

Prof. Joseph McAlhany

WOOD HALL 230

MWF 10-11 & by appt.

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Required TextsS. Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia*. Oxford 1998.C. Freeman, *Egypt, Greece, & Rome: Civilizations of the Ancient Mediterranean*. 3rd ed. Oxford 2014.R. W. Mathisen, *Sources for Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations*. Oxford 2017.**The Course**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the histories and cultures of the ancient civilizations surrounding the ancient Mediterranean, with special emphasis on the transformations they underwent as a result of their interactions, both peaceful and violent. The political and religious developments of these cultures are still with us today, in ways we might not recognize and in ways we might not like. From written and visual sources you will learn not only what this history was, but also what it wasn't. Along the way, you will also learn to appreciate how history gets made, both by the people who live it and the people who write it.

Objectives

Through readings of both primary and secondary sources, you will appreciate the multiple and manifold cultures of the ancient Mediterranean, and learn to critically analyze these cultures as well as their textual and visual representations. You will also come to recognize the remarkable diversity—linguistic, religious, ethnic, social, cultural, and political—that characterizes the ancient Mediterranean.

This course fulfills General Education Content Areas 1-C: History & 4: Diversity & Multiculturalism.

Requirements & Grading**A-range: 90-100****B-range: 80-89****C-range: 70-79****D-range: 60-69****The Abyss: <60****Quizzes****30%**

Over the course of the semester there will be short multiple-choice quizzes on the readings for that day. These quizzes will not be announced beforehand. **Quizzes missed for any reason will receive a D.**

Participation**30%**

Active engagement through comments, questions, and responses during class discussion. **No electronic devices or any kind are allowed, and must not be visible.**

Writing Assignments**3 @ 10%**

There will be 3 writing assignments (750 words max.) over the course of the semester. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage your own independent and critical engagement with the readings; no secondary material or resources are permitted. You will be graded on the quality of your answer as well as spelling and grammar. Assignments are due **Sunday at midnight** (emailed to joseph.mcalhany@uconn.edu). **Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason.**

Final Exam**10%****Some Fine but Important Print**

If you have a need for accommodations in this course, please contact me during the first week of class or contact the Center for Student Disabilities (csd.uconn.edu). And if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know or come to talk to me.

Schedule

[+ indicates a text you need to bring to class]

WEEK 1 The Beginning in the Near East

8.27 M Introduction

8.29 W The Birth of Civilization: The Ancient Near East, 5000-1200 BC (Freeman, pp. 16-37)
+Inanna Steals the Knowledge of Civilization from Enki (*Sources*, pp. 35-38)
+Documents from Ebla (*Sources*, pp. 103-104)

8.31 F +The Sumerian King List (*Sources*, pp. 43-46)
+The Legend of Sargon (*Sources*, pp. 47-48)
+The Law Code of Ur-Nammu (*Sources*, pp. 55-57)
+The Code of Hammurabi (*Sources*, pp. 58-63)

WEEK 2 The City, the Mortal, & the Hero

9.03 M NO CLASS

9.05 W + *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablets I-IX (Dalley, pp. 50-99)

9.07 F + *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablets X-XII (Dalley, pp. 99-125)

WEEK 3 The Creation of Egypt

9.10 M Pyramids & Power: The Creation of an Egyptian State (Freeman, pp. 37-55)
+ *The Autobiography of Weni* (*Sources*, pp. 67-70)
+ *The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant* (*Sources*, pp. 70-73)
+ *The Hymn to the Nile* (*Sources*, pp. 74-76)

9.12W Stability and Expansion: Egypt in the Middle & New Kingdoms, 1985-1000 BC
(Freeman, pp. 56-77)
Interlude 1: The Amarna Letters (Freeman, pp. 78-80)
+ *The Admonitions of Ipuwer* (*Sources*, pp. 77-80)

