Instructor Information
Dr. Helen Sader
Ph.D. Professor of Archaeology
College Hall, Room 436
Office hours: MW 11:00-12:00; T 10-11
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Course Information
Location: Post Hall 207
Meeting Days: MWF at 12:00
Course Description: A study of the major political, cultural, and technological achievements of Mesopotamian civilization from the 4th millennium B.C. to the fall of the Neo-Sumerian dynasty circa 2000 B.C. Specific archaeological sites are chosen to study Mesopotamian cities and their material culture.
Course Policy: Class attendance is required and students are expected to be on time for the class. Make-up exams will be given only to students with a valid excuse. For definitions of cheating and plagiarism as well as the consequences for such, see the AUB “Student Code of Conduct” in the Student Handbook.

Grading criteria: Your grade in this course will be calculated based on attendance and active class participation (10%), midterm examination (20%), class assignments (20%), and final examination (50%).
Content:

WEEK 1

Introduction:
The Land, History of the Discovery
Chronological Setting and Periodization

Reading Assignment:
Postgate, J.N. Chapter I; Crawford, H. 1991. Chapter I
WEEK 2:
Chapter I
The Beginnings of Settled Life: The Halaf and Ubaid Cultures
Reading assignment:
Crawford, H. 1991. Chapter III; Pollack, S. Chapter

WEEK 3
Chapter II
Emergence of Urban Societies and States: The Late Uruk Culture (4000-2900 B.C.)
1-Change in Settlement Pattern and urban layout
2-Technological innovations:
   • Monumental Architecture: Ex. Uruk
   • Ceramic mass production
Reading assignment:
Crawford, H. 1991, Chapter III

WEEK 4
Chapter II
Emergence of Urban Societies and States: The Late Uruk Culture (4000-2900 B.C.)
   • Birth of Writing (Film on cuneiform writing)
   • Seals and Sealings
Reading assignment:
Crawford, H. 1991, Chapter VIII

WEEK 5
The Expansion of the Late Uruk Culture
   • Nature of the Expansion: different interpretations
   • Habuba Kabira: a Late Uruk settlement in Syria

WEEK 6
Chapter III

The Sumerian Culture or Early Dynastic Period (2900-2300 B.C.)

- Sumer and Sumerians: Definition
- The Sumerian King list and other written records
- The Sumerian City-States: A historical overview

Reading assignment:
Crawford, H. 1991, Chapter II

WEEK 7

The Sumerian Culture or Early Dynastic Period (2900-2300 B.C.)

- The Sumerian City
  
  Urban layout
  
  Building techniques

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26: MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 8

The Sumerian City

Public Architecture

- Fortifications
- Temples
- Palaces

Reading assignment:
Crawford, H. 1991, Chapters IV and V

WEEK 9

The Sumerian City

- Domestic Architecture
- Funerary Architecture

Reading assignment:
Crawford, H. 1991, Chapter VI
WEEK 10
Sumerian Agriculture & Trade
The Sumerian Legacy
  - Language
  - Literature
  - Religion
Reading assignment:
Crawford, H. 1991, Chapter VI

WEEK 11
Chapter IV: The Akkadian Period or the First Regional State (2300-2150 B.C.)
  - Akkad and Akkadians: definition
  - Sargon of Akkad and his dynasty

WEEK 12
  - Akkadian Material Culture

WEEK 13
Chapter V: The Revival of Sumerian Rule: the Ur III Period (2150-2000 B.C.)
  - The End of Akkadian Rule and the Resurgence of City-States
  - Gudea of Lagash
  - Ur III Dynasty: Urnammu and his successors

WEEK 14
  - The Neo-Sumerian city.
  - The End of Sumerian Rule
  - Retrospect and Conclusions