

Syllabus for  
**HIS 372—The Ancient Near East**  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 1999

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will chart the history of the Ancient Near East from the dawn of history—the beginning of writing—until the Persian Period. Some attention will be given to the history of Israel, especially as connections between Israel and her old world neighbors are attested, but the course will particularly highlight the ancient kingdoms and peoples who made up the world of the Bible. Of necessity, a discussion of the re-discovery of these antiquities including the development of archaeology, the decipherment of languages, and the great finds and sites will be part of the course.

II. COURSE GOALS

The memory of these ancient times began to fade around the time of Christ and was nearly completely extinguished with the Arab destruction of the libraries in Alexandria and Persia in the 7th Century. With the recovery of knowledge of the Ancient Near East has become an increased understanding and appreciation of the world of the Bible. This course is designed to enable the student to do the following:

- A. set forth Scriptural accounts in their complete cultural setting.
- B. balance critical and low views of Scriptural authenticity by an overview of discoveries that support the accounts of the Bible.
- C. explain the vast and varied ancient world for what it was without the modern tendency to dismiss it as "primitive."
- D. relate the information in our possession from the ancient world from a Charismatic Christian perspective.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

- A. recognize the ancient cultures and kingdoms of:
  - 1. Mesopotamia
  - 2. Syria
  - 3. Palestine
  - 4. Egypt
  - 5. Anatolia
  - 6. Western Persia
  - 7. Armenia
- B. to be able to relate the linguistic and archaeological finds to their requisite Biblical citations.
- C. to recognize the vast amount of knowledge about the Ancient Near East which is not specifically covered in Scripture.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS

- A. Kuhrt, Amélie. *The Ancient Near East*. Two volumes. London and New York: Routledge, 1995.
- B. Frank, H. T., ed. *Atlas of the Bible Lands*. Maplewood, NJ: Hammond, 1997.

#### V. COURSE PROCEDURES

- A. Course Prerequisites: None
- B. Evaluation Procedures
  - 1. Tests: There will be two tests and final. These dates will be announced later. The two tests will count fifteen (15) percent of the grade for the class each for a total of thirty (30) percent. The final exam will count twenty (20) percent.
  - 2. Maps: There will be an initial map test in the second week of class. The test will be based on maps in the textbook and class preparation. This map test will count twenty (20) percent.
  - 3. Articles: The student will read several articles in scholarly journals, anthologies, or festschrifts and record notes on these articles on 5"x 8" cards. These will be handed in for the instructor to check. The number of articles will be announced in class. These articles will account for ten (10) percent of the grade.
  - 4. The student will prepare and deliver at least one oral presentation in class. Upon consultation with the teacher, the topic will be decided. The oral presentation will make up twenty (20) percent of the grade for the class.
- C. University Policies
  - 1. "Consistent with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, ORU ensures that no "qualified individual" will be denied reasonable accommodation in the form of modifications of policies, practices, and/or procedures." Students with disabilities who wish access services should contact their professor(s) and the Office of Disability Services at Ext. 7355 to initiate the process.
  - 2. Student and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it be in the form of print, video, multimedia or computer software.
  - 3. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.

#### VI. ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will have their grades affected.
- B. Double cuts are to be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
- C. Excessive absences can reduce the student's grade or even deny credit for the course.

## VII. COURSE CALENDAR

Reading assignments, test dates, oral presentation dates, and due dates for note cards will be announced in class.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Material Covered</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week 1	Intro to Archeology	Kuhrt, pp. 1-43
Week 2	Ancient Mesopotamia: Sumerian & Old Akkadian Periods	Kuhrt, pp. 44-55.
Week 3	Neo-Sumerian: Ur III & Isin-Larsa	Kuhrt, pp. 56-72.
Week 4	Old Babylonian & Assyrian	Kuhrt, pp. 74-116.
Week 5	Egypt: Early Dynastic, Old Kingdom, First Intermediate Period, Middle Kingdom, Second Intermediate, & Hyksos	Kuhrt, pp. 118-182
Week 6	Egypt: New Kingdom	Kuhrt, pp. 185-224
Week 7	Hittite Kingdom	Kuhrt, pp. 225-281
Week 8	Mitanni Kingdom, Hurrians, and Ugarit	Kuhrt, pp. 283-330
Week 9	Mesopotamia; Middle Babylonian (Kassites), Middle Assyrian, and Elam	Kuhrt, pp. 332-380
Week 10	Late Bronze: Sea Peoples	Kuhrt, pp. 385-416
Week 11	Hebrew Kingdoms	Kuhrt, pp. 417-472
Week 12	Neo-Assyrian Empire	Kuhrt, pp. 473-546
Week 13	Neo-Babylonian	Kuhrt, pp. 573-621
Week 14	Moabite, Edomite, Phoenician, Aramean, Philistine Kingdoms, & Anatolia	Kuhrt, pp. 547-572
Week 15	Egypt: Third Intermediate, Late, & Saite periods	Kuhrt, pp. 623-646

VIII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

<b>Dr. John Swails</b> <b>Name of Instructor</b>	<b>HIS 372</b> <b>Course Course No. Section No.</b>	<b>Ancient Near East</b> <b>Title of Course</b>	<b>HISTORY, HUMANITIES, &amp; GOVERNMENT</b>
<p><b>MISSION</b></p> <p>The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word “wholeness.” ORU seeks to educate the whole person, balanced emphasis placed on the development of the mind, spirit, and body.</p> <p><b>GENERAL OUTCOMES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spiritual Development</li> <li>2. Physical Development</li> <li>3. Communication</li> <li>4. Analysis</li> <li>5. Problem Solving</li> <li>6. Valuing in Decision Making</li> <li>7. Social Interaction</li> <li>8. Global Perspectives</li> <li>9. Effective Citizenship</li> <li>10. Aesthetic Appreciation</li> </ol>	<p><b>MAJOR OUTCOMES</b></p> <p>Enable students to outline the course of the ancient history of the Near East with special reference to the Bible. The student will be able to fit major Biblical events into the chronology of the countries around.</p> <p>Enable the students to make historical and religious analogies.</p> <p>Enable the student to have a working knowledge of the important facts of the ancient world.</p>	<p><b>COURSE GOALS</b></p> <p>To recognize and describe briefly the ancient kingdoms of the East.</p> <p>To understand how the ancient world still has an impact in modern times.</p> <p>To recognize the same geo-strategic imperatives still apply.</p> <p>To understand how events, cultures, and individuals in the ancient world had an impact on the Bible.</p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT OF COURSE GOALS</b></p> <p>Exams, both essay and objective.</p> <p>Map tests.</p> <p>Class presentations.</p> <p>Outside reading assignments.</p> <p><b>STIMULI:</b></p> <p>Lectures.</p> <p>Video presentations.</p> <p><b>CRITERIA:</b></p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of the basic history of the period.</p> <p>Demonstrate acknowledge of the Biblical narrative and how it connects with the history of the Ancient Near East.</p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to recognize the operation of historical principles across historical timelines.</p>