9.14 F Living in New Kingdom Egypt (Freeman, pp. 81-92)
+ *The Book of the Dead* (*Sources*, pp. 80-84)
+ *Hatshesup's Expedition to Punt* (*Sources*, pp. 84-87)
+ *Hymn to Aton* (*Sources*, pp. 88-90)
+ *Egyptian Love Letters* (*Sources*, pp. 91-92)

WEEK 4 Creations & Transformations

9.17 M The Ancient Near East, 1200-500 BC (Freeman, pp. 93-107)
The Sea Between the Lands (Freeman, pp. 108-115)
+ *The Epic of Creation: Enûma Elis* (Dalley, pp. 228-277)

9.19 W + *Enûma Elis*, Tablets 1-5 (*Sources*, pp. 3-8)
+ *A Book of Knowing the Evolutions of Ra* (*Sources*, pp. 13-15)
+ The Creation of the Universe and the Titans: Hesiod, *Theogony* 104-225
(*Sources*, pp. 16-17)
+ *Genesis* 1-7 (*Sources*, pp. 24-25)
+The Creation of Humans by Enki and Ninmah (*Sources*, pp. 8-10)
+The Creation of Humans: Pseudo-Apollodorus (*Sources*, pp. 21-22)
+ *Qur'an* Surah 2.30-38, 7.11-19, 38.71-83 (*Sources*, pp. 28-29)

- 9.21 F +*Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablet XI (*Sources*, pp. 10-12)
 +The Flood: Pseudo-Apollodorus (*Sources*, pp. 23-24)
 +*Genesis* 8 (*Sources*, pp. 26-28)
 +*Qur'an* Surah 11.15-49 (*Sources*, pp. 30-31)

WEEK 5 Exile & Exodus

- 9.24 M Civilizations of the Bronze Age Aegean, 2000-1000 BC (Freeman, pp. 116-127)
 +Mycenaean Linear B Tablets (*Sources*, pp. 105-106)
 +Invasion of the "Sea Peoples": Ugaritic Correspondence, The Medinet Habu
 Inscription of Ramses III (*Sources*, pp. 107-110)
 +The Report of Wen-Amon (*Sources*, pp. 111-115)

- 9.26 W +*Exodus* 1:7-2:7 (*Sources*, pp. 116-117)
 +*Exodus* 20 (*Sources*, pp. 118-121)
 +The "Victory Hymn" of Merneptah (*Sources*, pp. 122-124)
 +*Judges* 4:1-5:31 (*Sources*, pp. 125-127)
 +*1 Kings* 5-10 (*Sources*, pp. 128-131)

- 9.28 F +The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III (*Sources*, pp. 135-140)
 +The Prism of Sennacherib (*Sources*, pp. 141-147)
 +*2 Kings* 18:13-19:38 (*Sources*, pp. 148-150)
 +*Judith* 1-13 (*Sources*, pp. 151-154)
 +*The Cyrus Legend* (*Sources*, pp. 154-158)
 +The Behistun Inscription (*Sources*, pp. 159-164)

WEEK 6 Near East to a new Greece

- 10.01 M The Birth of a New Greece, 1100-700 BC (Freeman, pp. 128-143)
 +The Dorian Invasion & The Origin of the Greek Peoples (*Sources*, pp. 171-173)
 +Hesiod, *Works & Days* 1-736 (*Sources*, pp. 173-177)
 +Battus & The Founding of Cyrene (*Sources*, pp. 178-180)

- 10.03 W Travelling Heroes: The Greeks in a Wider World, 800-600 BC (Freeman, pp. 144-159)
 +The Trojan War (*Sources*, pp. 167-170)
 +The Pre-Socratic Philosophers (*Sources*, pp. 182-185)

- 10.05 F Interlude 2: Sappho & Lyric Poetry (Freeman, pp. 160-163)
 *Sappho, selections

☞Su Writing Assignment 1 due

WEEK 7 Greece and its "Miracles"

