



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE: GRST 335  
Fall 2021**

**COURSE NUMBER:** GRST 335

**COURSE NAME:** The Ancient Near East to Alexander the Great

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** Zoom Synchronous

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** 9-10 M/W/F

**INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:**

Dr. Marica Cassis

[marica.cassis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:marica.cassis@ucalgary.ca)

403-210-7995

Office Hours: Wednesday 1-2 via zoom, or by appointment.

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:**

Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.

**NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANT(S):**

Sanaz Safari

[sanaz.safari@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sanaz.safari@ucalgary.ca)

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:**

History of the Near East from the tenth to the fourth century BCE.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will introduce students to the history and culture of the ancient societies of the Near East, from the origins of civilization in Mesopotamia to the fall of the Achaemenid Empire at the hands of Alexander the Great. We will also look at those societies that affected, and were affected by, the great Mesopotamian city states, including ancient Egypt, the Hittite Empire, and the smaller states of Phoenicia and Israel. We will explore these civilizations by reading a number of primary sources, analyzing inscriptions, and looking at archaeological evidence.

**Course Delivery**

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment, Hypothesis, and synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement propose an alternative participation activity.

There will be synchronous zoom sessions 3 days a week for the entirety of term, between 9-10

### \*COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand the chronological outline of Near Eastern History
- 2) Understand the interplay of cultures during these periods
- 3) Engage with the methodologies and tools historians and archaeologists use to construct ancient history
- 4) Engage with current debates among scholars concerning archaeological and historical material from the ancient Near East
- 5) Critically read and interpret primary sources from the period
- 6) Research in the field of ancient Near Eastern history

### \*LEARNING RESOURCES

#### Required Readings:

Marc van de Mieroop, *A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, (Blackwell, 2016)  
[Also available online through library]

Ian Shaw, *Ancient Egypt: A Very Short Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, (Oxford, 2021)

Stanley Lombardo, trans., *Gilgamesh*, (Hackett Publishing Company Inc., 2019)

Additional weekly readings, including peer-reviewed journal articles, are posted on D2L and connected to Hypothes.is for discussion and comment. More information to follow in class.

### \*LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

The schedule of topics and readings will be posted on D2L.

### \*EXAMINATIONS

There is no final examination in this course

**\*ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
September 20	Map Quiz	5	No
October 8 [available for 24 hours beginning 9:00 October 8]	Midterm	15	No
October 25	Site Choice	0	No – but must be approved by the instructor before site paper is submitted.
November 5	Short Informational Site paper	20	No
December 1	Gilgamesh Response	10	No
December 8	Artifact/Site Analysis Paper	30	No
Ongoing Through Term	Primary Source Responses	20	No

**Map Quiz:** A brief map quiz covering Egypt, the Near East, and the Mediterranean.

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes: 1, 2

**Midterm:** Exam will cover introductory material in order to ensure students are understanding the context of this history. Exam will consist of short answers and one essay.

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes: 1, 2

**Short Informational Paper:** Students will choose an archaeological site in the Near East or Egypt and write a 4-5 page paper introducing the site and the significance of it to near Eastern history. Further information will be handed out in class.

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes: 3, 4, 6

**Gilgamesh Response:** Students will complete a short 2-page response about the Epic of Gilgamesh after we complete the book in class.

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes: 3, 5

**Artifact/Building Analysis:** Students will choose something from the site they wrote their first paper on and do an in-depth analysis of the evolution and/or significance of the building or artifact in 7-8 pages. Further information will be handed out in class.

Aligned Course learning Outcomes: 3, 4, 5, 6

**Primary Source Responses:** Students will comment on Primary Sources and Images available through D2L and Hypothes.is. Texts and images will be available every week, and students are expected to engage with them every week. Weekly engagement will be 2% per week they are available. 1 week can be skipped without penalty.

Aligned course Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

### MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late papers will be penalized at 5% per day. However, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that I can work with you if lateness is due to illness or unforeseen circumstances.

### \*GRADING

Grading follows the accepted grading scheme for the Department of Classics and Religion.

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

### EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. Without class attendance you will not be able to complete the assignments or the primary source work in this class.

### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all assignments electronically the dropbox in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "First Name Last Name Assignment Number" (e.g., Alex Smith Assignment 2). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

## CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Please note that we will touch on material in this course that involves thinking about current events. My expectation for everyone is mutual respect and considered discussion. Please remember that all questions are valid, and that we are all here to learn.

## GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a

session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

## COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

### **\*ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

### **\*ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

### **\*INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

**\*FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

**\*COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

**\*MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

**\*Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

**\*Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

**\*Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

## **\*OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk