Near East*. S. Parpola and R.M. Whiting (eds.); Helsinki: The Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, Part II, 443-460.

Dalley, S.; 1994. "Nineveh, Babylon and the hanging gardens: cuneiform and classical sources reconciled," *Iraq* 56: 45-58.

Stronach, D; 1990. "The garden as a political statement: some case studies from the Near East in the First Millennium B.C.," *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* 4: 171-180.

Fri: **[Final paper drafts due]**

Discussion: Memory and the concept of the past in ancient Mesopotamia

Readings:

Van Dyke, Ruth M. & Susan E. Alcock; 2003. "Archaeologies of memory: an introduction," in *Archaeologies of memory*. Ruth M. Van Dyke & Susan E. Alcock (eds.); Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1-13.

Winter, Irene J.; 2000c. "Babylonian archaeologists of the(ir) Mesopotamian past," in *Proceedings of the First International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*. P. Matthiae et. al. (eds.); Università degli studi di Roma "La Sapienza," Roma, 1785-1789.

Jonker, G; 1995. "Continuity and change in the Ebabbar of Sippar: The construction of the past in the First Millennium" in *The topography of remembrance: The dead, tradition and collective memory in Mesopotamia*, E.J.Brill: Leiden, 153-176.

Week 14: Dec. 4-6 Persian empire/Archaeology and the politics of cultural heritage

Mon: The Persian Empire.

Readings:

Van de Mieroop 2004; "The Persian Empire" 267-280.

Stronach, D; 1997. "Anshan and Parsa: Early Achaemenid history, art and architecture on the Iranian plateau," in *Mesopotamia and Iran in the Persian period: Conquest and imperialism 539-331 B.C.* J. Curtis (ed.), British Museum Press: London; 35-53.

Wed: Final discussion: Mesopotamian archaeology and the politics of cultural heritage.

Readings:

Pollock, S; 2005. "Archaeology goes to war at the newsstand" in *Archaeologies of the Middle East: critical perspectives*. Malden MA: Blackwell, 78-96.

Meskel, L.; 2005. "Sites of violence: terrorism, tourism, and heritage in the archaeological present," in *Embedding ethics*. L Meskel and P Pels (eds.). Oxford: Berg, 123-146.

Dec 11, Monday, 5 pm: Final papers due. Take-home final questions handed out.

Dec 18 Monday, 5 pm: Take-home finals due.