- 10.08 M Hoplites & Tyrants: The Emergence of the City-State (Freeman, pp. 163-183)
 Craftsmanship & Creativity in Archaic Greece (Freeman, pp. 184-202)
 +Greek *Arêtê* (*Sources*, pp. 186-188)
 +Greek Tyrants (*Sources*, pp. 189-191)

- 10.10 W The Persian Wars (Freeman, pp. 202-218)
 The Greek Way of Life (Freeman, pp. 219-236)
 +Spartan Education (*Sources*, pp. 195-200)
 +The Constitutions of Athens (*Sources*, pp. 201-205)
 +The Battle of Salamis (*Sources*, pp. 205-208)

- 10.12 F Experiencing the Supernatural: The Spiritual World of the Greeks (Freeman, pp. 237-244)
 Interlude 3: Creating Classical Art (Freeman, pp. 245-248)

WEEK 8 **People & Power**

- 10.15 M Democracy & Empire: Athens in the 5th Century (Freeman, pp. 249-269)
Rethinking the World: From Aeschylus to Aristotle (Freeman, pp. 270-292)
+The Subordination of Women & Slaves (*Sources*, pp. 256-260)
- 10.17 W Interlude 4: Rhetoric (Freeman, pp. 293-295)
+Pericles' Funeral Oration (*Sources*, pp. 209-216)
+The "Old Oligarch" (*Sources*, pp. 217-221)
- 10.19 F +Euripides, *Trojan Women* (*Sources*, pp. 221-226)
+Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (*Sources*, pp. 227-231)
+Plato, *Phaedo* (*Sources*, pp. 232-235)

WEEK 9 **People & Power**

- 10.22 M The Struggle for Power: 431-338 BC (Freeman, pp. 296-312)
+The Sacred Band of Thebes (*Sources*, pp. 239-242)
- 10.24 W Alexander the Great (Freeman, pp. 313-331)
+Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* (*Sources*, pp. 242-251)
+The War of the Successors (*Sources*, pp. 252-256)
- 10.26 F Tensions & Creativity: The Hellenistic World, 330-323 BC (Freeman, pp. 332-355)
Interlude 5: Celts & Parthians (Freeman, pp. 355-359)
+Stoicism (*Sources*, pp. 260-263)
+The Revolt of the Maccabees (*Sources*, pp. 264-267)

☞Su **Writing Assignment 2 due****WEEK 10** **Civilizations Beyond**

- 10.29 M The Etruscans & Early Rome (Freeman, pp. 360-380)
+Plutarch, *Life of Romulus* (*Sources*, pp. 295-298)
+The *Lapis Niger* (*Sources*, pp. 299-300)
- 10.31 W +The Violation of Lucretia (*Sources*, pp. 300-303)
+The Twelve Tables (*Sources*, pp. 304-311)
- 11.02 F Rome Becomes a Mediterranean Power (Freeman, pp. 381-399)
+The Constitution of Carthage (*Sources*, pp. 284-286)
+The Sack of Rome (*Sources*, pp. 312-317)
+The Battle of Cannae (*Sources*, pp. 318-325)

WEEK 11 **The Rise of Rome**

- 11.05 M Rome: A Republic Under Stress, 133-55 BC (Freeman, pp. 400-422)
Interlude 6: Voices from the Republic (Freeman, pp. 423-427)
+The Bacchanalian Scandal (*Sources*, pp. 326-333)
+Plutarch, *Life of Cato the Elder* (*Sources*, pp. 334-338)
+Plutarch, *Life of Tiberius Gracchus* (*Sources*, pp. 341-347)
+The Slave Revolt of Spartacus (*Sources*, pp. 348-351)
- 11.07 W +The Failure of Republican Politics, 55-31 BC (Freeman, pp. 428-443)
+Cicero, *First Speech Against Catiline* (*Sources*, pp. 352-358)

+Catullus, *Poems* (*Sources*, pp. 358-359)
+Caesar, *Gallic Wars* (*Sources*, pp. 360-366)

11.09 F Interlude 7: Women in the Roman Republic (Freeman, pp. 444-448)
+Cleopatra (*Sources*, pp. 366-374)
+The Praise of Turia (*Sources*, pp. 375-379)

WEEK 12

11.12 M Augustus and the Founding of an Empire (Freeman, pp. 449-464)
+Vergil, *Aeneid* 6 (*Sources*, pp. 383-390)
+*Deeds of the Deified Augustus* (*Sources*, pp. 394-398)

11.14 W Consolidating the Roman Empire, AD 14-161 (Freeman, pp. 465-492)
Interlude 8: The Sebasteion at Aphrodisias (Freeman, pp. 493-495)
+The Trial of Jesus (*Sources*, pp. 399-402)
+Suetonius, *Life of Caligula* (*Sources*, pp. 403-407)
+Expanding the Membership of the Senate (*Sources*, pp. 408-412)
+The Rebellion of Boudicca (*Sources*, pp. 413-417)
+The Fall of Masada (*Sources*, pp. 418-420)
+The Lambesis Inscription (*Sources*, pp. 421-423)

11.15 F Running and Defending an Empire (Freeman, pp. 496-513)
+Juvenal, *Satire* 6 (*Sources*, pp. 424-429)
+Babylonian Talmud (*Sources*, pp. 433-436)
+Pliny, *Letters* (*Sources*, pp. 437-439)

WEEK 13 THANKSGIVING

WEEK 14 Crisis & Christianity

11.26 M Social & Economic Life in the Empire (Freeman, pp. 514-532)
Interlude 9: The Romans as Builders (Freeman, pp. 533-541)
The Flourishing of Greek Culture (Freeman, pp. 542-552)
+Aelius Aristides, *To Rome* (*Sources*, pp. 430-432)

11.28 W An Empire in Crisis, AD 161-313 (Freeman, pp. 553-578)
+The Antonine Constitution (*Sources*, pp. 443-445)
+The Shapur I Inscription (*Sources*, pp. 458-461)
+Zenobia & The Empire of Palmyra (*Sources*, pp. 462-465)
+Diocletian's Edict on Prices (*Sources*, pp. 466-469)

11.30 F The Early Christian Communities, AD 33-313 (Freeman, pp. 579-600)
+The Martyrdom of Perpetua & Felicitas (*Sources*, pp. 450-457)
+*Pervigilium Veneris* (*Sources*, pp. 446-449)
+The Great Persecution (*Sources*, pp. 470-476)
+The Edict of Milan (*Sources*, pp. 476-478)

☞Su **Writing Assignment 3 due Sun. at midnight**

WEEK 15 **Christians & Pagans**

- 12.03 M Constantine & His Successors (Freeman, pp. 601-611)
The Christian Emperor (Freeman, pp. 612-628)
+The Council of Nicaea (*Sources*, pp. 479-484)
+Theodosian Code & Code of Justinian (*Sources*, pp. 487-503)
+The Murder of Hypatia (*Sources*, pp. 504-507)
+The Monastic Life (*Sources*, pp. 508-512)
+Jerome, *Letter 1* (*Sources*, pp. 513-516)
- 12.05 W The Collapse of the Classical West, AD 395-600 (Freeman, pp. 629-649)
+The Battle of Adrianople (*Sources*, pp. 517-522)
+The Sack of Rome: Orosius (*Sources*, pp. 523-526)
+The Sack of Rome: Augustine (*Sources*, pp. 527-531)
+The Sack of Rome: Procopius (*Sources*, pp. 532-534)
- 12.07 F The Emergence of the Byzantine Emperor (Freeman, pp. 650-669)
Legacies (Freeman, pp. 670-681)
+The Last Emperor in Rome (*Sources*, pp. 535-537)
+The Conversion of Clovis (*Sources*, pp. 545-547)
+The Muslim Conquest of Egypt (*Sources*, pp. 567-571)

➡ **FINAL EXAM TBD**